

Minutes and Actions**Thursday 25th November 2010****Attendees**

Ian Lane	IL	Children's Services, NCC (Chair)
Ray Malecki	RM	Children's Services, NCC
Jeff Lough	JL	Linhope PRU
Michael Johnson	MJ	Children's Services, NCC
Kath Roe	KR	UXL Consortium
Melanie Bear	MB	Children's Services, NCC
Sue Blakemore	SB	Children's Services, NCC
Emma Reay	ER	Newcastle University
Rob Hamilton	RH	Economic Development, NCC
David Walker	DW	Mouchel

Apologies

John Collings	JC	Children's Services, NCC
Alan Carrick	AC	Children's Services, NCC
Avril Gibson	AG	NCSV
Jamie Spence	JS	Children's Services, NCC
Jennifer Turner	JT	Children's Services, NCC
Steve Bakewell	SB	Modis International – Employer Rep
Gillian Bulman	GB	Newcastle Education Business Partnership
David Pearmain	DP	Kenton Technology College

No.	Item	Action
1	Apologies	
1.1	Listed as above	
2	Topical Theme - University work with Looked After Children and other disadvantaged groups	
2.1	ER gave an interesting presentation on the sort of engagement work that local universities are doing to encourage and support Looked After Children (LAC) and those from other disadvantaged groups, into higher education.	

2.2	<p>Newcastle and Northumbria Universities currently offer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-Entry Activity - including aspiration raising/study skills events and a programme known as Aimhigher Associates. All activities use current undergraduates as role models. • Support through the application process • Support during university 	
2.3	<p>The 'Choices Together Programme' is an initiative for 'Looked After Children' involving both the Newcastle universities and Sunderland. Each year between twenty and thirty Year 10/11 students take part in a programme of 'club' sessions that inform them about further and higher education. It also develops communication, teamwork, problem solving and initiative skills.</p>	
2.4	<p>Newcastle University has a 'Partners' programme. Young people take part in an Assessed Summer School that gives them access to university through the Guaranteed Offer or Supported Entry Route. Newcastle currently has a 'Care Leaver' contact and additional bursary.</p>	
2.5	<p>Northumbria University has 'fast track' access to Student Services for Care Leavers and a variety of additional support and funding packages not dissimilar to those of Newcastle University.</p>	
3	Minutes of previous meeting	
3.1	<p>The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record.</p>	
4	Matters Arising	
4.1	<p>Action 2.1 Information on the performance of Looked After Children in 2009/10 showed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 33 students were eligible for GCSE. • 25% had statements of Educational Need, 11% were on School Action Plus and 42% were on School Action • 12 attended special provision (i.e. not mainstream school). • 15% achieved 5A*-C (including English and maths) compared to 15.8% in 2008/9. This compares with Newcastle average 49.4%. • 36% achieved 5A*-C (and equivalences) compared to 29% in 2008/9. This compares with the Newcastle Average of 79.1%. • 66% achieved 5A*-G (and equivalences) compared to 71% in 2008/9 	

4.2	Action 2.2, Steve Bartram is consulting with colleagues on the issues LAC have in accessing learning that the 14-19 Partnership may be able to do more to address.	
4.3	Action 4.3, RM to provide regular updates on progress. It was encouraging to note that the number of young people starting Apprenticeships in 2009/10 had risen to 832 against 623 the previous year.	RM
4.4	Action 9.2, It was agreed that partners and providers would be consulted on options for sustaining the prospectus and CAP and these will be brought back to the Partnership at the next meeting. The changing policy landscape is not making this process straightforward.	SB
4.5	Action 10.3, Newcastle College performance figures for 2009/10 showed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall pass rate for A2 of 96% • 18 subjects had a pass rate of 100% • 35% of entries received high grades (4% increase) • 4% achieved the new A* grade 	
5	14-19 Review update	
5.1	IL and DW gave a position statement on the 14-19 Review, which is now underway. A formal 'launch' is to be arranged early in the New Year that will include opportunity for comment and discussion. A wide range of partners will be consulted over coming weeks. The 14-19 Partnership would be provided with an update at future meetings and kept fully involved in the process.	
6	Integrated Targeted Services	
6.1	This item was deferred to the next meeting.	JS / AC
7	NEET explained	
7.1	RM went through a presentation regarding NEET and noted the following points.	
7.2	The 16-18 participation levels in Newcastle are higher than those in neighbouring local authorities and statistical neighbours at 85.4%. NEET and Not Known levels over the past five years have progressively reduced. However, numbers are still significant.	
7.3	A higher percentage of NEET young people live in deprived areas. The NEET / Not Known groups include much higher	

