

Economic Development Partnership Board Meeting Agenda

Agenda
Tuesday 8th March, 15:00-17:00
Hackney Community College, Falkirk Street, N1 6HQ
Co Chairs: Cllr Guy Nicholson and Ian Ashman

1.	15:00	Welcome, introductions and apologies	Chair: Cllr Nicholson
2.	15:05	Minutes, updates and actions Notes, actions and matters arising from the previous meeting	Chair
		Papers: 2. Minutes of the last meeting held on 13 January 2011	
3.	15:10	Enterprise	Richard
		Context: To update the Board on the development of an enterprise vision and action plan for Hackney	Abbott and Matthew
		Role of the Board: To comment and provide challenge	Thomson
		Paper(s): 3. Enterprise Action Plan – Update	
4.	15:35	ESOL provision and funding	
		Context: To provide an update on the impact of the proposed changes in eligibility for ESOL classes on learners and providers, together with a summary of the recommendations from Hackney's ESOL advice service report and key lessons from the Ways into Work programme and how these changes and recommendations can be addressed.	lan Ashman / Helen McNulty
		Role of the Board: To consider options for future ESOL provision and how the partnership can take forward the recommendations in the context of the changes and funding constraints.	
		Paper(s):	
		4.1 NIACE Briefing on the proposed changes to ESOL funding and their impact on learners	
		4.2 ESOL provision in Hackney (joint paper from the Learning Trust and Hackney Community College)	
5.	16:05	Forward planning: Single Work Programme and Hackney's employment support programmes	Derek Harvey / Juniper-
		Context: To provide an update on the Single Work Programme and work currently underway across the Council to respond to the changing landscape for employment support.	Hope Strong
		Paper(s):	



		5.1 Single Work Programme: update (Derek Harvey)	
		5.2 EDP Position Statement: update - TO FOLLOW	
6.	16:25	Quarterly Performance	Chair
		Context: Regular performance update and discussion	
		Role of Board: To discuss and challenge the performance of the ABG commissioned interventions, within the wider economic context.	
		Paper(s):	
		6.1 LAA National Indicators Report Q3	
		6.2 EDP Interventions Performance Report Q3	
7.	16:35	Information items	Chair
		Public health: update on the impact of the changes on people who are on health-related out of work benefits	
		Employment support for people with mental health issues: Summary of recommendations from CEN Event, 'The Bottom Line', February 2011	
		Tech City: Delivery and Investment Strategy	
8.	16:55	Any other business	Chair

Please note the dates of future meetings:

Date **Time and Venue**

Hackney Community College 7 June 2011 3-5pm 3-5pm Hackney Community College September 2011



Economic Development Partnership Board Meeting 13 January 2011 (rescheduled from 23 November 2010), 12:30 – 14:00

Hackney Community College, Falkirk Street, N1 6HQ

<u>Attendees</u>

Role	Name	Organisation	Present	Apology
Chair	Ian Ashman	Principal, Hackney Community College	✓	
Co-Chair	Guy Nicholson	Cabinet Member, Regeneration and the Oympics	✓	
Member	Richard Abbott	(HBV Enterprise), Hackney Enterprise Network Representative	✓	
	Janet Bywater	Partnership Director, Learning Trust		✓
	Steve Douglas	Interim Corporate Director, Neighbourhoods and Regeneration, Hackney Council		✓
	Derek Harvey	External Relations Manager, Job Centre Plus	✓	
	Rosie Holcroft	Senior Regeneration Manager, LDA		✓
	Avril McIntyre	(Lifeline), Community Empowerment Network Representative	✓	
	Lesley Mountford	Joint Director of Public Health, NHS City & Hackney and London Borough of Hackney		✓
	Louise Muller	Hackney Programme Director, East London Business Alliance (ELBA)	✓	
	Bisi Ojuri	(Hackney Voluntary Action), Community Empowerment Network Representative		✓
	Yvonne Servante	Deputy Director, Learning and Standards (Secondary), Learning Trust		✓
	Matthew Thomson	(London Community Recycling Network), Social Enterprise Representative		✓
0	landa an Ulana	Head of Comics - Destroyable and	√	
Guest/ Presenter	Juniper-Hope Strong	Head of Service - Partnership and Investment, Hackney Council	•	
	Julie Hutchinson	ELBA	✓	
	Shawnee Keck	Policy Advisor, Economic Affairs, Hackney Council	✓	
	Sonia Khan	Head of Strategic Commissioning, Hackney Council	✓	
	Helen McNulty	14-19 Strategy Coordinator, Learning Trust (representing Yvonne Servante)	✓	
	David Blagbrough	HCVS (representing Bisi Ojuri, CEN rep.)	✓	
	Liz Hughes	CEN Coordinator	✓	
Officers	Andrea Cronin	Thematic Partnerships Manager, Hackney Council	√	
	Lin Cotterrell	Partnerships Advisor, Hackney Council	✓	
	Seth Anyetei	Partnership Support Officer, Hackney Council	✓	



