



City of Nottingham 14-19 Strategic Board
Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 7th October 2009
The Oak Room – Denewood Centre

Present:

Chris Bradford	Sixth form college sector
John Yarham	LSC/Nottingham City Council
Gary Longden	Connexions Nottinghamshire
Andy Downing (Chair)	Nottingham City Council
Janet Charlton	Training provider sector
Paula Webber	LSC
Geoff Hall	FE college sector
Elaine Crookes	Academy sector
John Dyson	Special school sector

1 Welcome/apologies/introduction

Apologies were received from Jean Pardoe (Connexions Nottinghamshire) and Don Hayes (Voluntary and Community sector).

2 Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd June

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

3 Purpose of the 14-19 Strategic Board

AD informed the group the revised partnership structure lacks representation from the secondary schools. AD confirmed the intention was 3 members would represent the board from secondary schools one of which will be 11-18 schools and one will be a designated 11-16 School. AD will speak to the secondary school heads group to ask for nominations to join the 14-19 strategic board.

Action: AD to follow up secondary school representation with the secondary heads group.

4 DCSF Progress Check

JY informed the group of the DCSF progress check. This is part of a national process which identifies how Local Authorities are progressing in implementing the 14-19 agenda.

Government office writes to each local authority annually to request a self assessment against quantitative and qualitative performance indicators. Performance is measured via a RAG rating system and identifies how the Local Authorities are progressing against each of the indicators. The performance from each Local authority is also measured against statistical neighbours and on a national scale. A moderation panel meets to explain how the indicator will be addressed.

The group discussed PI5b, which concerns the gap between those attaining level 2 at 19 that had been in receipt of free school meals and those that hadn't. The concern was raised that post 16 organisations are not informed if a young person was in receipt of free school meals and therefore it is difficult for Post 16 organisations to report back on this indicator.

JY explained all the Performance Indicators except PI12 were previously judged by the 14-19 Partnership to be amber/green and because none of the indicators were rated amber/red we will not be required to report back on these at the moderation panel.

JY informed the group that he and AD will attend the moderation panel at Government Office and report back on PI12 to discuss the implementation of an effective strategy for raising the participation age (RPA) for Nottingham City.

Action: AD and JY to report back to the board at the next meeting on the outcome of the moderation panel.

5 14-19 Strategic Needs Analysis

JY briefed the group on the needs analysis which has been undertaken for Nottingham City. JY explained the purpose of the document which identifies the issues surrounding 14-19 education within the City. This information is to be used within the 14-19 plan which will play a key role in the coming years for commissioning activities and will help to build a bridge to where we are in the future.

JY discussed the key areas from the report with the board. Members discussed current ways of working and methods of good practice already happening within the City.

GH requested Sport be included a key sector within the analysis on page 6 of the document.

JY explained Level 2 and 3 at the age of 19 is still main area of concern within Nottingham City. The group discussed possible reasons why learners are not achieving level 2 or 3 qualifications. One point raised are learner's educational needs are greater within the City than those in statistical neighbours.

Transition arrangements were also discussed by the group as a problem within the City.

GH suggested offering young people a place in post 16 earlier in the year possibly Easter to ensure the young person and the schools have a clear understanding where they will be going once they have finished their exams.

Other flexible ideas for young people were also discussed by the group e.g 3 year a-levels by academies.

The group discussed vulnerable groups, particularly young people in Care and young people classed as 'not known' by Connexions. It was agreed that information on vulnerable groups needs to be extended within the document and also include details of the sufficient needs of young people with learning difficulties.

GH explained to the group the FE sector has experienced cuts in funding particularly around 14-16 activities.

The analysis work identified Nottingham North has made significant process to the number young people going to Higher Education.

The group discussed the issue of vocational qualifications delivered within schools that have insufficient progression routes at post 16, particularly BTECs which are not formally recognised in the four suites of learning. However, Science and ICT BTECs were identified as good vocational qualifications which have very clear progressions routes for post 16 courses.

AD thanked JY for all his work on the strategic analysis document.

AD asked the group to feedback on the document using the consultation feedback form on page 24 of the document. Responses should be sent to John Yarham by 6th November 2009.

Action: Members to feedback their responses on the strategic analysis to John Yarham by 6th November

6 2010/11 14-19 Plan

JY explained to the group that the purpose of the 14-19 needs analysis is to inform the revised 14-19 plan.

Members requested that the plan be more concise than previous years on what is going to be achieved. It was suggested the 14-19 plan should be high level strategic plan rather than an operational plan.

JY asked the group to consider whether the plan should be for 3 years which would be reviewed on an annual basis. The group agreed to this suggestion.

