

Young People's Education and Skills Operational Sub-Group

AGENDA

Chair:	Andy Johnson	Job title:	Progression & Pathways Manager, London Borough of Enfield
Date:	24 March 2022	Time:	1000 – 1200
Venue:	On-line via Microsoft Teams		
Telephone:	020 7934 9743	Email:	peter.obrien@londoncouncils.gov.uk

Item 1	Welcome, introductions and apologies	Chair
Item 2	Minutes of meetings held on 18 November 2021, 16 December 2021 and 20 January 2022 and matters arising	Peter O'Brien
Item 3	Policy Update	Peter O'Brien
Item 4	Performance Report	Peter O'Brien
Item 5	Board Report	Peter O'Brien
Item 6	Roundtable on current issues	All
Item 7	Recovery Update	Peter O'Brien
Item 8	Green Skills	Sheila Weeden
Item 9	Any other business	All

Date of next meeting: 26 May 2022 at 1000 (online) – Themed Meeting.

Minutes

Young People's Education and Skills (YPES) Operational Sub-Group

Date 18 November 2021 **Venue** Online (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
Clare Huntingford	Achieving for Children
David Scott	London Borough of Hounslow
Ethel Punter	London Borough of Lewisham
Jo Jack	London Borough of Croydon
Jo Margrie	London Borough of Hackney
Joshveen Soor	London Borough of Southwark
Linda Owusu	Richmond and Wandsworth
Lutzim Osmani	London Borough of Southwark
Paul McGivern	London Borough of Merton
Sean Hawkins	Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA)
Sheila Weeden	Local London
Siobhan Scantlebury	London Borough of Islington
Tony Haines	ESFA
Varsha Mistry-Hand	London Borough of Havering

Officers

Amin Aboushagor	London Councils – Skills and Culture
Peter O'Brien	London Councils – YPES
Samira Islam	London Councils – Children's Services

Guests / Presenters

Aarti Jaswal	Education Development Trust
Clare Ludlow	Greater London Authority (GLA)
Helen Corcoran	GLA
Mark De Backer	Education Development Trust
Michelle Sporle	Reed in Partnership
Polly Persechino	South London Partnership
Tracy Eve	Local London

Apologies

Daisy Greenaway	GLA
Erik Stein	London Borough of Barking & Dagenham
Jasmine West	London Borough of Barnet
Michael Hawkins	London Borough of Hillingdon
Miriam Hatter	London Borough of Camden
Verona Crossfield	London Borough of Hillingdon

1 Welcome, Introductions and apologies

- 1.1 The Chair invited attendees to introduce themselves and apologies for absence were noted.

2 Careers Hubs

- 2.1 Clare Ludlow introduced the item, presenting on the background to Careers Hubs in London. The presentation included contributions from each of the organisations commissioned to deliver Careers Hubs in the four sub-regions.
- 2.2 In the course of discussion, the following points were raised:
- Borough representatives welcomed the introduction of Careers Hubs and agreed to contact their sub-regional contractor, particularly to ensure that delivery blended with other local services.
 - It was hoped that Careers Hubs and boroughs would share information, for example Compass scores, to maximise impact.

- Where appropriate, boroughs should consider inviting Careers Hubs to meetings of schools (Heads meetings or other forums) that councils facilitate.
- Although there was some uncertainty about longer-term funding for the initiative beyond the current contracting period, it was anticipated that Careers Hubs would be in a strong position to secure funding in the future.
- It was noted that parents / carers should be included in careers education activities to ensure that young people's aspirations could be appropriately supported.
- Careers Hubs activities could help reinforce work to develop risk of NEET indicators and help to target interventions more effectively.

2.3 The Chair thanked Clare and colleagues for the presentation.

Action: Borough representatives to establish ways of working with their sub-regional Careers Hub and report on progress to the next business meeting of the OSG (March 2022).

3 Minutes of meetings

3.1 The minutes of the business meeting held on 10 June 2021 and the 'themed' meetings held on 15 July and 9 September were agreed.

