

LEARNING CITY YORK

Board Meeting

Tuesday 15 May 2012, 9.00 – 11.00
Eccles Building (Burnholme Community College)



Attending: Jill Hodges (chair), Alison Birkinshaw, Lesley Booth, Sarah Collinson, Jill Gibson, Sue Gradwell, Laura Harris, Annabel Jelley, Julia Massey, Simon Newton, John Thompson

Apologies: Cllr Janet Looker, Claire Newhouse, Martin Watts

Minutes

Learning City York Priorities

The overall key priorities remain the same, but some of the details in the operational plan have changed. There is a greater emphasis on developing an enterprising culture, and a stronger focus on transition and progression at all stages. There is a need for more financial inclusion, involving vulnerable adults and disadvantaged children. A significant new barrier will be around loans for adults returning to education; this will have an impact on our ability to up-skill the workforce.

Community Learning Trusts are being piloted, as a means of pooling resources between agencies to deliver local priorities efficiently. Many of these structures are already in place in York, and there are no plans to enact a CLT at this stage. It was suggested that YILP would benefit from a wider membership less focused on higher education.

A key factor in the Without Walls strategy will be to manage employers' expectations – there is a sense that, in some sectors more than others, employers want training to be provided to young people at no charge to themselves, but there is no funding to offer this as universal provision. It was noted that while employers want young people to be work-ready as soon as they complete school/university, this is not realistic and they need to include a development phase.

Good work has been started on promoting an enterprising culture, self-employment and start-up businesses – the next stage needs to be to work on growth, sustainability and improving survival routes.

JM to add York College as a partner to item 7, and to add explicit reference to “York City Beautiful”.

AB noted that accessibility is a barrier to some people – particularly those in wheelchairs or mobility scooters – visiting York, and suggested an accessibility map be drawn up. It would also be beneficial to have training for retail outlets on awareness of mental health and dementia issues; York College could deliver this if funding could be made available.

JH to look into what is already happening on these areas and whether JRF could contribute.

Links with the Council Plan have been highlighted, and a list of strategies and plans that this work feeds into has been included. **ALL** to let JM know of any plans within their

organisation that contribute to this agenda, to ensure that each area of work has a named lead to take responsibility for it. Consideration needs to be given as to how this work should be shared and disseminated within partner organisations.

Scorecard

A scorecard showing York's position among the largest cities and towns in the UK, based on Huggins' Competitiveness Index from the perspective of economic development. Further work is to be done on drawing up a similar scorecard for indicators around education and skills.

Adult Learning and Skills Strategy

At the board meeting on 9 July, it is intended to extend the meeting and widen participation. Suggestions included:

- Introduction to include context of how the city stimulates growth
- Additional workshop on the third sector
- Connect with ward projects on combating loneliness
- LEP research to be included within Skills for Business.

ALL to send further suggestions to Julia Massey by 23 May.

Round table updates

The National Careers Service has launched its new website and telephone support service. Face-to-face support is available only to people aged 18+, and 18–24 will be a key area of the Youth Contract.

Some Apprenticeship providers have suffered cuts through the economic downturn, particularly in specialist areas such as stonemasonry. There have been positive developments between York College and IT businesses, the NHS and the rail industry, and there are pilots taking place around training for tourism and hospitality.

CEIAG is a big issue, with huge cuts in funding compared to what was available through Connexions. In York, we are well set up to deal with these changes – a paper is being presented to YEP to agree on a standardised QA approach. The city is taking forward an RPA pilot project.

Jobcentre Plus is involved with all elements of the Youth Contract. There are significant changes coming soon to the benefits system that will have an impact.

The two universities have seen increasing number of applications; they believe that this is in part down to York being a desirable place to live. Both universities have graduate entrepreneurs represented at a national event, out of ten across the country. York St John is looking to expand the Phoenix Centre incubator for start-up businesses. The University of York is doing projects with elderly people in care homes, looking at how to wean the unemployed off services and get them back into work, and on building parental aspirations.

NYBEP is expanding both its area of coverage and the range of work it offers in York, and is working with schools on preventing young people from becoming NEET. The 'Big Bang' event is being arranged for over 2000 people at the Yorkshire Air Museum.