

Local Economy and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Commission

Tuesday 12 February 2019

7.00 pm

Ground Floor Meeting Room G02B - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1
2QH

Supplemental Agenda

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4.	Minutes To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the open section of the meeting on 6 December 2018.	1 - 4
6.	Adult Education update Officers will provide a presentation and report on the below: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• More data on NEETS and pathways from school eg post 16 Education/ Training/ Apprentices• An explanation from Adult Education on the issues around repeat course fees; e.g. what learners and courses are affected by this and what are the rules.	5 - 8

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LOCAL ECONOMY AND LIFELONG LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMISSION

MINUTES of the Local Economy and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Commission held on Thursday 6 December 2018 at 7.00 pm at Ground Floor Meeting Room G02A - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT: Councillor Jon Hartley (Chair)
Councillor Maggie Browning
Councillor James Coldwell
Councillor Bill Williams
Councillor Humaira Ali

**OTHER MEMBERS
PRESENT:**

**OFFICER
SUPPORT:** Danny Edwards, strategy & partnerships manager
Liz Britton (lead officer for secondary and further education,
employment & inclusion)
Dolly Naeem, head of adult learning
Kate Bagnall, family learning manager
Shelley Burke, head of scrutiny

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Victor Chamberlain

2. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT.

There were none

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS.

There were none

4. LOCAL ECONOMY & LIFE LONG LEARNING OFFICER REPORT

Danny Edwards, strategy & partnerships manager, introduced the report and explained that the local economy team has responsibility for the council's economic wellbeing strategy. In addition, a number of partners have collective responsibility for delivery of the skills strategy

The skills strategy had been developed in recognition that the skills offer was not sufficiently plugged into employers' needs. It produced in a partnership - it could not be developed by the council and imposed on stakeholders. Employers were engaged - large and SME - plus business networks, schools, further and higher education providers, other training providers and learners. The strategy was adopted by the council in December 2017 and the team continue to work with partners on development of the delivery plan, building on existing good work such as the Southwark construction skills centre. The Passmore centre for higher level apprenticeships had recently been launched.

He explained the three key areas of immediate priority:

- how to replicate construction success in other key growth areas, eg digital, hospitality and health. There are many jobs and careers in those three sectors in the borough. How can the skills offer be geared up
- labour market information and forecasting - how to continue to engage with employers, plug them into the skills offer and capture their needs
- all age careers guidance

Liz Britton (lead officer for secondary and further education, employment & inclusion) explained to the committee that adult learning is primarily delivered through the Thomas Calton Centre. Southwark adult education is judged good by Ofsted. The service had 3000 enrolments last year and achieved 96% completion rate. She introduced her colleagues Dolly Naeem, head of adult learning, and Kate Bagnall, family learning manager.

Dolly Naeem stated that the service sustained average 3000 enrolments every year. Residents come for outcomes - qualifications/achievements. Many are residents who might not be ready to go to a larger institution. The service is successful in re-engaging the most disadvantaged and most distant from the labour market. They offer family learning sessions which attract families

who might not be reached by large colleges. She emphasised the role of literacy and numeracy in underpinning readiness for work. She explained that the service is funded by an allocation from the Education & Skills agency - success is measured by enrolment of learners, the length of their courses and their achievement. Poor outcomes from adult education can affect this funding.

Kate Bagnall said that because the service sits in the heart of the community, it is well placed to give good outcomes to people who might not otherwise access walk adult learning. They also support family learning in schools. They have found that parents who get started with learning may decide to continue to study. The service can offer English for speaker of other languages (ESOL), literacy and numeracy. It is an entry point for adult learners.