Action List

No.	ACTION	Actioned by whom	Actioned by when
3.3	Position statement on local need and lessons learnt		
	The paper on local need and lessons learnt to be worked into a joint position statement together with the ask and offer to Primes	JHS & SKeck	Feb 2011
3.4	EDN Update and Economic Development Directory		
	 Partners to review and add to the directory on the CEN website: http://www.hackneycen.org.uk/. The directory to be brought together with the statement on local need, lessons learnt and existing offer as part of EDP's joint position statement. 	All JHS, SKeck and AM	Feb 2011 Feb 2011
3.5	Sustainable Employment in the Charedi Community project		
	 The proposals to be further developed subject to further discussions with the relevant partners Feed back to Interlink on the comments raised at the Board 	SKhan SKhan	Mar 2011 Mar 2011
3.6	WiW Impact Assessment		
	 Data and analysis from the Q2 and Q3 reports to be brought back to the Board Final report on the commissioned programme to be brought 	SKhan SKhan	Mar 2011 Jun 2011
	back to the Board at the end of the contract		
3.7	Proposals for the future of WiW		
	 A menu or prospectus of services to form part of the offer to Primes Final position statement on local need, lessons learnt and Hackney's offer and asks to the Primes 	JHS & EDP Task Group	Feb 2011
3.8	Mid-year review of the Disability Pilot		
	This item was deferred until the next meeting	SKhan	Mar 2011
5.	Enterprise		
	Enterprise action plan to be developed, led by Richard Abbott and Matthew Thomson with support from LBH officers and input from relevant partners	RA, MT, JHS, SKeck	Mar 2011
	ELBA members to be invited to comment on the draft action plan and further consideration to be given to how ELBA could contribute to taking this work forward	LM, Julie Hutchinson & RA	Mar 2011
	 Discussion about how schools and training providers could support young people interested in enterprise to be taken forward with the 14-19 Partnership 	RA, Helen McNulty	Jun 2011
	A draft enterprise action plan to presented to the next EDP Board meeting	RA, MT	Mar 2011
	ESOL provision and funding to be discussed at the next EDP Board meeting	IA & Helen McNulty	Mar 2011



	Discussion and Decision	Actioned by whom	Actioned by when
1.	Welcome and apologies		
	Apologies were received from Rosie Holcroft and Janet Bywater. It was reported that Rosie had confirmed the LDA were no longer able to resource LDA representation on local strategic partnership boards.		
	The Board heard that Janet Bywater was leaving her post at the Learning Trust. The Chair extended best wishes and thanks to Janet on behalf of the Board for her support to the partnership throughout her time in Hackney.		
2.	Minutes, updates and actions		
	The minutes of the previous meeting held on 14 th September 2010 were approved as an accurate record.		
	Hackney's work and skills plan At the September EDP meeting it was reported that the requirements for a Work and Skills Plan had been revoked and that the Council's Economic Development Strategy would now fulfil this role. An update on the EDS would be provided at a future meeting.	JHS	Jun 2011
	GLE engagement It was reported that the GLE bid was not successful in getting onto the preferred Suppliers Framework for the Single Work Programme.		
3.	Strategic Commissioning and the Single Work Programme – forward planning		
	The Board received a series of updates and reports in relation to the Single Work Programme and the current programme of commissioned interventions.		
	3.1 Single Work Programme: update (Derek Harvey)		
	The Board received an update on developments within DWP/JCP, including an overview of key welfare to work policy changes and an update on the Single Work Programme.		
	It was reported that 16 organisations had been successful in getting onto the Preferred Suppliers Framework. London was divided into two contract package areas, which were roughly East and West, but designed not to cut across any existing partnership areas.		
	The customer eligibility and referral criteria for the Work Programme had been announced and were outlined in the paper. It was noted that people in the ESA Support Group would not be brought into the		



Work Programme or required to undertake work. However, they could be required to undertake support that would improve their condition and move them closer towards being a position to take up paid employment. Across all client groups, the expectation was that JCP would work with customers for the first three months, and for JSA customers aged 25+ this would be for up to a year. Referrals onto Pathways to Work would cease by the end of February.

