

# MINUTES - DRAFT

## **Meeting: Skills for Londoners Recovery Task and Finish Group**

**Date: Wednesday, 21 July 2021**

**Time: 12.00 pm**

**Place: Remote Meeting**

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### **Members:**

Anna Devlet, British Land and SfL Business Partnership Member (co-Chair in the chair)

Jamie Mitchell, All Together (co-Chair)

John Bennett, London Borough of Lambeth [Items 1 – 6]

Arinola Edeh, SfL Board Member and HOLEX [Items 1 – 6]

Sarah Hernandez, Department for Work and Pensions

Tony Wilson, Institute for Employment Studies [Items 6 – 9]

### **GLA Skills & Employment Officers:**

Laura Dubeck, Senior Manager, AEB Delivery, Skills & Employment

Laura Marshall, Senior Board Officer, Skills & Employment (Clerk)

Tom Rahilly, Assistant Director – Communities & Social Policy

Forogh Rahmani, Senior Manager – Strategy, Policy & Relationships, Skills & Employment

Rachel Roberts, Mayor's Construction Academy Programme Manager, Skills & Employment

Vanessa Robinson, Senior Project Officer, Skills & Employment

Karissa Singh, Senior Policy Officer, Skills & Employment

### **Others in attendance:**

Dianna Neal, Strategic Lead – Enterprise, Economy and Skills, London Councils [Items 5 – 9]

## **1. Introduction and Apologies (Item 1)**

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.
- 1.2 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Nesil Caliskan, Jordan Cummins, Rupa Grahame, Sam Gurney, Michael Morley, Helen Milner, Mary-Ann Stephenson, Olivia Vicol, and Mary Vine-Morris.
- 1.3 The Chair highlighted that Jon Rees had left his role at Inclusion London. Officers were working with Inclusion London to find a replacement to ensure that it continued to be represented on the Group.

## **2. Declarations of Interest (Item 2)**

- 2.1 Members heard that the Clerk had emailed the Group ahead of the meeting requesting confirmation on whether members had a conflict of interest for Agenda Item 7 (Mayoral Academies Hubs Prospectus), particularly those from any organisation considering bidding into the Academies programme.
- 2.2 John Bennett and Arinola Edeh confirmed that they had a conflict of interest and would leave the meeting for Item 7 and the rest of the meeting.
- 2.3 Responses were not received from Jordan Cummins and Rupa Grahame, with the Group noting that these members did not receive the Academies prospectus.
- 2.4 All other members confirmed that they did not have a conflict of interest and received the prospectus. These members were able to feed in comments by email until close of play on 21 July 2021.

## **3. Minutes from Previous Meetings (Item 3)**

### **3.1 RESOLVED:**

**The Skills for Londoners (SfL) Recovery Task and Finish Group:**

- (a) Agreed the minutes of the SfL Recovery Task and Finish Group meeting held on 11 March 2021 as a correct record;**
- (b) Agreed the minutes of the SfL Recovery Task and Finish Group informal meeting held on 24 May 2021 as a correct record; and**
- (c) Agreed the minutes of the SfL Recovery Task and Finish Group informal meeting held on 15 June 2021 as a correct record.**

## **4. Actions Arising from Previous Meeting (Item 4)**

- 4.1 The Senior Manager – Strategy, Policy & Relationships explained that a roundtable with careers services and policymakers in London was held on 15 July 2021. A key outcome of the roundtable was an agreement on the need for some

coordination and strategic oversight of careers services in London. Members heard that an update on this would be brought to a future SfL Recovery Task & Finish Group meeting and SfL Board meeting.

**4.2 RESOLVED:**

**The actions arising from the previous meeting were noted.**

*[Dianna Neal joined the meeting].*

**5. 'No Wrong Door' Approach Update (Presentation) (Item 5)**

- 5.1 The Senior Manager – Strategy, Policy & Relationships explained that the overarching strategic aim of the No Wrong Door (NWD), consistent with the Good Work mission, was to support key group of Londoners – those disproportionately impacted by the pandemic and/or facing structural inequalities and vulnerabilities – into good work, and to improve their experience of services on the ground.
- 5.2 Members received an update on the 'No Wrong Door' approach, with the Senior Manager – Strategy, Policy & Relationships outlining work streams, the sequencing of activities, the key objectives of the initiatives, strands of activity, the desired outcomes, the proposed outputs and outcomes framework, and indicative timelines.
- 5.3 The Chair questioned the alignment of funding, specifically the measuring of impact and evaluations. She highlighted that organisations often struggled with reporting and explained that it would be useful if the burden could be reduced as much as possible. The Senior Manager – Strategy, Policy & Relationships agreed that this would be useful and explained that the GLA had work to do with the Government around how to be more coherent with definitions.
- 5.4 Members heard that the activity around working closely with policymakers and commissioners should lead to an output of agreeing a framework on how impact was measured.
- 5.5 In response to a query, officers agreed that the timelines for this work were ambitious, and noted that much depended on the conversations that officers were having with the sub-regional partnerships (SRPs). The GLA had factored in the possibility of slippage into timelines and the aim was to ensure that grant agreements had been issued to allow SRPs the time to start planning. Members noted that an update on timelines would be provided in September, after officers had led a workshop with SRPs.
- 5.6 Arinola Edeh highlighted that most local authorities had their own hubs that delivered a range of services. She explained that it was important that the GLA was clear on what the Integration Hubs were and what language could be used to ensure there was a common, shared identity in terms of what they meant for local authorities. The Senior Manager – Strategy, Policy & Relationships agreed that common branding was needed and noted that there were links to the marketing work outlined at Agenda Item 6.

