

Young People's Education and Skills Operational Sub-Group

AGENDA

Chair: Andy Johnson **Job title:** Progression & Pathways Manager,
London Borough of Enfield

Date: 18 November 2021 **Time:** 1000 – 1200

Venue: On-line via Microsoft Teams

Telephone: 020 7934 9743 **Email:** peter.obrien@londoncouncils.gov.uk

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|--------|--|-----------------|
| Item 1 | Welcome, introductions and apologies | Chair |
| Item 2 | Careers Hubs – how to work with local councils to maximise outcomes
- Clare Ludlow, GLA, Pan London Careers Hubs Lead
- Tracy Eve, Local London (East London Hub)
- Polly Persechino, South London Partnership (South London Hub)
- Michelle Sporle, Reed in Partnership (Central London Hub)
- Asrti Jaswal, Education Development Trust (West London Hub) | |
| Item 3 | Minutes of the meetings held on 10 June, 15 July and 9 September and matters arising | Peter O'Brien |
| Item 4 | Policy Update | Peter O'Brien |
| Item 5 | London Recovery Programme | Daisy Greenaway |
| Item 6 | Programme for 2022 | Peter O'Brien |
| Item 7 | Board report | Peter O'Brien |
| Item 8 | Any other business | All |
| Item 9 | Date of next meeting: 16 December 2021 at 1000 (online) | |

Minutes

Young People's Education and Skills Operational Sub-Group

Date	10 June 2021	Venue	Microsoft Teams
Meeting Chair	Andy Johnson		
Contact Officer	Peter O'Brien		
Telephone	020 7934 9743	Email	peter.obrien@londoncouncils.gov.uk

Present

Andy Johnson	London Borough of Enfield, Chair
Daisy Greenaway	Greater London Authority (GLA)
Jasmine West	London Borough of Barnet
Jo Margrie	London Borough of Hackney
Tony Haines	Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA)
Paul McGivern	London Borough of Merton
Joshveen Soor	London Borough of Southwark
Linda Owusu	London Boroughs of Richmond and Wandsworth

Officers

Peter O'Brien	London Councils Young People's Education and Skills
Samira Islam	London Councils Education Policy

Presenting

Daniel Chow	GLA
Joanna Hoxton	GLA

Apologies

Ann Mason	Achieving for Children
David Scott	London Borough of Hounslow
Eric Stein	London Borough of Barking & Dagenham
Jo Jack	London Borough of Croydon
Sheila Weeden	Local London

1 Welcome, Introductions and apologies

- 1.1 The Chair invited attendees to introduce themselves and briefly explained the context of the meeting.

2 Declarations of interest

- 2.1 No interests were declared.

3 Minutes of meetings and matters arising

- 3.1 The minutes of the last business meeting held on 25 February and the themed meetings held on 25 March and 29 April were agreed.
- 3.2 The meeting noted the progress made on the actions agreed at these meetings and particularly welcomed arrangements being made for a session about Intelligent London. The Chair said he would send additional information about schools improvement to London Councils.

Action: Andy Johnson to send information about schools improvement in Enfield to Peter O'Brien

4 Careers Hubs in London

- 4.1 Daniel Chow and Joanna Hoxton from the GLA delivered a presentation, which is attached to these minutes, speaking about the London Enterprise Adviser Network (LEAN) and Career Hubs, how they will work in London, the benefits for schools and colleges and working in partnership. The presentation also included a timeline of events.
- 4.2 In the discussion, colleagues in the GLA agreed to inform local authorities of the expressions of interest process that has been sent to schools and colleges so that key messages can be reinforced in local dialogues. It was also confirmed that, since both Careers Clusters and Careers Hubs attracted an element of funding from the European Social Fund, schools and colleges presently engaged

in Careers Clusters cannot join their sub-region's Careers Hubs until after the expiry of funding for Careers Clusters. It was stated that, because the two initiatives had similar design elements and these schools and colleges would continue to be eligible for participation in the LEAN, the transition from one initiative to the other would be seamless from schools' points of view. Representatives from local authorities welcomed the plans to engage all schools in London through Careers Hubs within the proposed timelines, but also highlighted the needs of young people who are not in schools and for provision to be available during the school summer vacation period. It was mentioned that mentoring services would become available as a result of the New Deal for Young People recovery mission and that the Good Work for All mission was investigating the establishment of Sub-Regional Integration Hubs that would provide a single point of access to a broad range of services, including careers education, information, advice and guidance – based on the principles of a 'no wrong door' approach. Although these Integration Hubs would provide an all-age service, they would help young people who either not participating in an educational setting or not confident in the advice they were receiving from their current setting to obtain access to impartial advice.

- 4.3 The Chair thanked Joanna and Daniel for their input.

