



LEP – Sub Committee

LEP - Lancashire Skills and Employment Board

Private and Confidential: No

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Area Based Review - Progress Report

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Executive Summary

The paper provides an update in relation to the Lancashire Area Based Review (ABR) and progress to-date.

The third steering group took place on Tuesday 29th November. The fourth steering group is scheduled to take place on Thursday 26th January.

It was agreed by the committee that the ABR Working Group would continue to meet throughout the review. The notes from the meetings held on the 30th November are provided for information in Appendix A. The key focus was the development of the recommendations for the Lancashire ABR report and the areas for collaboration and cooperation.

Recommendation

The committee is asked to note the update.

Area Based Review – Progress Update

1.0 Background

- 1.1 As previously outlined, the Area Based Reviews (ABRs), driven by Government and the FE Commissioner, will review the College infrastructure across England with view to delivering institutions which are financially viable, sustainable, resilient and efficient with an offer that meets each area's educational and economic needs.
- 1.2 Lancashire is in Wave 4 of the reviews and a schedule of five Steering Group meetings has been set; the schedule started in October, and ends with the final meeting on the 21st February 2017.



2.0 Steering Groups

- 2.1 The first meeting set the context for the review, and included the joint 'skills conclusion' presentation from the LEP and the Local Authorities on the economic and educational context in the County. The second meeting provided feedback from the College site visits and meetings with the Deputy FE Commissioner, and also institutions' initial thoughts regarding structural options. The Lancashire Colleges (TLC) also provided an input, responding to the 'skills conclusion' and outlining initial thoughts in regard to areas which would benefit from increased collaboration and cooperation, working with the LEP and the evolving Combined Authority (CA).
- 2.2 The third steering group took place on Tuesday 29th November and a verbal update was provided at the last committee meeting. The meeting enabled the Institutional Chairs and Principals to outline their preferred structural option. Further detail was also provided by TLC on areas for increased collaboration and cooperation.
- 2.3 The fourth steering group will take place on Thursday 26th January. Draft recommendations will be discussed at the fourth meeting, in preparation for sign-off of the Lancashire ABR Report at the final meeting in February. This will include recommended structural changes, and also recommended areas for collaboration. As structural change is unlikely to be radical in Lancashire, there is an increasing focus on areas for collaboration and cooperation.

3.0 ABR Working Group

- 3.1 The committee agreed that the ABR Working Group should continue to meet throughout the review. The notes from the last meeting, which took place the day after the last Steering Group, are included for information in Appendix A. The key focus was the development of the recommendations for the Lancashire ABR report and the areas for collaboration and cooperation. There was also discussion in regard to a light touch review of school sixth form provision with the LEAs and the Regional Schools Commissioner after the ABR has completed.

4.0 Recommendations

- 4.1 The committee is asked to note the update.

AREA BASED REVIEW – WORKING GROUP

WEDNESDAY 30th NOVEMBER 1-3 PM, LANCASHIRE COLLEGE

Present:

Julia Coleman
Rosie Fearn
Paul Holme
Dean Langton
Michele Lawty-Jones (chair)
Lisa Moizer
Robin Newton-Syms
Ajay Sethi
Mike Taplin
John Barber (JARDU)
Jennie Winckley (JARDU)

Apologies:

Andy Walker

Key Points:

Stakeholder engagement

Jennie provided an up-date on the stakeholder engagement activity and responses received. As agreed at the last meeting, JARDU have contacted a number of independent training providers (for example GP Strategies, Babcock, and Learndirect) in addition to the information and questionnaire shared with the Lancashire Work Based Learning Executive Forum (LWBLEF). It was noted that no responses had been received from LWBLEF to-date. The closing date is the 9th December.

Action: Lisa to raise with LWBLEF.

It was noted that the LWBLEF may be an important partner in collaborative activity (non-structural outcomes).

An interim report summarising findings to-date was provided at Steering Group 3 – this will be updated and finalised for the next meeting. The final draft should be ready to circulate prior to Christmas to the working group. It was noted that the employer feedback was skewed geographically as the response from Blackburn College's nominated employers was high. Further responses are being returned, alongside responses from employer representative bodies. The FE Choices Survey findings will also be added.

Action: Jennie to circulate the final draft of the stakeholder engagement report before Christmas, if possible.



