

LEARNING CITY YORK Board Meeting

Wednesday 9 June 2015
14.00 – 15.30, York College



Attending: Alison Birkinshaw (chair, York College), Jane Elsworth-Barker (NCS), Sue Gradwell (NYBEP), Julia Massey (Learning City, CYC), Liz McNeil (UOY), Lorna Savage (Fulford School), Stephen Down (minutes, CYC)

Apologies: Cllr Jenny Brooks (CYC), Steve Brown (Make it York), Alistair Gourlay (CYC), Claire Newhouse (Higher York), Maxine Squire (CYC), John Thompson (CYC), Sue Vasey (Your Consortium)

Minutes

1. Welcome and introduction

Lorna Savage was welcomed to the group, as the representative of the Secondary Heads and Principals forum. LS will also be representing the YLP at Leeds City Region LEP.

2. Minutes and matters arising

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

- Discussions about Community Learning Partnership to be postponed to a meeting when AG can be present.
- The Mental Health bid was not successful. **Action JM** to invite York St John to a future meeting to discuss Diverge project and Discovery hub.
- The Economic Strategy has been disseminated
- Discussions about Make it York to be postponed to a meeting when SB can be present.

3. Learning City and Skills strategy

Cllr Jenny Brooks will join this group, as the new executive member for education, children and young people. **Action JM** will meet JB before the next meeting to brief her on the role and remit of LCY. The key priorities of the board remain the same as before, and current activity includes:

- Targeted support for people who are unemployed, continuing programmes that have been effective
- Producing a guide for businesses to explain the purpose of apprenticeships, internships and traineeships
- Setting up an apprenticeship brokerage service to support small businesses
- Ongoing work to build and strengthen links with businesses.

SG felt that while all partners have had an opportunity to contribute to the strategy, they had not always had enough opportunity to feed into the delivery plan to ensure that it forms a coherent and comprehensive whole. While the document shared indicates some gaps, it was believed that work has taken place to fulfil these but has not been captured. This strategy will be useful in supporting funding bids so it is important that it is complete. **Action JM** to circulate to partners for further information to be added, including the 'Going forward' column.

LS asked if there was support available for young people resident in York who go to university elsewhere but then return to York. A range of programmes are available through JCP and NCS for all young people, which can include work to support graduates, but in general graduates should be expected to be supported by the university where they studied.

4. Economic strategy

This is a work in progress, which had begun before the recent elections, and so the elected member representation on the economic partnership has now changed as a result of the new administration in York. However, as the economic partnership is principally led by businesses rather than politicians, this is not expected to have a significant effect on the direction of the strategy.

We need to look at how the economic strategy aligns to skills priorities and the LCY strategy, and what else needs to be done towards these aims. There was some concern that the economic strategy appears to be focusing on high-profile but low-volume sectors, and is not giving sufficient emphasis on sectors such as health and social care, tourism or hospitality and catering, which we know are increasingly important for the city, and make up half of all job opportunities. While biotech has the potential to be a growth sector, it will need to be supported by Askham Bryan, who are not represented on LCY and whose focus is largely outside York.

York College previously had a rail academy, but this closed because it did not have the support of rail businesses. The HS2 college in Doncaster is looking to recruit level 4 engineers from 2017, and there is a cluster of headquarters of rail-related businesses in the city centre; however, there is a disconnect between the vision of the rail sector and the reality of the current economy. We need to better understand the sector and its current and future skills needs.

5. Enterprising skills

The scrutiny report is high on the council's priorities, and we will revisit this at a future meeting.

Schools are facing problems on the curriculum change, the focus on core subjects and changes to reporting measures, all of which leaves little scope for a vocational offer, and so schools are looking for ways to develop skills and enterprise through traditional subjects, with a focus on key schools, resilience, communication and personal development. Schools are trying to build employer engagement, but recognise that this is not part of the core business for most companies and so cannot expect them to commit significant resource; increased use of technology to allow employers to work with multiple schools remotely would be beneficial. It is important for teachers to have access to local LMI, particularly as schools no longer have access to business mentors. While there is a lot of activity going on in schools, further work is needed to determine if there are any gaps, or any strands that could be better delivered by other partners.

Higher York has bid for £350k from Hefce, with a focus on aspirations for higher education. The core offer will be for all schools, with an enhanced offer for selected schools across York and North Yorkshire; this will include York High. The offer will incorporate support from York Cares to include mentoring in business. A similar project was done at Huntington, focusing on an identified group of girls with low aspirations working with staff from Aviva. The UOY's annual programme "The Big Deal" is open to all schools who are part of Green Apples, where students work with business mentors to develop and pitch their ideas.

LCR LEP is releasing funding for enterprise and employability governors, and one governor for each secondary school in York has been appointed to champion this area. An audit is being carried out for all schools to determine where there may be gaps so that further bids can be submitted.

YNYER LEP has a focus on CEIAG and employability. There is some work jointly funded with NYCC to support schools going for quality standards around CEIAG, and there is the potential for some York schools to get involved; Joseph Rowntree and Millthorpe have expressed an interest in this. While it is currently a piecemeal approach, there is work taking place.

6. LCR devolution

There are three issues that the government intends to devolve to LCR:

- The grant to employers for apprenticeships, running from August 2015 to March 2016, will come to LCR to shape direction and priorities.
- LCR will have the opportunity to shape and influence adult budgets through EFA from August 2017.
- LCR will have the opportunity to discuss with DWP what comes into work programmes to support people back into work.

7. Round table updates

- LM: Festival of Ideas starts next week.
- JEB: NCS has been dealing with some business redundancies, and is now looking at recruitment for the new Primark shop in York, but is not involved in any other large-scale projects at the moment. Starting to see some signs of movement within the job market.
- AB: York College's construction centre is due to open in September. FE colleges and SSFs are seeing significant budget cuts, and are very concerned about the likely impact, exacerbated by the requirement to teach level 2 English and maths to large numbers of students. York College and Askham Bryan should be well positioned for the future.