Action: OSG members to encourage schools to become engaged in their Careers Hub

5 Policy Update

- 5.1 Peter O'Brien introduced two papers; one a summary of the detailed updates produced since the last business meeting of the OSG covering March to May 2021 and the other the detailed update for May.
- 5.2 The meeting thanked Peter for the reports and noted the emphasis on the Skills and Post-16 Education Bill, the current youth labour market and the arrangements for assessing qualifications / grades this summer.

6 Performance Update

- 6.1 The meeting had been provided with the performance update that had been discussed at the Young People's Education and Skills Board supplemented by figures that had been published more recently.
- 6.2 Discussion clarified the difference between 'Not in Education, Employment or Training' (NEET), 'unemployed' and 'claimant' – which tend to be used interchangeably even though they have different meanings (it was stated that around 40 per cent of those young people aged 16 to 24 identified as 'NEET' were unemployed and an increasing number of people in the same age-range who were on the DWP's claimant count were in (low-paid) work).
- 6.3 The meeting expressed its concerns that many of the young people who were currently participating in the government's temporary support schemes (such as Kickstart) would be at risk of becoming unemployed when the support comes to an end. Although the various programmes available from DWP were designed for specified needs and age-groups,, there was anecdotal evidence that these distinctions were breaking down, which reinforced the concern that graduates from these programmes may need longer-term support to maintain employment.
- 6.4 Peter O'Brien said that the Young People's Education and Skills Board had asked for a more detailed breakdown of performance statistics and that this will also be circulated to the OSG.

Action: Peter O'Brien to circulate the detailed Performance Report to the OSG.

7 Annual Plan 2021 to 2022

- 7.1 The meeting noted that the Young People's Education and Skills Board had accepted the Signposts to Action document and the indicative priorities for 2021 to 2022. The meeting welcomed including youth offending as a theme to be covered in future updates. Peter O'Brien said that a work plan, linked to London's Recovery Programme, will be used as the basis of reporting to the Young People's Education and Skills Board and OSG in the future.

Action: Peter O'Brien to provide the OSG with a copy of the Young People's Education and Skills work plan.

8 Roundtable discussion

8.1 The Chair invited attendees to provide updates on current issues within their authorities / organisations and the following emerged in the discussion:

- Southwark Council is working with its local college to provide a Back On Track Programme for young people who are NEET to re-engage them in learning. A separate Summer Programme is being organised with particular emphasis on young people who remain anxious about leaving home during the pandemic. The council is also monitoring young people in transition to year 11 to provide them with additional help.
- Enfield Council has set up a Youth Hub in a library with support from DWP. The Youth Hub is aimed at the most vulnerable young people to secure their engagement in education, training or employment.
- Hackney Council is catching up on face-to-face support to young people and raising awareness of the local college offer. The council is promoting its Summer Festival to young people through social media and promoting Risk of NEET Indicators (RoNIs) with schools and within the council.
- Merton Council is also promoting RoNIs to its schools and Headteachers had recently decided to make a decisive shift in the curriculum in favour of T levels following a presentation on labour market statistics by the South London Partnership.
- In Richmond / Wandsworth a focus on RoNIs had revealed a higher than expected number of young people who are at risk of NEET. The council is also developing supported internships for young people with Special Educational Needs and / or Disabilities and is turning its attention towards the September Guarantee.
- Lead councillors for children and young people are refreshing the Youth Offer and further details will be provided to the OSG by London Councils.

Action: Samira Islam to provide further information about refreshing the Youth Offer.

9 Future meetings

9.1 It was agreed to continue with the mix of themed and business meetings.

9.2 As a result of this decision, Peter O'Brien said that:

- The dates proposed for themed meetings on 15 July and 9 September would now be confirmed (the business meeting on 18 November is already confirmed). The 18 November meeting will reach a decision on the themed meeting planned for 16 December.
- OSG members will be asked to select the themes for the next two meetings and the amount of time allocated to each meeting.

9.3 It was also agreed that Peter should circulate the paper provided to the Young People's Education and Skills Board on the Skills and Post-16 Education Bill.

Action:

10 Vacancies

10.1 It was agreed that filling the vacancies in OSG membership should be deferred to the next meeting.

Action: Peter O'Brien to add vacancies to the agenda of the next business meeting.

Post-meeting note: Southwark is part of the Central London Forward sub-region.

11 Any other business

11.1 Peter O'Brien will circulate the following:

- An update on Reconnect London, a school improvement initiative discussed at the last Young People's Education and Skills Board meeting
- A reminder that London's boroughs can make nominations for this year's Apprenticeship Awards
- An appeal for councils to respond to the National Youth Agency's census.

12 Date of next meeting

12.1 The next themed meeting will be held at 1000 on 15 July, followed by a further themed meeting on 9 September. The next business meeting will take place on 18 November.