In response to questions from the commission members, officers said that:

- family learning sessions take place in half term when the whole family can come. They also offer outreach sessions in schools
- while enrolment numbers are steady in Southwark, participation is dropping nationally. There is no way to capture evidence about people doing unstructured learning but all the research shows structured learning is dropping. All providers are struggling to recruit people who are furthest from learning. Funding is a significant issue
- the service believe they are the only providers offering pre-entry support for ESOL. Colleges start at entry level. It is resource intensive but a clear need in the borough. They offer 2 types of ESOL courses - those which do and do not lead to external qualification. 300-400 students a year. Need to maintain a balanced offering for all residents. They also offer combined courses eg sewing and ESOL - helping people with language they need for daily life eg how to support their children with homework or to talk to doctors
- there is a lack of destination data available – this is a challenge for the sector as a whole

The commission thanked the officers for the paper and discussion.

5. REVIEW**6. WORKPLAN**

Members decided that at the next meeting they would be interested in hearing from employers and learners, to receive an update on the skills strategy task groups, and to discuss the council's plans for affordable workspace and how that might tie into the skills strategy delivery.

Briefing for Local Economy & Life Long Learning Scrutiny Commission

Young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) and post 16 pathways in Southwark

Numbers of children recorded as NEET

1. Southwark has low levels of young people aged 16/17 who are not in not in education, employment or training (NEET). In the most recently published national data, the NEET rate for Southwark stood at 1.5% compared with 2.7% for England.
2. In September 2018 Southwark had a cohort of 5091 16/17 year old residents. 98.4% of those had an offer of education and training for the academic year ahead, this was an improvement on the previous year.
3. Southwark is currently confirming the actual destinations of all of the 5091 current 16/17 year olds. As of December 2018, the NEET figure was 1.07% - equating to 54 young people.
4. At any one time there will be a small number of young people unable to engage with education, employment of training due to factors such as mental health issues, serious medical conditions and involvement with the criminal justice system. A 0% NEET rate is therefore not feasible, but Southwark is committed to reducing this rate to the minimum possible.
5. The biggest challenge in terms of tracking young people is that 64% study outside of the borough, which makes monitoring participation complex. In addition Southwark is a borough with high levels of population mobility – an estimated 12% of the population migrated out of Southwark in 2017, compared with 5% for London (source: Office for National Statistics, Local Area Migration Indicators, 2018). As a result the NEET status was unknown for 7.2% of young people last year.
6. New strategies are being put in place to reduce the numbers of young people whose status is not known, chiefly through improving sharing from schools and other education and training providers.

Number and proportion of 16-17 year olds NEET or not known

Local Authority	NEET	Not known	Combined NEET and N/K
Southwark	1.5%	7.2%	8.7%
London	1.8%	3.2%	5%
England	2.7%	3.3%	6%

Source: NEET and participation: local authority figures 2017/18 (DfE)

Local Authority support

7. Local Authorities have a statutory duty under the Education and Skills Act (2008) to increase the participation of young people in education, employment or training and

reduce the proportion of NEET (not in education, employment or training). Delivering this entails:

- Tracking all 16 and 17 year olds and submitting data to the Department for Education.
 - Identifying young people not in education, employment or training or at risk of not participating;
 - Providing information advice and guidance (IAG) to young people to support their engagement in education and training post 16.
8. In Southwark the lead on meeting this duty is taken by the Southwark Choices service (formerly Connexions) within Children's & Adults' Services (Education). The service directly provides advice and support to targeted young people as well as working with schools and collecting data.
 9. Southwark Choices deliver three statutory data returns to the DfE each year. This data enables the Local Authority to identify NEET young people and those at risk and offer them impartial information advice, guidance and support to engage in education and training post 16.
 10. Young people are allocated a named advisor to provide one to one support. The team also offer a drop in service for young people, parents and carers two days a week.
 11. The team work with the Pupil Licensing and Tracking team (Education Access) to ensure young people who are missing from education or are home educated are offered advice and guidance in year 11 on post 16 options and support to apply.
 12. Advisory members of the team are invited into schools on GCSE results day to support those young people who do not have a post 16 offer or who have not achieved the required grades to secure their place. This also supports the collection of destinations data.
 13. The team offer advice to schools on statutory data collections, careers delivery and information on events/activities which will support them to meet the requirements of the new Careers and Skills Strategy guidance.
 14. Advisory staff go to schools to talk to students, and parent/carers, about options including apprenticeships via assemblies, careers events and parents evenings.
 15. The team have successfully delivered a number of targeted programmes to offer intensive support to the most vulnerable young people who are risk of NEET/NEET funded through the European Social Fund.
 16. The service is facing funding challenges as a result of ESF funding coming to an end - new grant funding opportunities and further development of a traded careers service for schools are being explored.