Post-meeting note: subsequent to the meeting an amendment to paragraph 8.1 of the meeting held on 10 June 2021 has been proposed: to delete from the first bullet point the words "A separate Summer Programme is being organised with particular emphasis on young people who remain anxious about leaving home during the pandemic".

3.2 Samira Islam reported on a meeting held on 19 October 2021 to discuss a London Youth Offer. The notes of this meeting will be circulated to the OSG.

3.3 Peter O'Brien reminded the meeting that there were vacancies for the Vice-Chair (to be agreed from the full members of the Operational Sub-Group (OSG) and for full members for South London and the Local London area.

Actions:

Samira Islam to provide a written report of the meeting held on 19 October 2021.

Boroughs to consider taking up the positions currently vacant on the OSG

4 Policy Update

- 4.1 Peter O'Brien spoke about the October Policy Update, which had been circulated separately, and drew attention to both the revised format and its content. He mentioned the topics that would feature in the November update. Specific questions about the update should be emailed directly to Peter.

5 London Recovery Programme

- 5.1 In Daisy Greenaway's absence, Peter O'Brien referred to a presentation delivered to the Board meeting of 21 October and reported on the progress on the New Deal for Young People Mission, with emphasis on mentoring.
- 5.2 It was hoped that Daisy would provide an update at the next meeting.

Action: Peter O'Brien to ask Daisy Greenaway to provide an update on the London Recovery Programme to the next meeting of the OSG.

6 Programme for 2022

- 6.1 Peter O'Brien referred to the action plan agreed by the Board and that will be circulated to the OSG. He outlined options for future meetings and suggested the topics to examine for the next two meetings.
- 6.2 The meeting agreed the following:
- All meetings in 2022 should be online only, start at 1000 and last two hours maximum.
 - There should be six meetings in 2022 in every other month starting from January and alternating between 'themed' and 'business' meetings.
 - The final meeting for 2021 is themed on increasing the take up of Apprenticeships. It was agreed to invite the Apprenticeship Sub-

Group to that session. The meeting will also include an update on the London Recovery Programme, the Young People's Education and Skills Action Plan and a 'roundtable' discussion of local issues.

- The January 2022 meeting will pick up on homelessness, youth justice / Youth Offending Teams and a discussion on the curriculum offer in London. In this respect, a report by the sub-regional bodies on green skills and jobs will be circulated to the OSG. It was felt that demand for these jobs and skills would increase in the future. The take-up of T levels would also feature as part of this discussion.

Actions:

Peter O'Brien to implement the decisions on future meetings.

Peter O'Brien to circulate information about green skills

7 Board Report

- 7.1 Peter O'Brien outlined the topics discussed at the Young People's Education and Skills Board meeting held on 21 October and invited the OSG to highlight any issues that should be drawn to the Board's attention.
- 7.2 It was stated that there had been an increase in the number of young people claiming Universal Credit and who consequently were classed as 'not known' in the official NEET statistics. Borough representatives asked if this could be taken up with DWP to achieve better sharing of information.
- 7.3 The meeting also agreed that there should be a more strategic approach to tackling language / speech problems among young people who are excluded.
- 7.4 It was noted that Integration Hubs would come on stream from January as part of the Good Work For All Recovery Mission. These are intended to deliver a 'no wrong door' approach that encourages cross-programme collaboration and referral that ensures that needs are met more immediately. The London Recovery Board is considering how best to take a more tailored approach to young people's needs across all of the recovery missions.

Action: Peter O'Brien to relay the issues identified by the OSG to the Young People's Education and Skills Board.

8 Date of the next meeting

- 8.1 The next meeting will be held on 16 December 2021 at 1000 and will be online only.