DRAFT

Minutes

Young People's Education and Skills Operational Sub-Group

Date 15 July 2021 **Venue** Online

Meeting Chair Andy Johnson

Contact Officer Peter O'Brien

Telephone 020 7934 9743 **Email** peter.obrien@londoncouncils.gov.uk

Present

Andy Johnson	London Borough of Enfield, Chair
Daisy Greenaway	Greater London Authority (GLA)
David Scott	London Borough of Hounslow
Jasmine West	London Borough of Barnet
Jo Jack	London Borough of Croydon
Jo Margrie	London Borough of Hackney
Joshveen Soor	London Borough of Southwark
Sean Hawkins	Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA)
Tony Haines	Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA)
Verona Crossfield	Hillingdon

Officer

Peter O'Brien	London Councils
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Apologies

Sheila Weeden	Local London
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1 Welcome, Introductions and apologies

1.1 The Chair invited attendees to introduce themselves.

2 Merged colleges – have they become more or less responsive to local need?

2.1 The Chair introduced the discussion by saying that, in the Local London area, colleagues had perceived that relationships with local centres / campuses of merged entities were not as sensitive to local issues as had been the case when they were independent colleges. He said that this was particularly the case with provision for young people with Special Educational Needs and / or Disabilities (SEND), where specialist provision tended to be concentrated in a central location.

2.2 In the ensuing debate, colleagues shared their experiences of merged colleges and it was noted that:

- Where merged colleges covered more than one local authority area, relationships depended on where the main campus was based. This could result in some inconsistencies in planning for recovery, for example.
- Colleges had different priorities for adult and 16 to 19 provision.
- Mergers often resulted in a more financially stable platform that, in course of time, enabled the provision of courses that responded rapidly to changing needs of businesses or young people.
- If a merger did not adequately address the underlining motives for merger (usually financial or quality improvement) this could result in some turbulence in local education and training systems.
- Although, ideally, the views of local authorities would have been sought as part of the justification for merger, this was not always the case.

3 Education recovery

3.1 Those in attendance were invited to describe the current issues in their local areas:

- There was concern over the number of students in Year 12 who may not have chosen to stay in education in other years and who may decide to leave A level courses for employment without training as labour market conditions improve.
- Absence levels in Post-16 provision were high and disruption in education is continuing.

- Some boroughs had been proactive in working with schools to maintain contact with young people who did not appear to have been engaging with learning during the lockdowns of 2020 and 2021. For example, Hackney had mobilised a number of services such as Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and Prospects (for careers advice and guidance) to support young people in their return to education. The borough had also provided networking opportunities to support staff. Southwark and Enfield had seen an increase in the number of students enrolled on three year level 3 programmes, with the relevant educational settings understanding that funding would be reduced in the final year.
- No borough reported any concerns over safeguarding issues as students returned to learning.

4 Skills and Post-16 Education Bill

- 4.1 Peter O'Brien talked through the legislative process and the progress being made by the Bill, initially through the House of Lords. He said that London Councils was working with the Local Government Association (LGA) on briefing Lords so that the role of local authorities can be brought out more strongly in the legislation. He said that further information was contained in the Policy Update and urged colleagues to follow the links in the update to find out
- 4.2 In discussion, the meeting noted that other organisations, such as the Association of Colleges (AoC) were also lobbying for the Bill to be amended. Taken with the recently announced decision on post-16 level 3 qualifications, the meeting speculated that more schools in their area may concentrate solely on A levels.

5 Policy Update

- 5.1 Peter O'Brien referred to the draft Policy Update that had been sent to attendees shortly before the meeting. He mentioned the increase in activity in Parliament both in terms of legislation and hearings and reports from Select Committees in both Houses. He highlighted continued concern over the state of the youth labour market, arrangements for awarding grades in 2021 and 2022 and absences from educational settings. The meeting was asked to send any local updates to Peter for inclusion in the next issue. The meeting noted the Policy Update.

6 Any other business

- 6.1 Peter O'Brien will include in the post-meeting note a link to the recently announced government response to the review of post-16 level 3 qualifications. In the light of the expected direction of government funding policy, colleagues in some boroughs had analysed the BTECs being offered in their areas and provided educational settings with an assessment of the level of risk involved in planning their continuing delivery.
- 6.2 Colleagues were reminded that the consultation on assessment arrangements for GCSEs in 2022 was closing shortly and they should make their views known.

7 Date of next meeting

- 7.1 The next meeting, which will be a short 'roundtable' discussion on current issues, will take place online at 1000 on 9 September 2021.
- 7.2 An awareness session on Intelligent London is taking place on 15 September 2021. OSG members must register in order to attend.