Progression pathways post 16

17. Most Southwark young people move on from school year 11 to post-16 education provision. The top 3 destinations for year 11 students in Southwark, accounting for 93% of young people, are:
 - a. School Sixth form
 - b. Further Education college

c. Stand alone Sixth form college

18. There are a large number of school sixth forms across Southwark and neighbouring boroughs which is where the majority of Southwark residents study post-16.
19. The borough does not have an independent sixth form but a large number of young people travel to these providers in the boroughs of Lewisham, Lambeth and Wandsworth. FE colleges are also very popular and Southwark residents attend a number of different colleges across London.
20. Only 36% of Southwark 16/17 year olds study within their own borough, the 4th lowest rate among all London boroughs and comparing with a London borough average of 52%. The remainder travel to education provision out of borough, with the most popular destinations (in descending order of numbers) being providers in Lewisham, Westminster, Lambeth, Wandsworth and Camden (source: London Client Caseload Management Information System, May 2018).
21. There are a number of apprenticeship opportunities available in and around Southwark, take up of these was slow but we are starting to see more 17/18 year olds applying for apprenticeships. Since January 2018, young people in school are expected to be provided with information on technical and vocational education, including apprenticeships.

Confirmed destinations of 2017/18 Year 11 students:

Destination	%
Education (Sixth Form/FE College)	93.3%
Training	1.7%
Employment with Training	1.3%
Employment without Training	0.2%
Other not EET or NEET	0.1%
Unemployed	1.2%
Not Known	2.2%
Grand Total	100.0%

Source: Southwark local data, January 2019.

Adult Learning Fees Briefing February 2019

Explanation of what repeat course fees are

Repeat learner fees were fees paid by learners who had already completed a particular course and then wanted to undertake the same course again within the same academic year. The repeat learner fees were £5.50 per hour (higher than the standard fees which were £3.90 per hour and the concessionary fees which were £1.55 per hour in the same academic years). All three of these fees rates had been approved by the council.

Why we stopped them 4 years ago

The Repeat Learner fees were discontinued some years ago because the council listened to the learners who were paying these fees and expressed their strong dissatisfaction (about these fees) to the council. This included submissions and representations from the learners to the council assembly and the scrutiny committee meetings. This was having a negative impact on the council's reputation.

What do we do now

Since the discontinuation of the repeat learner fees, we have the standard fees and the concessionary fees. There are no repeat learner fees.

After the discontinuation of the repeat fees, the Adult Learning introduced courses at different levels. For example, Beginners Courses, Introductory Courses and Improvers' Courses.

The 2018-2019 approved course fees also include Studio fees. These are for learners who have completed a course and want to further practice the skills they have acquired through the completed course.

What was the impact on learners under the old system of repeat fees and what is the impact of our current system

The learners who were paying the repeat learner fees told the council they were strongly dissatisfied with this fee rate. So, there was a self-reported negative impact on these learners.

The impact of the current system on the council's reputation is positive as the overall impact on the learners' satisfaction has improved. There is a better mix of learners who are undertaking the course for the first time and those who may be undertaking the course more than once.

LOCAL ECONOMY and LIFELONG LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMISSION**MUNICIPAL YEAR 2018-19****AGENDA DISTRIBUTION LIST (OPEN)****NOTE:** Original held by Scrutiny Team; all amendments/queries to Fitzroy Williams Tel: 020 7525 7102

Name	No of copies	Name	No of copies
		Fitzroy Williams, Scrutiny Team SPARES External	10
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