AD informed the group that the Curriculum Management Group would lead on the 14-19 plan. JY explained the plan will need to be agreed by the end of November to inform commissioning process for 2010/11.

The group agreed at the next meeting 26th November the plan will need to be ready to ensure it is approved by the board to meet the deadline. It was agreed that the next meeting will keep the same membership and that it should be extended to an open meeting in future years when the arrangements are more established.

7 Gateway 4

JY informed the group of the opportunity to apply for the Diploma Gateway 4. JY explained there was less focus within the Gateway 4 process on Diplomas than previous applications due to the RPA and Foundation Learning being key issues within the 14-19 agenda.

The group expressed interest in applying to deliver Science as a line of learning. The group also discussed the possibility of developing a Science BTEC at Level 2.

GL informed the group Broxtowe ASG are interested in applying for a line of learning in Science, the group felt there could be an opportunity for partnership working within this vocational area.

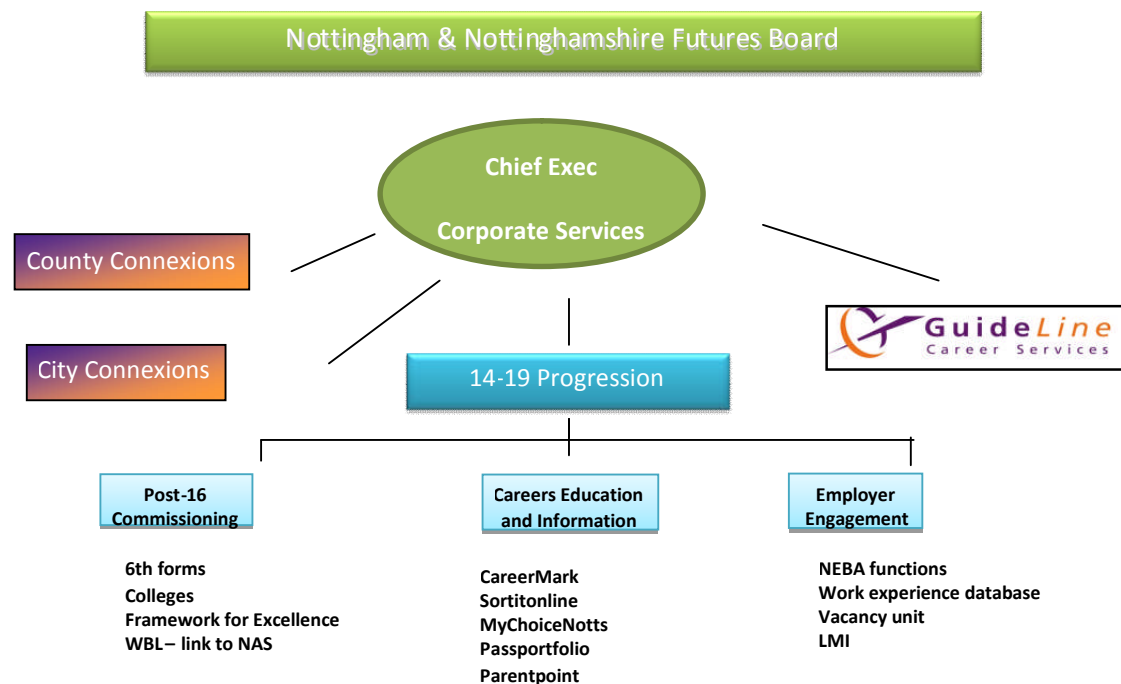
Action: JY to liaise with Broxtowe ASG regarding a gateway 4 application for Science.

8 MOG Update

JY updated the group on the significant work being undertaken around how 16-19 activities will be governed.

JY explained staff transferring across to the LA from the LSC will be based within an umbrella organisation, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Futures, co-owned by both LA's, with IAG and employer engagement also now linked.

JY described the proposed plan as follows:



The current proposal will go for political approval in November 2009.

The Board will comprise of existing members of Connexions:

- Director of Children's Services – both LA's
- Independent Chair
- Connexions Chief Executive
- 2 x Elected members from both LA's

There will also be a series of sub-committees to scrutinise each part of the business.

9 Schools Forum Representative

AD explained there is a place available for a board member of the 14-19 strategic board to attend the schools forum to represent the group. CB agreed to attend the meeting on behalf of 14-19 board.

Action: JY to inform City Council colleagues co-ordinating the schools forum.

10 Any other business

JC suggested the needs analysis should be sent to members of the Employment and Skills Board and the Economic Wellbeing Group as they are key groups which also have targets that the analysis work can help to address.

Action: JF to send analysis document to chairs of both groups.

11 Future Meetings

Agenda items for next meeting 26th November 09:

- Presentation on the outcome of needs analysis
- 20010/11 14-19 Strategic Plan