Minutes

Young People's Education and Skills Operational Sub-Group

Date 9 September 2021 **Venue** On line (via Microsoft Teams)

Meeting Chair Peter O'Brien

Contact Officer Peter O'Brien

Telephone 020 7934 9743 **Email** peter.obrien@londoncouncils.gov.uk

Present

Daisy Greenaway	Greater London Authority (GLA)
Jasmine West	London Borough of Barnet
Jo Jack	London Borough of Croydon
Jo Margrie	London Borough of Hackney
Miriam Hatter	London Borough of Camden
Sheila Weeden	Local London
Sean Hawkins	Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA)
Tony Haines	ESFA
Paul McGivern	London Borough of Merton (to item 3)
Linda Leigh	London Borough of Waltham Forest
Juliet Williams	London Borough of Lambeth
Siobhan Scantlebury	London Borough of Islington
Lorraine Blyth	London Borough of Islington
Joshveen Soor	London Borough of Southwark
Linda Owusu	London Boroughs of Richmond and Wandsworth

Officers

Peter O'Brien	London Councils Young People's Education and Skills
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Apologies

Andy Johnson	London Borough of Enfield
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1 Welcome, Introductions and apologies

- 1.1 In the absence of the Chair, Peter O'Brien conducted the meeting, Peter invited attendees to introduce themselves and noted apologies for absence.

2 Policy Updates – July and August 2021

- 2.1 Peter O'Brien talked through the highlights from the July Policy Update, which had already been circulated, and the August Policy Update, which had been circulated to members of the Operational Sub-Group in draft form. He thanked those OSG members who had provided feedback prior to the meeting and said that the final version, which would address the comments received so far and any others provided by the OSG by midday on 13 September, would be circulated shortly.

3 Roundtable discussion on September Guarantee and Drop-out at 17

- 3.1 Local authority representatives were invited to share their early perceptions of the progress on the September Guarantee in their areas. The consensus was that the position was much as to be expected. Although there are some signs that the number of 17 year-olds who have not presented themselves at the start of term is slightly larger than usual, this is not widespread and not to the extent previously feared. In some areas, FE Colleges had been slower than usual in sharing enrolment details with their local authority and there was a continuing issue over the availability of suitable places for young people with an EHCP. Several boroughs reported that starts on courses below level 3 had been deferred to October and January. Some boroughs also mentioned that educational institutions, particularly those with reputations for good successes at A level, were assessing applicants for A level courses, rather than relying on GCSE results alone.
- 3.2 The meeting related its discussion to London's Recovery Programme, in particular the operation of the new Careers Hubs, the potential for young people's needs to be addressed by the proposed Integration Hubs (as part of the 'no wrong door' approach adopted within the Good Work For All mission) and the

interrelationship between mentoring (as part of the New Deal for Young People mission) and careers education, information, advice and guidance).

3.3 Responding to the debate, the meeting then agreed the following actions:

- An update from the Careers Hubs would be welcome, if possible as an introduction to the next (business) OSG meeting
- It would be useful to receive a briefing from the Association of Employment and Learning Providers on Apprenticeships and Traineeships in December.
- An update on London's Recovery Programme, particularly the New Deal for Young People and Good Work For All missions would be appreciated.

Actions

- Peter O'Brien to approach the Careers Hubs, via the GLA, to ask for presentations at the November business meeting of the OSG.
- Peter O'Brien to liaise with the AELP to organise a briefing about Apprenticeships and Traineeships at the themed OSG scheduled for 16 December.
- Daisy Greenaway to provide Peter O'Brien with appropriate information about the London Recovery Programme missions for onward circulation to the OSG.
- Daisy Greenaway to provide a short report on the New Deal for Young People to the November business meeting of the OSG

4 Updates on Consultations

4.1 Peter O'Brien said that a number of consultations are under way and to which London Councils will be responding. Individual boroughs may also be submitting their own contributions: Colleagues are able to contribute towards Young People's Education and Skills' input to London Councils' responses, but any comments would need to be sent very shortly.

- *National Funding Formula* Funding for 16 to 18 year-olds is not in scope of this consultation. The government is proposing to centralise allocations and remove local discretion on payments to schools and other organisations providing pre-16 education. This changes the role of Schools Forums. Councils' direct services may be funded by the Ministry of Housing

Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) as part of overall council funding in the future.

- *UK Shared Prosperity Fund* This forms part of an overall review of MHCLG funding, although the government will wait until current piloting is completed before deciding its approach.
- *FE Funding and Accountability* 16 to 18 funding is not in scope of the funding aspects of this consultation, although organisations also delivering to adults will be affected by the proposed new accountability regime. This includes a new way of publishing data (a 'data dashboard'), covering a range of areas of performance such as finance.
- *National Skills Fund* This consultation is about changes to adult funding and the use of the adult education budget. Young People's Education and Skills is not proposing to provide an input to the response to this consultation.

Action

- Borough representatives to provide – by 13 September - any comments to be considered as part of Young People's Education and Skills' contribution to responses to the consultations.