The Board also received an overview of the payment structure and model. Job outcome payments would be a proportion of the benefit savings for each complete four week period in employment. This was to incentivise continuing in-work support. The payment structure overall was weighted towards IB and ESA customers rather than JSA.

There were also changes underway affecting the JCP network, including reducing the number of Regions from 11 to 7 and having 11 fewer Districts in order to meet the 26% budget reduction. Hackney, City of London, Newham and Tower Hamlets would be joined to Barking and Dagenham, Havering, Redbridge and Waltham Forest as the new East London district.

In the discussion that followed, it was commented that YPLA funding enabled young people who had had a learning disability assessment to access education up to the age of 25. There was a risk that the reduction of funding for adult education could push people down the learning disability route. There was also an issue around the introduction of fees, including for groups that Hackney had a statutory obligation to provide education for.

The Chair thanked Derek Harvey for a very clear and helpful paper and for keeping the Partnership up to date with key developments.

3.2 EDP Task Group actions and update (Sonia Khan)

The Board received the minutes from the task group meeting held on 19th November 2010, including a list of the key actions identified to forward plan for the EDP's commissioned programme and approach to the new Work Programme. The discussions at the task group had formed the basis for this agenda and the work taken forward by officers so far, as set out in the papers.

3.3 Position statement on local need and lessons learnt and 3.9 Cross-cutting review of worklessness: final report (Shawnee Keck)

The Board received a position statement on local need and lessons learnt, together with the final report of the cross-cutting review of worklessness. The key findings of the review were that it was a difficult journey to get people into work and that employment support and skills development alone could not reduce worklessness. Supporting people into a position where they were able to benefit from employment support would generate additional



	Putting Ha	ackney First
need for wider services, such as mental health. Embedded employment support and integrated services remained the key challenge.		
The Chair thanked Shawnee Keck for the worklessness review, which had been a huge amount of work and which was a great resource and evidence base.		
In discussion, it was suggested that the emphasis on the 18-25 age range in the evidence could have been more strongly reflected in the recommendations, particularly in terms of the need for early intervention suggested by the evidence. However, the emphasis on cross-sector working was very much about bringing those services in, including those working with the youngest age groups. It was suggested that it would be helpful to take some of this data to the 14-19 Partnership to consider.		
ACTION: the evidence on local need and lessons learnt to be worked into a joint position statement together with the ask and offer to Primes	JHS and SKeck	Feb 2011
3.4 Update from the EDN on the December network event and VCS providers' list (Avril McIntyre)		
The Board received a directory of VCS groups working in economic development in Hackney. The directory was intended to be a starting point, with a plan to extend it to include other providers such as mental health, learning and skills and youth crime reduction partners.		
The VCS felt that as a sector, they could not afford not to be proactive in their approach to the introduction of the new Work Programme. The question was how best to do this with other partners across Hackney rather than just within the sector. It was reported that the EDN had been in discussion with Prime Contractors and that the EDN Steering Group would be meeting the following week to develop a key message for the Primes and ensure that the necessary actions were in place.		
AGREED:partners to review and add to the directory on the CEN website:	ALL	Feb 2011
 http://www.hackneycen.org.uk/. that the directory would be brought together with the statement on local need, lessons learnt and existing offer as part of EDP's joint position statement. 	JHS, SKeck and AM	Feb 2011
3.5 Pathways to Sustainable Employment for the Charedi Community: interim update report and proposals (Sonia Khan)		
The Board received an interim update report on the project. It was reported that the need to establish sustainable links with mainstream providers and agencies had been agreed at the outset of the project. An outline model had now been developed, with more		



detailed proposals around costs to be developed in conjunction with the leads for worklessness in the Council's Partnership and Investment team. It was emphasised that the Board was not being asked to make any commitment to future funding for the programme. However, it was important that the findings and proposals were integrated into the Partnership's conversations and engagement with the Prime Contractors and any other external funding opportunities.

In discussion, it was suggested that the issue of national recognition for courses being taken by young people in the Charedi community needed further discussion both within the Charedi community and with schools and colleges. It was noted that the role of Jobcentre Plus in relation to this project was not yet clearly defined or agreed.

The Board agreed to endorse the proposals in principle, subject to further discussion with relevant partners.

ACTION:

- the proposals to be further developed subject to further discussions with the relevant partners
- to feed back to Interlink on the comments raised at the Board

SKhan Mar 2011

SKhan Mar 2011

3.6 Ways into Work Impact Assessment – Update (Sonia Khan)

It was reported that the detailed management information needed in order to assess which clients had been reached and which barriers to employment had been successfully addressed was incomplete, and that as a result it was not yet possible to assess the impact of the Ways into Work Programme. Detailed data was currently available for some clients supported in Quarter 1 of 2010/11.

