

West Yorkshire Lifelong Learning Network Board

Membership of the Board

The purpose of this paper is to review the Board's membership in light of organisational and structural changes and to seek members' views.

Background

The Board was structured so that there was equal membership of the further and higher education sector supplemented by organisations with a key role to play in the success of the Network (that is Yorkshire Forward, West Yorkshire Learning and Skills Council, Careers West Yorkshire and the HEFCE). The FE and HE representatives are also, where designated, responsible for representing the sector leads. Attached is a list of membership.

Context

Since the establishment of the Board (and in particular recently) there have been many changes to the structure of educational provision in the region (most notably within the FE sector). In summary:

- Keighley College have merged with Park Lane College Leeds
- Dewsbury and Huddersfield Technical Colleges have merged to form Kirklees College
- In 2009 Leeds College of Technology, Leeds Thomas Danby and Park Lane College Leeds will merge to form Leeds City College.

During 2009 we will also see the retirement of Edmund Wigan who was nominated by the West Yorkshire Colleges Consortium to represent FE.

Within the Board we have good levels of attendance (this is also within the context of a principle of 'no substitution'). However, we have not had regular attendance from the HEFCE.

Proposal

It is proposed that we do not change the principles underpinning the membership of the Board. To date it is generally accepted that the composition (and seniority) of the Board has played a key part in the success of the WYLLN and ensuring its rapid establishment.

It is, therefore, suggested that:

- HE representation should remain as currently constituted (with Professor Tim Thornton replacing Professor Sue Frost on behalf of Huddersfield).
- Within FE we should ask the West Yorkshire Consortium of Colleges to nominate a FE representative to replace Edmund Wigan.
- On establishment of the Leeds City College we should seek agreement that they will lead the Finance and Business Services Sector (replacing Park Lane College) and, if so, a nomination for membership (noting David Fell's active and enthusiastic contribution to date).

We understand from colleagues in other Lifelong Learning Networks that HEFCE representation on their Boards and Management Committees has been very useful in providing a steer and guidance to the development of the LLN. As we are the largest LLN in England (and involve a large number of FE and HE partners) greater

engagement by the HEFCE would be beneficial. It is proposed that we approach the HEFCE regarding attendance at the Board.

Members are asked to endorse the proposals.

*Ceri Nursaw
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