5 Other Updates

5.1 Peter O'Brien provided the meeting with the following updates:

- The government started the Spending Review on 7 September. This will conclude with the Budget on 17 October. It is expected that High Needs funding will feature in London Councils' submission.
- The Skills and Post-16 Education Bill has reached the Report Stage in the House of Lords, but no date has yet been set for the debate.
- There will be a meeting of the Young People's Education and Skills Board on 21 October. In addition to the Policy Update, it is proposed to discuss performance and the final stage in the Young People's Education and Skills Action Plan for 2021 to 2022. Feedback from the OSG's discussions since the previous Board meeting in May will also be provided to the Board.

6 Any Other Business

- 6.1 Colleagues were reminded that a workshop on Intelligent London is taking place on 15 September at 1000 and anyone who had not yet registered was invited to do so.
- 6.2 Full members of the OSG were asked to consider filling the vacancy for Vice-Chair and observers were reminded that the vacancies covering Local London and South London Partnership areas also need to be filled. Please contact Peter O'Brien for details.

7 Date of Next Meeting

- 7.1 The next meeting will take place online at 1000 AM on Thursday 18 November.

Item 3d Matters Arising from meetings of Young People's Education and Skills Operational Sub-Group June to October 2021

Action Point	Meeting Date	Action Point Description	Owner(s) - lead in bold	Review Date	Actions Taken	Progress
9	25/03/21	Peter O'Brien to investigate the possibility of Mime Consulting presenting on the use of Intelligent London	Peter O'Brien	18/11/21	The session took place on 15 September 2021	Closed
10	25/03/21	Peter O'Brien to modify the presentation of data to subsequent meetings of the OSG	Peter O'Brien	18/11/21	Discussed at the OSG meeting 10 June 2021	Closed
13	29/04/21	Peter O'Brien to circulate details of Careers Hubs and Integration Hubs when they become available	Peter O'Brien	18/11/21	Discussed on 10 June and further discussed at the OSG meeting to be held on 18 November	Closed
14	29/04/21	OSG to send any comments or ideas about schools improvement to Peter O'Brien	Peter O'Brien	18/11/21	Time expired. No comments received	Closed
15	10/06/21	Peter O'Brien to circulate the detailed Performance Report to the OSG.	Peter O'Brien	18/11/21	This formed part of the YPES Board Papers 21/10/21	Closed
16	10/06/21	Action: Peter O'Brien to provide the OSG with a copy of the Young People's Education and Skills work plan.	Peter O'Brien	18/11/21	To be discussed at OSG 18/11/21	Closed
17	10/06/21	Samira Islam to provide further information about refreshing the Youth Offer.	Samira Islam	18/11/21	To be discussed at OSG 18/11/21	In hand
18	10/06/21	Peter O'Brien to add vacancies to the agenda of the next business meeting.	Peter O'Brien	18/11/21	To be discussed at OSG 18/11/21	In hand
19	09/09/2021	Peter O'Brien to approach the Careers Hubs, via the GLA, to ask for presentations at the November business meeting of the OSG.	Peter O'Brien	18/11/2021	To be discussed at OSG 18/11/21	Closed
20	09/09/2021	Peter O'Brien to liaise with the AELP to organise a briefing about Apprenticeships and Traineeships at the themed OSG scheduled for 16 December.	Peter O'Brien	18/11/2021	To be discussed at OSG 16/12/21	Closed
21	09/09/2021	Daisy Greenaway to provide Peter O'Brien with appropriate information about the London Recovery Programme missions for onward circulation to the OSG.	Daisy Greenaway	18/11/2021	To be discussed at OSG 18/11/21	In hand
22	09/09/2021	Daisy Greenaway to provide a short report on the New Deal for Young People to the November business meeting of the OSG	Daisy Greenaway	18/11/2021	To be discussed at OSG 18/11/21	In hand

Young People's Education and Skills

Policy Update, October 2021

Introduction

At the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, when our meetings were not taking place regularly, we provided our Board, lead Councillors, borough officers and other partners and stakeholders with monthly Policy Updates. These provided detailed summaries of policy development, research and statistics on education and training in London and recipients have told us that these updates were particularly valuable as a substitute for meetings.

We have now completed a full year of scheduled meetings – albeit online – and are planning a further programme of meetings for 2022 to 2023. The need for such detailed coverage of developments in our sector is therefore no longer necessary.

We are therefore introducing this new format for our Policy Updates. They will continue to provide coverage of the main issues affecting young Londoners' education and skills and

encourage discussion among our authorities, partners and stakeholders, but will include less detailed summaries and commentary.

We hope that our readers find that this change continues to meet your needs and maintains a focus of the 16 to 18 phase of learning.

As ever, we welcome feedback on the content of our Policy Updates, contributions for future issues and ideas for improvement. To let us know what you think, please email peter.obrien@londoncouncils.gov.uk

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Overview

1. The Autumn Budget and Spending Review 2021 commanded a great deal of attention during October. Ahead of the Chancellor's statement, which we cover below as the major topic of the month, the sector provided submissions and published research to support the case for investment in education and skills.
2. Elsewhere in Parliament, the Skills and Post-16 Education Bill passed to the House of Commons having been amended in the Lords.