DRAFT

Minutes

Young People's Education and Skills Operational Sub-Group

Date 16 December 2021 **Venue** Online via 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
Andile Artino	London Borough of Hackney
Andy Galloway	London Borough of Hillingdon
Cheryl Jones	London Borough of Bexley
Faridun Kurbonmamadov	London Borough of Haringey
Jo Jack	London Borough of Croydon
Jo Margrie	London Borough of Hackney
Joshveen Soor	London Borough of Southwark
Josie Todd	Greater London Authority (GLA)
Juliet Williams	London Borough of Lambeth
Linda Owusu	Royal Borough of Richmond upon Thames and London Borough of Wandsworth
Michelle Fitzgerald	London Borough of Brent
Miriam Hatter	London Borough of Camden
Ripon Miah	London Borough of Tower Hamlets
Sarah-Jane Marcello	London Borough of Hackney
Sean Hawkins	Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA)
Sukbir Sahans	London Borough of Ealing
Tim Eyers	Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea and City of Westminster
Tony Haines	ESFA

Officers

Amin Aboushagor London Councils

Peter O'Brien London Councils

Presenters

Nichola Hay Estio Ltd & Association of Employment and Learning
Providers (AELP)

Rebecca Durber AELP

Apologies

Daisy Greenaway GLA

1 Welcome, Introductions and apologies

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed attendees, especially presenters and guests from the Apprenticeship Sub-Group. He announced that Linda Owusu had agreed to represent south London on the Operational Sub-Group (OSG).

2 Increasing the Take-up of Apprenticeships by 16 to 18 Year-olds

- 2.1 The Chair introduced Nichola Hay and Rebecca Durber from the AELP and invited them to lead the discussion. They delivered a presentation to the meeting and in the subsequent discussion, the following points emerged:
- There was strong support for enforcing the existing Apprenticeship Minimum Wage and for lobbying for its increase (see also the pay scales survey completed by the Apprenticeship Sub-Group and discussed at its [meeting on 2 December](#))
 - There should be greater incentives for transfers to Apprenticeships from DWP programmes and better sign-posting of Apprenticeships by DWP.
 - Local authorities and the AELP could collaborate closely to convert to Apprenticeships those young Londoners who are in full-time employment with training (including non-regulated learning) and part-time employment.
 - The AELP, through the Skills for Londoners Board, were working with Careers Hubs to increase the profile of Apprenticeships to schools and their pupils. The meeting felt that this was essential but needed to be the

starting point for influencing opinions of parents, young people and employers, especially small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

- Local authorities were encouraged to ensure that Apprenticeship providers were included in local events, such as parents evenings and careers fairs.
- [Resources](#) developed by AELP were recommended and boroughs were encouraged to review and tailor them to suit local circumstances.

2.2 It was agreed that a webinar on the Find An Apprenticeship service should be held. Local Authorities can also join the ESFA mailing list to receive a spreadsheet showing vacancies across London and south-east England (email Communications.ESFA@education.gov.uk to be added to this list).

2.3 The Chair thanked Nicola and Rebecca for their presentation.

Actions

The Chair and Peter O'Brien to investigate the possibility of holding a webinar about the Find An Apprenticeship service.

Borough officers to consider subscribing to the ESFA's mailing list to receive details of Apprenticeship vacancies.

3 London Recovery Programme Update

3.1 Josie Todd delivered a presentation on the London Recovery Programme, paying particular reference to the latest developments in the New Deal for Young People and Good Jobs for All Missions.

3.2 The ensuing discussion included:

- It was hoped that the GLA would take stock of existing mentoring services provided locally.
- The GLA is looking to the Collaborative Fund that it is setting up, together (potentially) the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, to provide longer-term revenue for mentoring services throughout London.
- The GLA was encouraged to explore the possibility of young people acting as mentors or ambassadors.

3.3 Josie agreed to provide additional clarification on the mechanisms to ensure the alignment of mentoring services that it intends to provide with the Career Hubs,

which the GLA is also supporting, and the proposed Integration Hubs that are being developed as part of the 'no wrong door' approach adopted within the Good Work for All mission. Josie also said that further information about how the offer was being extended to Children Looked After (CLA) or with Special Educational Needs and / or Disabilities (SEND) were available as part of the package of projects being commissioned - details of the [funding opportunities](#) that support the New Deal for Young People mission are available on the GLA's website. Any additional questions about these initiatives can be sent to NewDealforYoungPeople@london.gov.uk.

3.4 The Chair thanked Josie for the presentation.

Actions

Josie Todd to provide a further short update at the January meeting to clarify the alignment of mentoring with Careers Hubs and Integration Hubs.