As a result, it had not been possible to sample groups of clients for the focus groups. To date, qualitative research had been undertaken with housing outreach providers and a meeting had been held on 25th November with Programme Managers from all housing provider partners. This had provided a range of helpful learning points and observations around contract targets and incentives, information sharing and follow-up, the client gateway (management information system), the strengths of the Ways into Work model, and actions required for forward planning. A series of actions had been agreed to improve the programme in the short term and to inform the future design of programmes and engagement with the Single Work Programme Prime Contractors.

The key issues highlighted for the Board were the difficulties of getting a shared management information system across providers; the need to think further about the respective roles of housing providers and job brokers, particularly in terms of working with clients who were not job ready; the balance between outreach and employment support, and translating effective outreach into employment outcomes.



		Hackney First
 ACTIONS: Data and analysis from the Q2 and Q3 reports to be brought back to the Board 	SKhan	Mar 2011
Final report on the commissioned programme to be brought back to the Board at the end of the contract	SKhan	Jun 2011
3.7 Proposals for the future of Ways into Work (Juniper-Hope Strong)		
The Board received a paper and presentation outlining the successes of the Ways into Work programme to date and the options for the future of employment programmes in Hackney in the context of the government's new Work Programme.		
It was reported that the options currently being considered included various combinations of the four models outlined: (a) a minimum model, in which the Prime Contractor would subcontract directly with housing, training and voluntary sector providers with LBH coordinating the delivery partnership at the local level to ensure that provision was high-quality, holistic and tailored to local need (b) a Host Borough Unit MoU or framework setting out shared objectives and commitments would be established with the Prime Contractors for East London, in order to provide a mechanism through which the HBU could hold Primes to account and advocate for involvement of the council and its public and voluntary sector partners (c) a public service model, where Hackney would 'sell' a range of wrap-around services to the Primes and the Council would develop a framework for local partners to participate and through which to sub-contract services (d) a Single Purpose Vehicle would be established, building on the existing Ways into Work partnership, to deliver local employment and training programmes.		
It was reported that the preferred option at this stage was to consider options for using the first three of these models in combination. It was noted that a key question for the Council was how far the local authority wanted to take on a direct delivery or sub-contracting role and the potential risks or issues involved in doing so (for example around the benefit conditionality and sanctions regime attached to the Work Programme).		
In discussion, the complexity of the issue was noted, including the need to consider three different dimensions to local coordination: geographical (particularly since the Primes would be covering 17 boroughs), sectoral (education, training and skills, etc.) and across the public, private and voluntary sectors.		
The question was raised as to what would need to be done in practical terms if the Council opted for the inclusion of the 'public service model' at the borough level. It was reported that a paper setting out these options in more detail was going to the Council's Regeneration Steering Group on 11 th January with a final position to		



	be agreed by the end of the month.		
	It was noted that opportunities to work in partnership on this were welcomed from the VCS and ELBA.		
	ACTIONS:		
	A menu or prospectus of services to form part of the offer to Primes	JHS & EDP Task	Feb 2011
	Final position statement on local need, lessons learnt and offer and asks to the Primes	Group	Feb 2011
	3.8 Mid-year review of the disability pilot		
	ACTION: This item was deferred until the next meeting as the report was not yet available.	SKhan	Mar 2011
4.	Quarterly Performance		
	The Board received the quarterly performance report on the EDP commissioned interventions and the quarterly report on the LAA national indicators.		
5.	Enterprise		
	The Board received a paper outlining the progress to date in developing a shared enterprise vision for Hackney, and the process for developing an action plan to implement three core enterprise-related objectives, which were: • Supporting new and existing small businesses to remain competitive and grow • Ensuring Council services supported the growth of local businesses		
	Attracting inward investment and visitors into the borough.		
	It was proposed that the action plan would detail the interventions required to achieve these objectives, including timescales, resources and funding, as well as the stakeholders involved. The need for enterprise to be an integral part of Hackney's strategic approach to economic development was emphasised.		
	The Board also received an overview of interim findings from the business and enterprise research carried out as part of the Council's Local Economic Assessment. The report included lessons learnt in the course of the research about how to engage with businesses, such as the need to draw on local business associations. It also highlighted the importance of high quality business advice and support for small businesses, particularly prestart-up.		
	In discussion, a number of issues were raised including how schools and training providers could support young people		