Activities of interest

3. The Reading Agency and Partnership for Young London are looking for young people (11 to 18 years-old) from England and Wales to help shape their new national project supporting young people's mental health. This will be part of [Reading Well](#), a programme that supports people to understand and manage their health and wellbeing using helpful reading. Please contact Troy.Norbert@cityoflondon.gov.uk if you or someone you know would be interested.

Deadlines

4. The Department for Education (DfE) is consulting on [reforming how local authorities' school improvement functions are funded](#). The closing date for submissions is 26 November
5. All Party Parliamentary Group for Youth Employment is conducting an inquiry into [The Impact Of Vocational Qualifications On Young People's Employability and Labour Market Outcomes](#) This inquiry will run between October 2021 - January 2022. Deadline for submissions – 5:00pm on 3 December 2021.

Spending Review

6. Although the Chancellor made his formal statement on the Autumn Budget and Spending Review 2021 (ABSR) on 27 October 2021, many measures had been announced in advance (see paragraph 11 below). The Chancellor's speech and its supporting documents were delivered to the House of Commons in the context of the government's determination to pursue a pathway to economic recovery, while still taking steps to contain and manage the Covid-19 pandemic and to ameliorate its effects.
7. The Chancellor took the opportunity to set a trajectory for some of the themes in the government's election manifesto to return to prominence in its agenda (for example, levelling-up, advancing Global Britain, seizing the opportunities of Brexit) and building back greener, which reinforces the government's commitment to tackling climate change – with the Conference of the Parties (COP) 26 providing a backdrop to its proposals.
8. ABSR provides for additional funding for local authorities, particularly to address budget pressures relating to social care and the need to recompense councils for both the costs of the pandemic and their continuing efforts in recovery.
9. In the broader children and young people, ABSR makes additional provisions for family support, early years, youth work and youth justice.
 - With regard to education and training, ASBR confirmed a new package of £1.8bn over three years to support education recovery in schools and colleges (with every school and college receiving an allocation).
 - £2.6bn for 30,000 new school places for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in England.
 - £4.7bn by 2024/25 for core schools funding in England.
 - an increase in 16 to 18 funding specifically earmarked for the introduction of T levels.
10. On jobs, training and skills, the measures provided for include
 - £60m over the next three years to help 16- to 24-year-old jobseekers gain new skills, build confidence and find lasting work through the extension of the Youth Offer to 2025.
 - Funding to extend the Kickstart scheme to March 2022.

11. Among the announcements made before ABSR and confirmed within it were:
- As the government's furlough scheme came to an end, a new [Infrastructure Pipeline](#) was launched with £650 billion investment and supporting 425,000 jobs a year. This came alongside the publication of the government's latest Plan for Jobs Progress Update.
 - The Chancellor [announced](#) that Apprenticeship incentives, first introduced in August 2020 and that have been worth £3,000 per new apprentice since April 2021, have been extended for a further four months beyond their originally planned end date of 30 September 2021. The Chancellor also confirmed that Kickstart would be extended until March 2022. As part of this extension, government will continue to accept applications from employers and gateway providers until 17 December 2021.
 - Care leavers, children with a social worker and children arriving from Afghanistan are set to receive laptops and tablets to enable them to access education and support following the [provision of an additional £126 million by the DfE](#).
 - The National Living Wage for people aged over 23 will increase from £8.91 to £9.50 an hour. There will also be a rise for people aged 21 to 22 as the National Minimum Wage rate will increase to £9.18 an hour. The minimum hourly wage for an apprentice will also see a boost next year, with an 18 year old apprentice in an industry like construction seeing their minimum hourly pay increase by nearly 12 per cent, going from £4.30 to £4.81 an hour.

Government Policy Announcements

12. The government's [Global trade outlook](#) sets out some of the long-term trends that the government thinks are likely to shape the global economy and international trade in coming decades.
13. In his keynote speech to the Conservative Party Conference, the Education Secretary announced his intention to publish a White Paper on illiteracy and innumeracy in the new year.
14. Speaking at the conference of the National Association of Head Teachers, the [Education Secretary](#) thanked school leaders for their work throughout the pandemic and their continued dedication to improving the life chances of young people. He also pledged to work tirelessly to close the disadvantage gap and boost the education outcomes for vulnerable groups of children.
15. The [government has responded](#) to the Education Select Committee's report *The forgotten: how White working class pupils have been let down, and how to change it*.
16. The government has [appointed](#) Nigel Huddleston as the new youth and civil society minister in the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS).