	percentages of seventeen and eighteen year olds. Many fall into the category of young offenders, young parents, looked after children and those with learning difficulties and disabilities. Statistics showing the Year 11 schools that NEET young people previously attended demonstrated that some schools have a much higher incidence of young people that fall into this category. Although it was noted that factors like deprivation and size of school affect this, it was felt it would be interesting to collate information on the good practice that operates in some schools aimed at combating NEET. This would be done over coming months and shared with the group	RM
8	Elective Home Education - EHE	
8.1	JL presented a paper explaining the scale and nature of Elective Home Education in Newcastle.	
8.2	82 young people were on the EHE database in November 2010, but the number changes constantly. Numbers are on the increase.	
8.3	Very few of those that are taken out of school by their parents appear to go through their exams. The cost of completing the exams is around 2K and not many parents are prepared to pay.	
8.4	There are concerns that some young people in our community have never been registered at a local authority school and therefore, are not included in the EHE database. In Newcastle most home educated children seem to be removed from school for negative issues such as a fear of prosecution for non-attendance, or often, there is no reason given.	
9	ESF Funding form the Skills Funding Agency for NEET	
9.1	The group were updated on the current position relating to the ESF funding that had become available from the Skills Funding Agency to address NEET.	
9.2	A proposal had been drawn up and submitted that describes Newcastle City Council as the lead in a collaborative of organisations that will offer a range of activities for young people both pre and post 16. The group would be kept up to date with further developments. It is expected that the Council will be advised as to whether they had been successful by the end of January 2011	

10	Sub Regional Group Update	
10.1	The election of the Coalition Government has resulted in a wide range of policy changes including the removal of the requirement to have a Sub-Regional Group (SRG) that brings together local authorities. The local SRG is being retained for the present and the Partnership will be kept informed of any further developments.	
11	Operational Plans – IAG	
11.1	The Draft IAG Operational Plan 2010-11 had been circulated to the group. This Plan and the Participation Plan that had been circulated to the group recently, had been developed in lieu of a 14-19 Strategy/Plan and were aimed at ensuring that some momentum was maintained on these two important themes. The group were asked to consider the content of the Plan and advise RM of any proposed changes.	All
12	Sub-group Reports	
12.1	Participation / NEET Group – This forum has now brought together the Raising Participation Group and the NEET Action Group, given that representation on both groups was very similar and many agenda items overlapped. The main topics of discussion at the last meeting were validity of Participation/NEET data and sharing of information between organisations working with young people.	
12.2	IAG – The representation on group has been extended to include schools. The main items of discussion at the last meeting of this group were the Operational Plan, an IAG event for schools in the New Year and the All Age Careers Service.	
12.3	Aimhigher – The funding to support this activity will no longer be available from August 2011. MB is representing Newcastle on the Tyne and Wear area partnership committee for Aimhigher.	
12.4	Diploma Executive – It was noted that there is currently around 335 people on diplomas across the City. The numbers that started Diplomas this year exceeds the numbers for the previous year. It was important to maintain a very positive stance on Diplomas despite the changing policy.	
13	Any Other Business	
13.1	No Other Business	

Date of next meeting: 27 January, 2011 at 2pm at Springfield Centre

Actions Summary

Thursday 25th November 2010

Actions from Current Meeting						
Date Raised	Ref	Action	Action Owner	Progress	Completion	Status
25/11/10	4.3	RM to provide regular updates on Apprenticeships	RM			
25/11/10	4.4	SB to provide options for maintaining CAP / Prospectus	SB			
25/11/10	7.3	RM to collate data regarding good practice within schools	RM			
25/11/10	7.6	RM to adjust figures, so all data is shown as a percentage	RM			
25/11/10	11.1	The group to email any thoughts regarding changes to the operational plan to RM	ALL			