4 Young People's Education and Skills Action Plan 2021 to 2022

4.1 Peter O'Brien spoke to paper provided to attendees in advance. He asked for any suggestions on priorities to be sent to him before 20 January 2022.

Action

Boroughs to provide comments on priorities for 2022 before the next meeting.

5 Roundtable on Current Issues

5.1 The Chair invited attendees to share the current issues within their areas. The following points were raised:

- A new 'skills centre', mainly around construction, is opening in Enfield as part of its major Meridian Water development. Job brokerage services in the borough are being delivered in conjunction with the library service as part of an integrated youth service offer.
- Boroughs generally noted that retention appeared to be higher this year, particularly retention in schools, and that the young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) seem more highly qualified at level 2 than in previous years. Some boroughs reported that they were

struggling to recruit 16 to 18 year-old apprentices and that their local colleges were no longer making an offer for new starts in January.

- Ealing is producing case studies of successful apprentices and is investigating how best to help Kickstart leavers to transition into Apprenticeships.
- Brent is introducing a 3 to 6 months paid work experience scheme with minimal training, as an alternative to the apprenticeship pathway. Sometimes the qualification can be a barrier. We are targeting 16 to 25 CLA or SEND. The borough's Schools Inclusion Team also have a SEN internship, which seems to be working well.
- Project Hackney is raising awareness of college and other local provision, including Apprenticeships, as a large proportion of young people are choosing to continue their learning out of the borough after the age of 16.

5.2 The Chair asked Peter O'Brien to report these issues to the Board on behalf of the OSG.

Action

Peter O'Brien to report the issues identified at the meeting to the Young People's Education and Skills Board.

6 Schedule of Meetings in 2022

6.1 The proposed schedule was adopted. The next meeting will be held online at 1000 on 20 January 2022 and will be a 'themed' meeting focused on the curriculum offer in London, homelessness and youth justice.

Action

Peter O'Brien to implement the schedule of meetings for 2022.

7 Announcements

7.1 The Chair thanked Daisy Greenaway for her membership of and contribution to the Operational Sub-Group during the time in which Daisy represented the GLA, which the OSG echoed.

7.2 The Chair offered all in attendance the compliments of the season.

Minutes

Young People's Education and Skills Operational Sub-Group

Date 20 January 2022 **Venue** Online (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
Jasmine West	London Borough of Barnet
Jo Jack	London Borough of Croydon
Jo Margrie	London Borough of Hackney
Josie Todd	Greater London Authority (GLA)
Linda Owusu	London Boroughs of Richmond and Wandsworth
Sheila Weeden	Local London
Tony Haines	Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA)
Yolande Burgess	London Councils
Sean Hawkins	ESFA
Ruth Griffiths	London Borough of Lewisham
Dale Hughes	London Borough of Hillingdon
Juliet Williams	London Borough of Lambeth
Sharon Youlden	London Borough of Havering
Varsha Mistry-Hand	London Borough of Havering
Katie Mawhinney	London Borough of Ealing
Joshveen Soor	London Borough of Southwark

Officers

Amin Aboushagor	London Councils
Peter O'Brien	London Councils

Presenters

Siobhan Scantlebury	London Borough of Islington
Rebecca Bryce	London Borough of Islington
Lorraine Blyth	London Borough of Islington

Apologies

David Scott	London Borough of Hounslow
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1 Welcome, Introductions and apologies

- 1.1 The Chair invited attendees to introduce themselves and noted apologies for absence.

2 Curriculum Offer at Key Stage 5 in London

- 2.1 Peter O'Brien introduced the discussion after which the Chair thanked contributors. A note summarising the discussion is appended to these minutes and will be reported to the Young People's Education and Skills Board.

Action: Peter O'Brien to relay the meeting's comments about the curriculum offer to the Young People's Education and Skills Board.