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- 5.7 Arinola Edeh also questioned whether there would be funding available for upskilling, especially for those advisers who would front the hub activity. The Senior Manager – Strategy, Policy & Relationships explained that the GLA hoped to use some of the research and innovation budget to produce practical tools for practitioners and front line coaches, which could be used to show what good practice around the NWD looked like.
- 5.8 John Bennett explained that it was important to understand where competition was in the system, highlighting that many wanted instead to focus on the individual and getting learners into good work. He also highlighted that the term 'Integration Hub' sounded public facing and suggested that officers should be sensitive to that.
- 5.9 The Senior Manager – Strategy, Policy & Relationships agreed, explaining that officers needed to work through the processes for measuring the outputs/outcomes as the GLA would be relying on local data and would not be involved in direct funding. She explained that it was important to demonstrate the impact for residents and show what was happening locally.
- 5.10 **RESOLVED:**  
**The update, presentation and subsequent discussion were noted.**

*[Tony Wilson joined the meeting].*

**6. Marketing and Communications for the Adult Education Budget and Academies Update (Oral Update) (Item 6)**

- 6.1 The Senior Policy Officer explained that, in order to deliver the ambition of the Mayor's manifesto around championing the further education sector, and to drive participation in Adult Education Budget (AEB) provision and the Mayoral Academies programme for those who needed it most, significant additional marketing and outreach activity was required.
- 6.2 Members heard that there was a need to raise awareness and promote the Mayor's interventions in skills among Londoners and businesses. To help drive participation and improve awareness of London's adult skills offer, a long term AEB marketing and community outreach programme was being developed.
- 6.3 The Strategic Lead – Enterprise, Economy and Skills, London Councils acknowledged that the GLA had limited resources and needed to focus on the AEB, but she explained that London Councils had noticed a reduction in young people taking up apprenticeships, especially at entry level. She highlighted that there was national drive on apprenticeships and questioned whether the campaign would link up to this.
- 6.4 The Senior Manager – Strategy, Policy & Relationships explained that there was a mayoral manifesto commitment around championing apprenticeships and the GLA would undertake some work on how to best support and promote apprenticeships. Members heard that the marketing campaign was funded by the AEB and

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therefore adult education would be its focus.

- 6.5 The Senior Manager – Strategy, Policy & Relationships explained that officers were considering how the GLA promoted the wider skills offer through the Mayoral Academies programme as the Academies programme encompassed apprenticeships, the Kickstart Scheme, the AEB, etc. She suggested that some of the messaging around the Mayoral Academies programme could be used to promote apprenticeships. Members also heard that officers were looking at ways the Mayor could directly promote apprenticeships and the Kickstart Scheme to businesses and employers.
- 6.6 Members agreed that there was a need to support young people by promoting opportunities, as many young people were not aware of the opportunities available to them. It would be important for officers to look at the different levers that the GLA could use to raise the profile of apprenticeships and opportunities for young people in London.
- 6.7 Arinola Edeh questioned whether the market research (which would look at participation, access and take up) could be provided at a borough level so that information could be shared and better targeted. She explained that this information could then be married up to provider delivery plans. The research could also help the GLA and boroughs understand where the gaps were at a borough level. She also suggested that the proposed grants programme to the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) was targeted in those areas where it was needed the most, based on the suggested market research.
- 6.8 The Senior Policy Officer explained that officers could look at borough-level participation data and share this with the Group. Members heard that the GLA planned to publish a summary of the analysis alongside the consultation report and final roadmap.
- 6.9 Arinola Edeh also raised a query on the timings of this work, suggesting that opportunities should be promoted as soon as possible.
- 6.10 Sarah Hernandez highlighted that there was an opportunity to link this work to the Kickstart Scheme, explaining that the Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) had seen a lot of people moving from the Kickstart Scheme into permanent roles. Members heard that others did not move straight into permanent roles, but they had six months experience and a greater understanding of the sector they wanted to work in moving forward. She explained that the DWP needed to do some work around supporting work coaches on this issue so they could help young people move forward with their career.
- 6.11 The Chair explained that there was a need to bring different strands together to form a cohesive message that all Londoners could understand so that the plan worked for London and all Londoners.
- 6.12 **RESOLVED:**

**The update, presentation and subsequent discussion were noted.**

*[John Bennett and Arinola Edeh left the meeting].*

## **7. Mayoral Academies Hubs Prospectus (Item 7)**

- 7.1 The Mayor's Construction Academy (MCA) Programmes Manager outlined the Mayoral Academies hub prospectus for the remaining members and officers. The prospectus outlined the hub requirements of the programme and use of AEB funding to incentivise AEB providers to deliver job outcomes.
- 7.2 Members were positive about the content of the prospectus and provided comments which officers agreed to review and where appropriate incorporate into the prospectus before it was submitted for final internal sign off.
- 7.3 **RESOLVED:**  
**The Mayoral Academies prospectus was endorsed.**

## **8. Date of Next Meeting (Item 8)**

- 8.1 The next meeting of the Skills for Londoners Recovery Task and Finish Group was to be confirmed.

## **9. Any Other Business the Chair Considers Urgent (Item 9)**

- 9.1 There was none.

## **10. Close of Meeting**

- 10.1 The meeting ended at 1.34pm.