

LEARNING CITY YORK

Board Meeting

Wednesday 8 October 2014, 14.00 – 15.30
York College



Attending: Alison Birkinshaw (chair, York College), Mark Alty (CYC), Alistair Gourlay (CYC), Sue Gradwell (NYBEP), Fiona Himsworth (CYC), Annabel Jelley (YNYER LEP) Julia Massey (Learning City, CYC), Liz McNeil (UOY), Claire Newhouse (Higher York), Charles Storr (CYC), John Thompson (CYC)

Apologies: Cllr Janet Looker (CYC), Maxine Squire (CYC)

Minutes

1. Minutes and actions

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

2. Skills Strategy

The economic partnership and skills strategy look at different indicators. The dashboards provide a useful quick overview of the data, but need caution as they are not always robust and can highlight trends that are not statistically significant. Further analysis of the dashboard data is needed. We need to focus on key priorities and drill down into the relevant data.

The aim of a consolidated economic and skills strategy is to bring a greater focus on fewer priorities. Over the next 5 years there will be significant resources available through a number of sources to spend on the economy, employment and skills, so we need to look at how we can use that money effectively, with everyone working together.

There will be turbulence over the coming years around qualifications, although we do not expect the dip in York to be as severe as nationally. The number of people with no qualifications is significant, although this is understood to be mostly older people; very few young people leave with no qualifications. DWP is increasingly supporting people over 50 who are struggling to find work. **Action:** **AB** and **AG** to look at identifying those groups and what provision could meet their needs.

Employer survey shows several employers saying skills are a barrier to recruitment. However, many of those employers have not engaged with providers. Shepherd Group is looking to develop a training academy. It is essential for high quality CEIAG to take account of LMI. **Action:** **JM** to include on next agenda discussion of our top priorities for the skills strategy.

3. Restructure of YEP

The YEP is being reconstituted as the YLP (York Learning Partnership) from 2015, which will be a more strategic sector-led partnership. Some more technical aspects, such as around funding, will be devolved to other groups. It is not yet clear how the YLP and LCY will relate to each other, but much of LCY's work is beyond the statutory participation age, which is outside the remit of YLP. It was agreed that LCY would principally focus on 19+, and that

subgroups and task-and-finish groups would have representation from NYBEP and other organisations as needed.

4. LEP and ESF

Lots of partners have contributed to the strategy, which will inform the bid to ESIF (European Structural & Investment Fund). The LEP has £99m for 2015–21, of which £39m is ESF. While the LEP wants to do work on workforce development, the funding regulations are very prescriptive about targeting specific groups.

DWP provision is going to tender in spring 2015, with a focus on supporting people who have complex barriers to getting into and staying in work, and to continue supporting them for their first year of work.

There is potential for confusion as there are overlapping LEPs; York is both YNYER and LCR, so we need to make sure there is proper communication so York is not left out and that any work going on is streamlined.

5. Community learning

The Community Learning Partnership is an informal platform to network and share ideas, as a lot of partners don't have those opportunities elsewhere, and the intention is for this to be developed as a practical group. It recently delivered the York Adult Learning Awards, and it was tangible the impact that this had for individual people. A community art project tied in to TdF involved 450 people. There are four main projects for 2015, including reinvigorating the Heritage Learning Network.

We are not yet delivering the "pound plus" strategy. Provision is jointly planned and delivered, so there is little scope to improve.

6. Round table updates

- CN: Looking at becoming a collaborative outreach network, to enable a single point of contact for all schools in York and North Yorkshire, and what activities that will entail. It will primarily be a website presence, funded by HEFCE. Will work with apprentices on completing the programme around access to HE.
- LM: UOY has 3400 new students this year, in line with targets. There is a new map on the HEFCE website on pupil progress based on GCSEs, and two areas of York are in the bottom quintile. **Action: LM** to take this item to the YLP, to be considered by CEIAG task group.
- SG: Working on mapping current provision for NCS on school-based themes, which will be shared in due course. We have got to find a way of pulling together an offer for schools. There is a new project with FERA on biology, which will be offered to schools and colleges.
- AG: Seeing more people with mental health problems, who are a long way from being ready for work. We need to move people in low-level jobs up the chain to free up jobs that those people could fill. Mental health is a serious issue across all providers, and the city needs a coherent strategy to deal with it. Is the board looking at people who are functioning at a very low level? **Action: JM** to add to next agenda.
- AB: Concerned that NEETs are likely to go up because of requirement to study English and maths post-16, and some students' inability to progress.