3 Youth Justice: working with Youth Offending Teams

- 3.1 Siobhan Scantlebury, Lorraine Blyth and Rebecca Bryce delivered a presentation about how the London Borough of Islington's Post-16 Participation and Progression Officers work with the borough's Youth Offending Service (YOS) - the presentation is available for downloading from the meeting webpage.
- 3.2 The ensuing discussion highlighted the following points:
- There were fewer entry level and level 1 courses available as pathways for users of the YOS to re-engage with learning.
 - It would be very helpful if educational settings involved their YOS earlier about issues in students' behaviour (for example, behaviours that suggest a young person is at risk of exclusion or is persistently absent) so that appropriate help can be provided before a crisis point is reached.

- Apprenticeships are discussed with young people, though it can be useful to frame these discussions by some ‘taster’ experiences of the wider world of work.

4 Homelessness and its impact on participation, achievement and progression of 16 to 18 year-olds

- 4.1 Borough representatives at the meeting said that they were working with London Councils on homelessness and Peter O’Brien was asked to arrange for more details to be provided to a future Operational Sub-Group meeting.

Action: Peter O’Brien to arrange for details of London Councils’ work with boroughs on homelessness to be provided to the Operational Sub-Group.

5 London Recovery: Alignment of Careers Hubs, Mentoring and Integration Hubs

- 5.1 Josie Todd said that Careers Hubs had started delivery, bids for mentoring projects had now been received and successful providers would be agreed shortly. Details will be provided to the Operational Sub-Group at the next meeting. Integration Hubs, part of the Good Work for All Mission, were also being established.

- 5.2 Sheila Weeden said that in north / east London and south London the Careers Hubs and Integration Hubs were being delivered by the sub-regional partnerships and there was an opportunity for the two projects to be delivered in close alignment with each other. There was, however, the possibility for inconsistencies to develop in west and central London. The meeting also felt that there needed to be close working between mentoring projects and both sets of hubs.

- 5.3 It was agreed that Peter O’Brien, Josie Todd and Clare Ludlow (who leads on the Careers Hubs) should meet and discuss the overlaps of these projects.

Action: Peter O’Brien, Josie Todd and Clare Ludlow to meet to discuss alignment of Careers Hubs, mentoring projects and Integration Hubs.

6 Roundtable discussion on current issues

6.1 Attendees said:

- There did not appear to be any issues with the September Guarantee, though borough officers were mindful of the risk of early leaving from education and training as labour market conditions improved.
- T levels were gaining interest from some schools, but delivery of the work placement was proving to be a barrier for many schools.
- Concern was again expressed about the threat to remove funding from BTECs before T levels had proved they were a valued alternative. This, together with reductions in courses below level 3 after key stage 4, were proving problems in sourcing suitable provision for many Londoners aged 16 to 18.
- Earlier work on 'the forgotten middle' – students who did not have the capacity / family support to excel but could get better results with some of the resources currently available to those who did not achieve good grades at GCSE was proving useful to some boroughs.

7 Policy Update

7.1 Peter O'Brien provided a verbal update based on the December 21 / January 22 Policy Update that was being prepared for issue week commencing 7 February.

7.2 The meeting asked Peter to include any research on children missing education in the next update.

Action: Peter O'Brien to include any current research on children missing education in the next Policy Update.

8 Any Other Business

8.1 Peter O'Brien asked colleagues if they would support London First in a project about careers advice and guidance that they were starting.

Action: Borough representatives to contact Peter O'Brien if they would like to support London First in their project about careers advice and guidance.

9 Date of Next Meeting

- 9.1 The next meeting will take place online at 1000 on 24 March 2022. This will be a business meeting, preceded by a discussion on the Sub-Regional Partnerships' report on Green Skills.

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Appendix: Curriculum Offer at Key Stage 5 in London

