

APPENDIX B

14-19 Update

Since the last meeting, education reforms from the Coalition Government continue. This applies equally to 14-19 education and training with a further announcement on 13th September 2010, commissioning a review of vocational and educational training which is to report back in 2011. The purpose of this review is to consider how to improve progression, participation and skills. This review has a wide scope and includes:

- Funding for vocational education
- Institutional suitability
- Role of the third sector
- Who should bear the cost of developing qualifications
- How to benchmark vocational education
- Deciding who would be the target audience for vocational education and the suitable age for young people to take this up
- What should underpin content structure and teaching methods
- This report will not look at individual qualifications

The educational landscape is likely to change during the coming academic year as the Coalition Government continues with its plans to transform schools and the way in which they are organised.

Much of what is already known about the coming year is around the major areas of schools building, the primary curriculum, the pupil premium, discipline, early years and Ofsted. The Government has already outlined how it intends to develop policies in these directions. There are also several reviews underway in addition to the one referred to above on vocational education to be incorporated into the next education Bill.

The general principles underpinning change for this Government apply to 14-19 and are as follows:

- to create a freer, more transparent and diversified education and training system.
- to be achieved in a period of intense fiscal tightening.
- to be implemented via a quasi-market approach.
- to allow an emphasis on localism, simplicity, choice and competition, efficiency.

The role of the local authorities in terms of 14-19 is still to be defined in detail (this was expected by end of September). The role outlined by Michael Gove is:

- To have an overall vision for the area;
- To shape and influence provision via a strategic commissioning and influencing role;
- To maintain a strategic overview of provision and needs;
- Identify gaps/enable new provision;
- Develop the market;
- Inform learners' and parents' decision making;
- Provide the intelligence to do that;
- Empowering learners/parents to exercise choice in a market;
- Transition for young people with learning difficulties and disabilities;
- Commissioning education and training for young people with difficulties and disabilities pre and post 16;

APPENDIX B

- Being responsible for the outcomes of residents learning in other boroughs.
- Ensure that enough suitable education and training is provided to meet the reasonable needs of:
 - (a) Persons in their area who are over compulsory school age but under 19, and
 - (b) Persons in their area who are aged 19 or over, but under 25 and are subject to learning difficulty assessment.
- The statutory duty for councils to cooperate with each other in relation to 16-19 education and training remains.

The implication is as follows, that local authorities will need to:

- Act as champion of pupils and parents: pro-competition, pro-choice and pro-parents.
- The duty to 'promote diversity' is recast to reflect LAs' role in promoting choice by facilitating new market entrants to raise standards and meet parents' preferences.
- The current LA duty to secure sufficient places becomes a duty to secure sufficient high quality places, while the pressure to remove surplus places eases so that additional places are removed only when they were of low quality.
- Linked to their commissioning role, LAs have a strategic role to ensure a range of provision so that the parents of children with SEN statements have an effective choice, whether they want a mainstream or special school for their child.

There are many contradictions and tensions overall. Details from the YPLA on the new commissioning model and the lagged funding system and from the DfE on the outcomes of the reviews mentioned above are awaited.

Alison Moore
11th October 2010