

Chief Executives of independent, voluntary sector
and third sector providers of 16-19 opportunities

21 July 2010

PL/Jul/14/sb

Dear Colleague

Simplifying Funding for 16-19 Education and Training

Earlier this week, the Secretary of State for Education made an important announcement about the simplification of arrangements for 16-19 education and training. The key points were:

- to reaffirm the local authority role in securing 16-19 education and opportunities for young people, as part of their wider strategic role in education;
- to simplify the previously planned system by introducing a streamlined funding system with more decisions on learning opportunities being taken by schools, colleges and other providers;
- to ask the YPLA directly to fund general FE and Sixth Form Colleges, HEIs and other providers for 16-19 provision¹ rather than funds being directed through local authorities. This applies from the start of 2010/11 onwards.

The YPLA is now taking immediate steps to implement these decisions as follows:

- We will issue letters of intent to those independent providers that have had individual allocations of funds set by the YPLA for 2010/11 and which had been due to be paid by local authorities. The letters of intent will be valid until the end of October by when full contracts will have been issued. On receiving the letter of intent providers are asked to confirm their banking details to the YPLA by return even if the banking details have not changed since April 2010. All such providers will receive further details on this process in the course of this week.

¹ Local Authorities will continue to fund maintained schools for their sixth form provision and the National Apprenticeship Service will continue to fund apprenticeships. HEIs relate to those that deliver 16 - 19 learner responsive provision.

- The YPLA will pay providers direct for 16-19 learning from mid August.
- We have withdrawn the National Commissioning Framework with immediate effect and will work with partners on a new simplified system which will be available by the end of September and which will set out the steps in the allocation process for the 2011/12 academic year.

A further important change is to abolish the requirement for local authorities to form sub regional groups and to come together in regional planning groups – although I expect some local authorities will wish to continue with collaborative arrangements on a voluntary basis where these provide efficient and effective ways of shaping provision.

As we develop these new arrangements, I am clear that they will need to support local authorities' key strategic role in education and children's services, and in particular that they should support local authorities in identifying gaps, enabling new provision and developing the market.

These are significant changes, aimed at simplifying and streamlining the system and freeing up colleges and other providers to decide on the offer and mix of provision that best meets the needs of young learners.

More detail will follow shortly on how the YPLA will work to implement the new arrangements. However should you have any questions in the interim please contact your YPLA Regional Director who will be on hand to offer support and advice during transition.

You can contact your YPLA Regional Director as follows:

North West: Jane Cowell 0161 2610309
 Yorkshire and Humber Andy Brown 0127 4444182
 North East: Dorothy Smith 0191 4926430
 East of England: Martin Lamb 01473 883031
 West Midlands: Sue Reekie 0121 3454584
 South West: Catherine Christie 0117 3726402
 London: Mike Pettifer 0203 0148302
 East Midlands: Nick Rashley 0116 2281724
 South East: Sue Samson 01483 884801

Our mission, to champion young people's learning, remains at the centre of our work and I know this is a mission we share. I am determined to ensure that this new transition is as seamless as possible.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Lauener', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Peter Lauener
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