- It was confirmed that more 16 to 18 year-olds were now staying in sixth-forms and studying A levels, aiming to progress to university. Schools were perceived by young people and their families as providing a 'safe' and 'nurturing' environment in the present circumstances. Young people who may have sought employment in previous years have found this option is not available to them, especially if they had not achieved good results at key stage 4. A new sixth form in Hackney is opening without the agreement of the council. The meeting expressed some concern about retention and suggested this should be monitored closely.
- Consequently, fewer 16 to 18 year-olds were in colleges (including sixth-form colleges). It was reported that the Association of Colleges estimated a 3 per cent reduction on last year. Although staff shortages had affected the ability of colleges to offer a January intake, this was inconsistent across London.
- Apprenticeships continued to be affected by labour market uncertainty. In some areas young people preferred employment without training to Apprenticeships (which would affect local areas' compliance with participation to age 18); whereas, in contrast, local authority Apprenticeship recruitment was reported to include a significant amount of applications from people who have dropped out of HE or are unemployed graduates.
- The level of participation needed to be viewed in the context of a lower cohort size this year. Though this is the case overall in London – and some boroughs had a much lower cohort than last year – this was not the case in all boroughs, where some growth had occurred.
- BTECs – either on their own or in combination with A levels – remained popular. T levels had started to make an impact and were expected to grow, though several schools across London that had previously expressed interest in delivering T levels had lost interest, mainly because of the requirements for work placements.
- Where schools had a culture of delivering high quality work experience and careers education, information, advice and Guidance (CEIAG), these elements of the curriculum had been maintained and moved to online

delivery; but in other schools they had been displaced by 'catch up' provision. Careers Hubs had started to work with schools and are promoting the GLA virtual work experience package.

- Work readiness remained a focus for educational settings, especially for students who were not looking to go to university. This was particularly the case for students with Special Educational Needs and / or Disabilities.
- There is a mixed picture of students following Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) and Arts courses.
- Many young people who had not participated in learning for some time, not necessarily because they had been excluded, were now seeking to return to local provision (that is, provision to which public transport may not be required).
- The trends in participation and exclusion that existed pre-pandemic had continued, and specific drives were reported to increase participation from White young people from low income families and to reduce exclusions of young people with Gypsy Roma Traveller (GRT) backgrounds and Black males. An increase in exclusions of females had also occurred in some areas. Across London there was a consistently strong correlation between young people who were not in education, employment or training (NEET) and mental health issues.
- Where schools and colleges had been offering three-year level 3 courses before the pandemic, these were being maintained.
- Participation in Alternative Provision had increased and while some European Social Fund provision to support continuing participation and re-engagement existed, it is believed that the loss of this provision will inevitably lead to an increase in NEET.

Item 2D. Matters Arising from meetings of Young People's Education and Skills Operational Sub-Group