Parliament

17. **Legislation:** The [Skills and Post-16 Education Bill](#) has progressed through the House of Lords and has now passed to the Commons. The Lords agreed a number of amendments to the original Bill, many proposed by or agreed with the government. Among the amendments in which the government position was defeated include:
 - a requirement to involve councils in drawing up local skills and employment plans
 - a requirement for secondary pupils to experience mandatory encounters with technical training providers
 - preventing benefit rules causing problems for adults seeking education and training opportunities
 - requiring special educational needs training to be included within FE teacher training programmes

- employers to spend two-thirds of “apprenticeship funding” on level 2 and 3 apprenticeships for under-25s
 - government amendments to outlaw essay mills and allow for the conversion of 16-to-19 sixth forms with religious character to academies were passed without opposition.
18. The House of Commons Public Accounts Committee has [found](#) that education funding reforms have resulted in less money for the most deprived schools and more for the better off.

Themes

Participation – risk of young people being not in education, employment or training (NEET)

19. The DfE has published new research on the extent of learning loss among pupils in England during the summer and spring terms
20. The DfE has also issued [guidance](#) to help those in alternative provision (AP) settings to support their year 11 students as they transition into post-16 destinations and avoid becoming NEET.
21. The government has reported on the seventh (July 2021) wave of the [School Snapshot Panel](#), a panel run by IFF Research on behalf of the DfE. It covers key issues affecting schools during the COVID-19 pandemic including, rapid asymptomatic testing in schools; mental health of staff and pupils; and individual and small group tuition. The [pupils and their parents or carers omnibus survey](#) has also been published and provides data and commentary on, for example, parental involvement in pupils’ learning, changes to the school day – or at school – and impacts of the early pandemic on pupils and parents.

Participation – Apprenticeships

22. See paragraph 11 for government announcements on Apprenticeship funding and incentives.
23. London’s winners in the [2021 National Apprenticeship Awards](#) have been announced.

Participation – Quality and Standards

24. The Association of Colleges (AoC) has launched a new [Research Unit](#) that will coordinate, commission and utilise high quality research to support informed Post-16 teaching practice and policy development.
25. Derby University is working with the AoC and NCFE to conduct [a longitudinal study into college enrichment](#).

Achievement

26. The DfE published a report on [pupils' progress in the 2020 to 2021 academic year](#). It also issued a series of publications that offered an analysis on statistics derived from – or linked to - the study of early education and development (SEED), which, although not directly covering the 16 to 18 phase provides a useful indicator of how early education can affect the inputs into the 16 to 18 phase of learning:
 - [findings from the Covid-19 follow-up](#)
 - [developing alternative quality scales for early childhood education and care \(ECEC\)](#)
 - [early education use and child outcomes up to age 7](#)

Progression – labour market

27. The latest [official statistics](#) show that London had the highest estimated unemployment rate (5.8 per cent) of all England's regions. Around one in five 18 to 24 year-olds are unemployed and the level of long-term unemployed in the age group is increasing.
28. As of 11 October 2021, 43,500 jobs had been made available through [Kickstart](#) in London, resulting in 18,560 total jobs started.
29. The latest release of the [Annual Survey for Hours and Earnings](#) (ASHE) carried out by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) showed London wages fell slightly faster than the UK national average
30. The Learning and Work Institute published [Better work audit: job quality in London over the last decade](#).
31. The [Institute for Employment Studies](#) has suggested that the government should link up its policies on recovering from Covid-19, levelling-up and

developing a green and clean economy to transform jobs and skills for young people.

32. City & Guilds' [Skills Index 2021](#) urges employers to address the current mismatch between the skills that people have and the skills that businesses will need if they are to be competitive in the future.
33. According to The Open University's annual [Business Barometer](#), published in partnership with the Institute of Directors, UK employers are facing a skills shortage when it comes to hiring specialist, entry level talent.
34. The latest KPMG and REC, UK [Report on Jobs](#) says that the trends that started following the opening of the economy post-lockdown have continued, with little sign of the situation easing for employers. This prolonged period of imbalance between demand for workers and availability of candidates means that starting pay is at record high as candidate availability continues to plummet, which is affecting employers who have typically recruited at the national minimum wage.
35. [Large Employers and the Youth Labour Market](#) by the Youth Futures Foundation urges the leaders of big businesses to see employing young people to be a key part of their companies' Covid-19 recovery plans.

Careers Guidance

36. The DfE has published [Young people's experiences of careers information, advice and guidance](#), which uses data from the Longitudinal Study of Young People in England 2 (LSYPE2) – carried out in 2018. – and compares them with the equivalent study carried out nine years earlier.
37. The [Big Career Conversation](#) with Young People (in Years 7,9 and 11 in England) concludes that Britain's young talent pipeline has to be well equipped and able to contribute to future skills and economic growth.
38. [Research from Youth Employment UK](#) show that 32.6 per cent of young people 'Disagree' or 'Strongly Disagree' that they have the skills and knowledge to write a good covering letter to their CV when applying for jobs.
39. See paragraph 49 for social mobility and careers guidance.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

40. London South East Colleges is one of eight Further Education providers to be included in the Education and Training Foundation's [Centres for Excellence in Special Educational Needs and Disabilities \(CfESSEND\)](#) programme. The College's outstanding SEND provision will become one of the new employer spokes across the country – maximising existing employer relationships and creating new ones to support learners into fulfilling jobs
41. [Ambitious about Autism](#) has launched its recovery strategy to help children and young people with autism overcome the impact of the pandemic, economic uncertainty and inadequate support.
42. The social mobility charity [Speakers for Schools](#) has partnered with disability organisations such as Mencap, to provide work experience to 2,000 young people across the UK who have SEND.

