

West Yorkshire Lifelong Learning Network

Impact of FE re-organisations

1. The changing face of further education in West Yorkshire

1.1. When the West Yorkshire Lifelong Learning Network was established there were 25 partners. Before we became operational, Keighley College merged with Park Lane College Leeds. At the end of the first year of operation Dewsbury and Huddersfield Technical Colleges merged to form the new Kirklees College. At the end of this academic year Leeds College of Technology, Leeds Thomas Danby and Park Lane College Leeds will merged to form the new Leeds City College. The changing face of FE has meant that the partnership has reduced from 25 institutions to 21.

2. Impact on Partnership Agreement funding

2.1. During the life of the project all partners have engaged with the Network in some way. In the first year of operation of the 24 members of the Network, partnership agreements were established with 18 institutions. Three of the four sixth form colleges were unable to enter partnership agreements, because their curriculum did not fit the aim of WYLLN. Huddersfield Technical College agreed activity with the Network, but returned the funding, when they thought they would be unable to deliver on their agreed outcomes. A partnership agreement was never agreed with Leeds Metropolitan University.

2.2. The original business model did take into account the inability to fund three of the sixth form colleges, but it did assume that both Huddersfield Technical College and Leeds Metropolitan University would be funded. As a consequence of the partnership agreements with these two institutions not being completed, there was an underspend in the year 2007/8 of £37,500 on this line of the budget.

2.3. The agreed funding model depended on the number of learners at level 3 or above within each institution. If the same funding model was continued after all the mergers have taken place, there would be a further reduction of £37,500. This would generate a further underspend and reduce the amount of money available to the learner.

3. Proposals for the Board

3.1. The Board is asked to consider the impact of the changes to the partners might have on the operation of the Network.

3.2. It is proposed that the current model is revised for 2009/10 and that a new model based upon an update of the learner data from each institution is developed. This will be presented to the next Board meeting for approval.