Action Point	Meeting Date	Action Point Description	Owner(s) - lead in bold	Review Date	Actions Taken	Progress
17	10/06/21	Samira Islam to provide further information about refreshing the Youth Offer.	Samira Islam	18/11/21	Discussed at OSG 18/11/21	Closed
18	10/06/21	Peter O'Brien to add vacancies to the agenda of the next business meeting.	Peter O'Brien	18/11/21	Discussed at OSG 18/11/21	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	16/12/2021	Josie Todd provided an update on 16/12/22	Closed
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	Josie Todd provided an update on 16/12/22	Closed
23	18/11/2021	Borough representatives to establish ways of working with their sub-regional Careers Hub and report on progress to the next business meeting of the OSG (March 2022).	Borough representatives	24/03/2022		In Hand
24	18/11/2021	Samira Islam to provide a written report of the meeting held on 19 October 2021.	Samira Islam	24/03/2022	Circulated with the papers for the business meeting held on 24/3/22	Closed
25	18/11/2021	Boroughs to consider taking up the positions currently vacant on the OSG	Borough representatives	24/03/2022	Vacancies exist for North & East London and for a Vice-Chair	In Hand
26	18/11/2021	Action: Peter O'Brien to ask Daisy Greenaway to provide an update on the London Recovery Programme to the next meeting of the OSG.	Peter O'Brien / Daisy Greenaway	24/03/2022	Josie Todd provided an update on 16/12/22	Closed
27	18/11/2021	Peter O'Brien to implement the decisions on future meetings.	Peter O'Brien	24/03/2022	Included in the post-meeting note	Closed
28	18/11/2021	Peter O'Brien to circulate information about green skills	Peter O'Brien	24/03/2022	Included in the post-meeting note	Closed
29	18/11/2021	Peter O'Brien to relay the issues identified by the OSG to the Young People's Education and Skills Board.	Peter O'Brien	24/03/2022	Reported to the Board meeting held on 17 February 2022	Closed
30	16/12/2021	The Chair and Peter O'Brien to investigate the possibility of holding a webinar about the Find An Apprenticeship service	Andy Johnson / Peter O'Brien	24/03/2022	Event held on 15/2/22 as a follow-up to NAW	Closed
31	16/12/2021	Borough officers to consider subscribing to the ESFA's mailing list to receive details of Apprenticeship vacancies	Borough representatives	24/03/2022		In Hand
32	16/12/2021	Josie Todd to provide a further short update at the January meeting to clarify the alignment of mentoring with Careers Hubs and Integration Hubs.	Josie Todd	24/03/2022	Discussed with London Councils on 8/3/22	Closed
33	16/12/2021	Boroughs to provide comments on priorities for 2022 before the next meeting.	Borough representatives	24/03/2022	Time expired	Closed
34	16/12/2021	Peter O'Brien to report the issues identified at the meeting to the Young People's Education and Skills Board	Peter O'Brien	24/03/2022	Reported to the Board meeting held on 17 February 2022	Closed
35	16/12/2021	Peter O'Brien to implement the schedule of meetings for 2022.	Peter O'Brien	24/03/2022	Meeting invites have been sent	Closed
36	20/01/2022	Peter O'Brien to relay the meeting's comments about the curriculum offer to the Young People's Education and Skills Board.	Peter O'Brien	24/03/2022	Reported to the Board meeting held on 17 February 2022	Closed
37	20/01/2022	Peter O'Brien to arrange for details of London Councils' work with boroughs on homelessness to be provided to the Operational Sub-Group	Peter O'Brien	24/03/2022		In Hand
38	20/01/2022	Peter O'Brien, Josie Todd and Clare Ludlow to meet to discuss alignment of Careers Hubs, mentoring projects and Integration Hubs.	Peter O'Brien	24/03/2022	Held on 8/3/22	Closed
39	20/01/2022	Peter O'Brien to include any current research on children missing education in the next Policy Update.	Peter O'Brien	24/03/2022	This will appear under the heading 'effective participation'	Closed
40	20/01/2022	Borough representatives to contact Peter O'Brien if they would like to support London First in their project about careers advice and guidance.	Borough Representatives	24/03/2022	Enfield and Hillingdon offered support	Closed

Summary of Member meeting on the Youth Offer



Background

On 19 October 2021, members discussed London's recovery for young people and a vision for a pan-London offer for young people. A summary of the meeting is provided below.

London Councils will convene a steering group to further explore opportunities to support youth leadership and a universal pan-London youth offer.

We are seeking a volunteer to take on the ALDCS policy lead role for Youth Services, and to provide steer for next steps.

Mapping Young London survey findings - Matthew Walsham, Partnership for Young London

Matthew gave an overview of the findings from Partnership for Young London's recent research on the experience of young Londoners during the pandemic.

The majority of young people surveyed felt that the best thing about London was the mixture of people. Yet around 80% felt that discrimination in London was very common or somewhat common. Over 80% disagreed with the statement that everyone has the same opportunities.

The most important issues for young Londoners were: housing, employment, mental and physical health, education, getting your voice heard, safety and the police, air pollution and the environment and youth service provision.

Almost 80% felt that young people's views are not taken seriously.

On youth services, over 30% use after school clubs and sports clubs, 25% use arts and cultural services, around 20% use youth clubs and less than 10% use uniformed groups. Almost nine out of ten (88%) young people said that they do not feel that they have a say in how youth services are set up and run.

The full report can be read here: www.partnershipforyounglondon.org.uk/mappingyounglondon.

Discussion

- Members noted the different experiences of various demographic groups – particularly the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on young people from black and minority ethnic backgrounds.
- There is a need for seeking feedback from young people who are not using existing provision.
- A pan London offer would make the most of available provision. All local authorities and partners should communicate what services and opportunities they have on offer.

Introduction to the Youth Recovery Mission - Martin Pratt & Lib Peck

The London recovery programme involves a number of missions, including a new deal for young people. The aim of the youth mission is that by 2024 all young people in need are entitled to a personal mentor and all young Londoners have access to quality local youth activities.