Funding

43. In addition to the Budget announcement, the government separately published a list of successful bidders for round 1 of the [Levelling Up Fund](#).
44. The Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) produced an [analysis](#) showing the growing gap in spending between private and state schools.
45. The [Education Policy Institute](#) has estimated that a £13.5bn cash injection is needed over the next three years to help pupils recover from lost learning.

Race equality and social justice

46. Linking London has launched its [Educational Deprivation Dashboard](#) for London, which provides an overview of the make-up of deprivation in London's schools and colleges.
47. Loughborough University has updated its [assessment of the cost of child poverty](#) (it estimates that child poverty costs the country almost £38bn a year).
48. The Centre for Progressive Policy issued [Re-examination: expanding educational opportunities for every child](#), which explores how social disadvantage affects educational outcomes.

Social mobility

- 49. The Social Mobility Commission published [Pathways to Success](#), a report that examines how to improve young people's engagement with formal careers advice, especially online.
- 50. Disadvantaged students in FE colleges are more likely to progress to university than their disadvantaged peers in similar sixth forms according to research published by [The Sutton Trust](#).

Mental health and anxiety

- 51. The Local Government Association has [called for school-based counselling](#) to be made available to all children to tackle rising child mental health issues.

Housing/homelessness

- 52. [Research](#) shows that most younger Londoners do not want to move out of the capital to afford a home, but current property prices remain the biggest obstacle to being a homeowner for more than half of them.
- 53. The charity [Centrepoin](#)t has said that youth homelessness in England has increased from an estimated 86,000 young people who presented themselves to their local authority as homeless or at risk in 2016/17 to 121,000 in 2019/20. Coverage in the Guardian presented analysis showing disproportionate representation of Black households receiving homelessness prevention or homelessness relief from local authorities in London.

Youth work

- 54. The number of older children and teenagers involved in care proceedings in England has more than doubled over the last 10 years, analysis by [Nuffield Family Justice Observatory](#) has found.
- 55. The [Nuffield Foundation](#) has awarded £2.8m to a research project aimed at better understanding the needs and experiences of vulnerable children and families.
- 56. The [Care Leaver Friendly Employer Charter](#) has been launched with the support of the Secretary of State for Education.

Engaging young people

57. The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS)has published the list of youth organisations to win a [Youth Engagement Grant](#), whose aim is to support young people across England to participate in the development of policy affecting them, enabling more young people to have their voices heard and participate in decision making on a national policy level.

Youth justice

58. The [monthly figures for August 2021](#) published by the Youth Custody Service show that there were 147 young people aged 18 or younger in Youth Custody whose home Youth Offending Team is located in London. This compares with 140 in July and 191 in August 2020.
59. The London Assembly Police and Crime Committee has published the [first part of its report into violent crime](#). The report highlights the high rate of teenage homicides this year, particularly young Black males, and makes recommendations including that the Violence Reduction Unit expands its ENGAGE pilot programme which works with young people in custody centres, helping them into education, employment and training, and that community engagement work should be embedded in the work of the Violence Suppression Units.

Qualification reform

60. A cross-party group of 118 MPs and Lords have called on the Education Secretary to [rethink the government's plans to scrap the majority of BTECs](#).
61. The [Lifelong Education Commission](#) published its recommendations to reform the UK skills system.
62. The awarding body Pearson published its [Workforce Skills Report](#), which proposed relaxing rules on equivalent and lower qualifications and giving employers and educational settings more flexibility on the use of funds.

Statistics

63. Participation - [attendance](#): In the week commencing 11 October (with the measurement date of 14 October), 100.0 per cent of educational settings were open and 90.0 per cent of students were attending.

64. Local Authorities' annual [NEET Scorecards](#) have been published – these provide official rankings of each local authority.
65. In line with previously announced policy, the [school and college performance tables](#) for both key stages 4 and 5 that have been published by the DfE do not include attainment data. For this year, data will only include GCSE exam subject entries by pupils at the end of KS4 in 2021, destinations of students after completing KS4, exam subject entries by 16 to 18 year olds in 2021 level 3 qualifications including A levels, academic, tech level and applied general, exam subject entries by 16 to 18 year olds in 2021 technical certificates at level 2 and the destinations of students after completing 16 to 18 study (2018 and 2019 leavers).
66. Further detailed analysis on statistics is available on Intelligent London <http://www.intelligentlondon.org.uk/>.