High Level Needs

The High Needs report compiled by JARDU was circulated to the Steering Group, there were a number of comments from the colleges at the Steering Group which challenged some of the findings and questioned the accuracy. For example, both Blackpool and The Fylde College and the Blackpool Sixth Form College indicated that they administered medication.

Action: Mike to check back with colleagues at Blackpool Local Authority to check the current position and issues raised in the high needs report.

Action: Robin to investigate the practise across the colleges. For example: Are the majority of colleges able to administer medicines and what are the parameters?

Action: Ajay reported that LCC have looked at this from a School Sixth Form viewpoint and Ajay agreed to share any relevant findings with Robin.

Ajay felt that Lancashire Association of Special School Head Teachers may have misinterpreted the review and the questions posed under the stakeholder engagement.

Action: Ajay is going to speak to the association to clarify points raised.

The working group discussed the difference between access and provision; and whether there is sufficient provision to meet demand for young people with high needs. It was determined that we need to make sure there is an accurate picture of requirements.

Action: Jenny to share further information about Higher Level Needs, including a map, with the group.

It was noted that there is an issue around funding and this is driving a lot of the comments but the ABR will not solve this.

Sixth Form Provision

Bob Stott confirmed at the Steering Group that there had been consideration in regard to a light touch review of the School Sixth Forms following the ABR, both with the School Sixth Form Network and the Regional Schools Commissioner. The FE Commissioner suggested that this become a recommendation of the ABR.

There was a discussion about how this would be useful in considering current and future sixth form provision in Lancashire.

Action: Bob and Ajay/Julia/Mike to consider wording of recommendation and feed draft to John Barber by Tuesday 10th January.

Steering Group 3 and 4

The headlines from Steering Group 3 were discussed, in relation to structural change. It was noted that there is to be a policy review of FE/HE mergers which will report in the summer, which will hopefully enable the preferred option for the coming together of Preston's College and UCLAN. Preston's College will be reviewing other options to ensure that a 'Plan B' is in place for Steering Group 4.



The focus of the discussion then moved to non-structural recommendations, and taking forward the proposed areas for collaboration in the TLC template that was submitted to Steering Group 3 (alongside those from individual institutions). John indicated that it would be useful to have a succinct set of recommendations for the ABR report.

Action: John to share good examples of recommendations that other areas have produced with the working group, especially around collaborative working and school sixth forms.

Following through discussions at Steering Group 2 & 3, it was agreed that there needed to be specific reference to the Pennine Lancashire area and reference to a strategic planning group with the CA and LEP. The wider geography also needs to be considered.

There was discussion about the TLC template and the proposed areas for collaboration, including those mapped against the Skills and Employment Strategic Framework. Robin asked members of the group to review the template and provide feedback re: any gaps or priorities, as some members were unsure as to whether they had seen the template.

Action: Robin to circulate the template and colleagues to respond.

A number of areas were then discussed including AEB, English and Maths, apprenticeship reforms and joint marketing, high needs and subject specialisms. It was agreed that the headlines in the template need to be morphed into an implementation plan – with timescales (which may be a number of years), prioritisation, and impact/what are we aiming to achieve. This could form an annexe to the recommendations?

There was also reference to the universities that are undertaking research in teacher training e.g. Edge Hill and the University of Cumbria and whether this could support the development of teaching and learning capacity and expertise, for example in English and Maths.

In terms of recommendations, these need to be brief and to the point, whilst having sufficient substance to ensure that the implementation group is able to take forward the recommendations post-ABR.

Robin and Rosie will work up the template further into an action plan, and discuss draft recommendations with Michele and Lisa prior to Christmas. Robin to share a draft with the working group by early New Year, so that there is scope to feed into the development of the recommendations. John indicated that the deadline for draft recommendations is Tuesday 10th January, so that papers can be circulated by JARDU to the Steering Group by Thursday 19th January.

There was some discussion about membership of the implementation group and it was agreed that the working group could morph to undertake this role, feeding into the Skills and Employment Board (and therefore the CA and the LEP). Michele to raise this at the Skills and Employment Board.

Action: Robin and Rosie to develop the collaborative action plan and discuss draft recommendations with Michele and Lisa, and circulate draft to the working group early in the New Year, so that recommendations can be fed to JARDU by the 10th January.

Next meeting: Friday 27th January, 1-3pm, Lancashire College.