

LEARNING CITY YORK

Board Meeting

Tuesday 24 June 2014, 14.00 – 15.30
York College



Attending: Alison Birkinshaw (chair, York College), Rosie Cantrell (Babcock), Alistair Gourlay (CYC), Sue Gradwell (NYBEP), Cllr Janet Looker (CYC), Julia Massey (Learning City, CYC), Liz McNeil (University of York), Claire Newhouse (Higher York), Joan Newton (DWP), John Thompson (CYC)

Apologies: Annabel Jelley (SFA), Maxine Squire (CYC)

Minutes

1. Minutes and actions

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

Changes to the terms of reference have been made, JM to recirculate.

The Strategic Economic Plans for both LEPs have now been published and shared.

2. KPI Dashboard

It was noted that some of the data on the dashboard had a significant time lag to it.

A key headline is the high proportion of part-time work in York; this is masked by low unemployment figures, which is now at pre-recession levels for both adults and young people. Income and productivity levels remain areas of concern. The move to a universal credit based on earnings should give people more incentive to take on part-time work without the risk of it having a disproportionate impact on benefits, although there is a danger that employers will see this as an opportunity to drive wages down, and that it will simply subsidise employers with public money, exacerbating the low wage economy.

3. CEIAG Scrutiny report (Steve Flatley)

The statutory guidance only applies to schools, and not to colleges. There is a good bank of evidence and case studies in the non-statutory guidance.

Local authorities must continue to support young people who are at risk of becoming NEET. In York, that support will not be extended to other young people, ie a universal offer, as there is no central funding for it, and schools collectively would not be able to commission sufficient work to make the service viable. While the guidance requires schools to offer impartial IAG to young people in Y8–13, this is a weak statement and there is not enough focus on ensuring high quality advice.

NCS (within their new government contract) is largely responsible for the agenda of inspiring young people and supporting the development of business education links. In the autumn term, CYC will need to meet with NYBEP, NCS, JCP and employers to look at how we can work together to support schools with their statutory duties. Schools will have

to consider how they fill the careers advice role, and whether to have staff in-house or to buy in external staff. It will be more challenging to ensure independent advice is given where in-house staff are employed in 11–18 schools, but this is not insurmountable. The role of the LA will be increasingly strategic, with more support and challenge but less direct contact.

It is a positive move to bring IAG and employability together. While the guidance features lots of national organisations, in and around York we also have a range of local providers who could contribute. LCR has produced some excellent LMI data. It is important to ensure that schools use the curriculum effectively to give a coherent programme, and that there is consistent good practice across the city.

It is not clear that a local quality standard will be effective or good value for money; it would be preferable to develop a framework that includes good practice, and allows schools to benchmark themselves. As we are reliant on schools to commission the support for most young people, it is imperative that governors understand the significance of this. The futures4me website has been recently revamped, with a positive reception from young people, but it is uncertain that schools are promoting it effectively. The government is now looking at reintroducing an expectation of an AWP/CAP – the evidence shows that this is most effective in areas with no school sixth forms. What is more important is to ensure that young people have access to relevant materials and adequate support in using them. A challenge was made that young people are increasingly using mobile apps and social media rather than websites, and our information strategy should take that into account.

NCS needs the LA and NYBEP to broker their work, using existing links with schools and partnerships. Taster days have worked well, and the programme is being opened up to more young people, but a thorough evaluation of this work should be carried out before it is rolled out further. There are good people across the city who can bring the careers programme alive for young people, and we need to ensure that this is done consistently across all schools as part of an integrated curriculum.

It was noted that many schools have very good links with employers through their business studies programmes, but do not always make effective use of these to support whole-school careers guidance.

Action ALL LCY members to consider how their organisation can support this goal.

Action Steve Flatley to write a paper for CYC Cabinet.

4. Youth unemployment (Scrutiny Report – Julia Massey)

Two years ago, youth unemployment was very high. The ECDOS Scrutiny Committee spent time to talk with JCP, York Learning and other work programme providers to determine what young people's needs were. and a list of ten recommendations was drawn up.

Since the recommendations were made, LCY has been successful in supporting Leeds City Region to bid to Government for funding for a specific programme (Head Start) to support longer-term unemployed 18–24 year olds across the region. York manages the contracts and delivery for York., Selby, Craven and Harrogate. In addition, CYC Economic Inclusion Funding is supporting the same programme for very long term unemployed 18–24 year olds, returning to JCP from the Work Programme. In York, this delivery is being facilitated by York Learning, with fortnightly case conference meetings with JCP.

The figures are now looking a lot better and youth unemployment is now at its lowest level since 2006 (May: 325 / 1.1%).

It would be helpful if the data could highlight young people who had previously been looked after; the data currently focuses on looking forwards.

More information is needed about the various agencies that support young people post full-time education, age 19–25, and we need to look at developing more positive interaction to prevent young people from requiring remedial interventions. This is relevant for young people up to the age of 25, not just when they finish full-time education.

Action LCY to take a lead with partners to address this issue and raise awareness of support for young people post full-time education

5. Construction Scrutiny Report (Julia Massey)

Due to the increase in construction developments across the city, Scrutiny Committee has made a set of 6 simple recommendations to ensure that more local residents benefit from the job and career opportunities available both now and in the future. There are good construction jobs available in York, and schools and colleges need to be aware of this. CYC / LCY Partnership Manager is embedding Employment and Skills Plans into procurement tenders for capital developments, eg Community Stadium and residential sites, and is also seeking to encourage other partners and businesses to do the same.

6. High-value jobs and productivity

Item deferred as the scrutiny report has not yet taken place.

7. LEPs and ESF

It is important that all partners are aware of when external funding streams are available, in order to ensure that we maximise opportunities that align with our priorities. York College has noted that it is easier to deliver on programmes for the LCR LEP, as the YNY LEP has much tighter requirements that are more difficult to meet.

8. Round table updates

- NYBEP still wants to be seen as a key partner in delivering this agenda. A CEIAG conference is being planned for September, further details to follow. (SG)
- The Youth Engagement Fund has £16m available to support young people in training. West Yorkshire is performing well, and LCR has been approached by the government and invited to bid. (JN)
- The focused graduate job search programme is excellent. Higher York is looking at IAG around progression, and how to use existing structures to support this. (CN)
- NCS is changing, so it is important that they are party to discussions. Their website has recently been updated, and partners were invited to look at the additional information now available. (RC)
- York Learning runs an EL/L1 programme at 16–18, with increasing numbers of high needs learners; this is much more cost effective than sending them to out of area placements. Increasing numbers of 16–18 year olds are living independently. (AG)

- CYC (Education and Skills) is leading on a employer consortia bid to the Creative Employment Programme, which will draw down Arts Lottery funding to support part wage subsidies to create Apprenticeships and paid internships for unemployed 18–24 year olds. An Apprenticeship Recruitment Event is being held next week (1 July) aimed at 16–24 year olds. Further funding has been secured to support the Apprenticeship Graduation in November. (JM)