

Newcastle 14-19 Strategic Partnership Meeting

Minutes of meeting held on 30 September 2010

Present:

Ian Lane (IL)	:	Children's Services, NCC (Chair)
Ray Malecki (RM)	:	Children's Services, NCC
Jeff Lough (JL)	:	Linhope PRU
Alan Carrick (AC)	:	Children's Services, NCC
Michael Johnson (MJ)	:	Children's Services, NCC
Chris Payne (CP)	:	Newcastle College (rep BR)
Jamie Spence (JS)	:	Children's Services, NCC
Pat Wager (PW)	:	Sacred Heart High School
Avril Gibson (AG)	:	NCVS
Sue Blakemore (SB)	:	Children's Services, NCC
Lizz Patrick (LP)	:	Northumbria University
Kath Roe (KR)	:	UXL Consortium
Gillian Bulman (GB)	:	Newcastle Education Business Partnership
Rob Hamilton (RH)	:	Chief Executive's, NCC
David Pearmain (DP)	:	Kenton Technology College
Melanie Bear (MB)	:	Children's Services, NCC

In Attendance:

Kirsty Benton (KB)	:	Children's Services, NCC (Minute Taker)
Steve Bartram (SB)	:	Children's Services, NCC

Apologies

John Collings (JC)	:	Children's Services, NCC
Steve Bakewell (SB)	:	Modis International – Employer Representative
Bev Robinson (BR)	:	Newcastle College

Item

Action

1. Welcome / Introductions

Ian Lane welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies as above.

2. Topical Theme – Looked After Children

Steve Bartram presented a paper which summarised the current position on Looked After Children in the city and offered information on the sort of support and learning provision that is available through the Virtual School. A discussion took place around how partners across the city might do more to help raise aspirations among these young people and improve progression and achievement.

It was noted that there is funding available to provide additional support for young people in post 16 learning.

Newcastle / Northumbria Universities have recently secured funding to run a programme for Looked After Children.

Action SB to update the document to include 5A*-C figures in the graphs and circulate updated documents to the Board. **SB**

Action SB to provide information for RM on what the barriers are for LAC participating in learning. **SB**

3. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record with a minor change to the word 'Aimhigher'.

4. Matters Arising

Apprenticeship Development

RM updated the group on recent activity that has occurred around promoting and creating opportunities for Apprenticeships. It was very encouraging to note that there is a real interest in this theme from senior staff within the city council, not least the Chief Executive and the Executive Director of Children's Services. A Task Group has been formed that involves a number of council officers and staff from the National Apprenticeship Service. Formal arrangements are being made to include Apprenticeships within council workforce development planning, procurement and partnership working. It was interesting to note that promotion work is beginning to occur with local business networks and this was starting with the local Asian business community.

Latest Apprenticeship figures suggest that there has been an upturn in the numbers of young people starting on programmes. However, levels are still below those seen before the recession.

Action RM to provide regular updates on progress. **RM**

5. Policy Update

MB presented a paper that summarised some of the recent policy changes and announcements.

6. Sub Regional Group Update

MB updated the group on the current circumstances surrounding the Northumberland / Tyne and Wear Sub Regional Group (SRG). The recent Government policy changes have removed the requirement to have a local SRG, although there is still clearly a national and local consensus that local authorities should liaise in terms of their offer of learning and support for young people.

Action : An update on the SRG will be provided at the November meeting.

MB / MJ

7. Responding to change in national 14-19 agenda

IL advised the Partnership that the Executive Director of Children's Services is expecting to commission a review of the learning offer for young people in the city. Partners would be kept informed of how the review is to be structured and on its progress. A discussion took place and broad approval was given to the proposal for a review.

8. Commissioning Priorities

MJ provided a summary of the key issues that had come from the recent strategic review of learning provision carried out by the council's 16-19 Commissioning Team. These issues will be used to influence the future local learning offer for young people.

9. Prospectus / Common Application Process (CAP)

A discussion took place around the future funding for the prospectus and the CAP. Some real benefits are now being derived by young people, schools and partners from these resources. However, their current funding ends in 2011 and some alternative means of sponsoring the resources will need to be found.

Action : 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.

SB / RM

10. Local GCSE / A Level Performance

IL delivered a presentation on school performance. Improvements were noted in Key Stage 2, GCSE and A-Level/Vocational Level 3 performance.

Action IL to circulate the presentation electronically to the Partnership.

IL

Action CP to send Newcastle College's performance to RM for the next meeting.

CP / RM

11. Operational Plans

RM reminded the group that development of a new 14-19 strategy and action plan had been put on hold until after the new Government's policy direction had become much clearer. In view of the fact that many areas of work still needed to be maintained and developed operational plans were now being developed on particular themes. A copy of the draft Participation Plan was circulated. Comments on content could be sent to RM via email up to the end of November.

Action : The IAG operational plan would be brought to a future meeting. **SB / RM**

12. AOB

Elective Home Education – JL shared his concerns over the adequacy of support for young people who were participating in 'elective' home education.

Action JL and RM to discuss this further. **JL / RM**

Agenda for Future Meetings

Action RM would email the Partnership prior to future meetings to asks for agenda items. **RM**

13. Date and Time of Next Meeting
25th November 2010 at 2pm at Springfield Centre

DRAFT