Young people have told us about the importance of having a trusted adult relationship to support them with challenges they face. Social mentoring via a trusted and personal relationship, allows young people to find opportunities and access further support. The programme is not fully targeted but intends to help those in greatest need first.

The youth mission is driven by a partnership between the boroughs, the GLA and the VCS. The programme aims to increase youth sector capacity to deliver quality mentoring and increase strategic investment in London's youth activities, recognising that investment in youth services declined dramatically over last 10 years.

A “mentoring confidence framework” is being developed to help organisations build on their best practice for mentoring. A cohort of up to 10 organisations will help develop, support and promote the framework as well as receiving funding to use their expertise to support other organisations to build on their mentoring practice.

Discussion in breakout groups

Members discussed a vision and priorities for youth services across London in groups. Key points from the group discussions are summarised below.

Youth leadership and youth voice: London needs genuine youth led decision making and youth leadership that puts young people in charge. Young people should be involved in design of aspects and investment in the youth offer. Boroughs should consider how to work across councils to join up youth councils and parliaments to co-produce some solutions.

The universal offer: Most of what is delivered is targeted. Investment in universal provision is needed to strengthen the prevention and early help offer. Members urged more sharing of good practice, particularly around preventative support and the universal offer. We need an inclusive offer that can engage young people who do not want to go into buildings to engage with services. Concerns were raised about affordability of some activities.

Language and the broader offer: A pan-London offer would need some consistency in language as boroughs are doing similar things under different local branding. The language of the offer must be clear that the offer is broader than support via youth clubs and youth centres – it must capture the broader offer including arts, culture, leisure and the VCS offer.

Local partnership: Boroughs have different models for local youth partnerships that bring partners together, including but not limited to corporate parenting boards and health and wellbeing boards. More strategic join up around a local youth partnership can cut across silos.

Sport: Sport is vital in any youth offer as it supports physical and mental health. There are existing opportunities that boroughs can link up with, such as the London youth games. There may be other existing organisations/ events that could be rolled out more widely.

Green spaces: Public spaces are crucial for young people. Hackney has led work around child friendly spaces. The City owns a number of green spaces across the capital e.g. Hampstead Heath, and wants to work more closely with other boroughs to open them up more to young people.

Communication: Members questioned whether we are communicating with young people in the right way to maximise use of existing activity.

Youth employment: Members highlighted the importance in ensuring that the most disadvantaged young Londoners can access employment such as young people with SEND and care leavers. A local survey of black and other ethnic minority young Londoners in one borough highlighted that good grades are not translating into good employment opportunities. The importance of generating apprenticeship opportunities and linking support to job opportunities locally was also highlighted.

Housing: Housing is a key concern for CYP. Children living in overcrowded housing or temporary accommodation can struggle with issues such as mental health. Members agreed that they need to link up with housing and planning members more to highlight these issues to ensure that future housing meets the needs of local young people.

Health: There is an opportunity for better collaboration with the NHS, especially around investment for preventative services and the flow of resources to place level/ local plans.

Next steps

Next steps will focus on youth leadership and further exploration of what a pan London universal offer might look like.

Youth voice and youth leadership

Members noted that there was an opportunity to support youth leadership and co-production of solutions with young people at a local level, and to facilitate collaboration between youth councils to amplify voice across London.

Members discussed their role as champions for young people and how they can influence and challenge colleagues and partners (in housing, health, community safety, public realm etc) to ensure that youth voice is shaping services, and ensure that they're working to tackle inequalities.

Universal Offer

Members discussed the importance of a universal offer in terms of early help and prevention, while recognising that cuts meant that most of the local authority offer was targeted now. Members recognised the need to gather more information from boroughs around what is being commissioned and to collate practice around preventative support and the universal offer.

A pan-London or subregional approach will be important as many young people in London travel across borough boundaries to access school and activities.

Working group

London Councils will convene a working group to take this forward. We're hoping that the ALDCS policy lead for youth services will co-lead this work with Geeta Subramaniam-Mooney (Corporate Director Brighter Futures, Newham).