6.	Any other business		
	ESOL provision and funding to be discussed at the next EDP Board meeting	IA & Helen McNulty	Mar 2011
	A draft enterprise action plan to presented to the next EDP Board meeting	RA, MT	Mar 2011
	Discussion about how schools and training providers could support young people interested in enterprise to be taken forward with the 14-19 Partnership	RA, Helen McNulty	Jun 2011
	ELBA members to be invited to comment on the draft action plan and further consideration to be given to how ELBA could contribute to taking this work forward	LM, Julie Hutchinson & RA	Mar 2011
	Enterprise action plan to be developed, led by Richard Abbott and Matthew Thomson with support from LBH officers and input from relevant partners	RA, MT, JHS, SKeck	Mar 2011
	ACTIONS:		
	interested in enterprise to gain the business skills they needed, and how companies could add value, including through local procurement.		

Please note the dates of future meetings:

Date Time and Venue

8 March 2011 3-5pm Hackney Community College 7 June 2011 3-5pm Hackney Community College

For further information, or to suggest items for future meetings, please contact: Lin Cotterrell

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Enterprise Action Plan – Update 25 Feb 2011

Reviewing the existing strategic framework: the EDS from an Enterprise perspective

 The Council's recognition of the importance of Enterprise in the development of its Economic Development Strategy (EDS) is warmly welcomed and supported. The agreement by key Economic Development Partnership (EDP) stakeholders and authority officers that an inclusive understanding of Enterprise guides the strategy and action plan is an important one.

The nature of Hackney's local economy is such that 'Enterprise' must encompass both commercial *and* social enterprise – this is what is meant by an inclusive understanding.

- 2. In order to ensure that the Council's Strategy and work streams relating to Enterprise that result from it are relevant, current, bought into by key partners and will make a positive difference in the borough, an Enterprise Action Plan is currently under development through consultations across and beyond the EDP Board. Some examples of *emerging themes* and related actions are identified below in italics:
- 3. ACTION 1: ensure that the 3 EDS objectives which relate directly to Enterprise are the right ones, and that they are commonly understood:
 - Support new and existing small businesses to become increasingly competitive and grow
 - Ensure council services support the growth of local businesses (this needs expanding beyond 'services' to include authority culture and practice, identifying more collaborative delivery models and benchmarking local authority best practice)
 - Attract inward investors, *Enterprises* and visitors into the borough
 - A key new objective about Enterprise skills is needed in response to the concentration of and reduction in the availability of long term jobs.
- 4. ACTION 2: ensure that the 3 Enterprise issues raised in the 'Growing a local economy' scrutiny report (Jan 2009) remain valid over 2 years on, specifically:
 - The importance of local Enterprise growth in tackling worklessness (should worklessness be the only primary driver over the next 5 years when local business viability is identified as a key concern?)
 - The need for the Council to ensure that existing small businesses benefit from physical regeneration of borough (this should be wider than 'physical' and encompass economic development and social investment)
 - The importance of leveraging a range of Council services to support Enterprise development (e.g. council procurement and regulatory services)
 - A new issue is emerging around actual and projected changes in Hackney's broad and business economies (e.g. Tech City, growth in the creative/media

sector, shift toward a residential/leisure economy, projected demographic changes in the residential population.)

Developing an Enterprise Action Plan that will set the framework for delivering growth

- 5. Once consultations with EDP members and stakeholders have been completed, the aim is for the Enterprise Action Planning process to propose amendments to update the EDS from an Enterprise perspective and also set out the specific interventions which need to occur to achieve these Enterprise related objectives, detailing:
 - The interventions which need to occur
 - The timescales for delivery
 - The stakeholders involved, including the council
 - The resources required and the sources of funding where appropriate

I will provide a verbal update to EDP on 8 March 2011, and hope to have completed the initial consultations by the end of March 2011.

Author: Richard Abbott, 25 February 2011



NIACE briefing on the proposed changes to ESOL funding and their impact on learners

Fluency in English language assists social inclusion, economic development and individual achievement and for these reasons, NIACE is concerned about the proposed changes in the funding of ESOL.

Background

The Government published its strategy 'Skills for Sustainable Growth' and 'Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth' in November 2010. The strategy proposes changes to funding for ESOL to start in September 2011. The Government's proposals are:

- 1. Full funding will be only be available for learners from 'settled' communities and unemployed learners on Job Seeker's Allowance (JSA) or on employment support allowance (ESA), described as 'active benefits'.
- 2. Learners on other benefits, described as 'non-active benefits', such as income support or on a low income, or spouses of people on low incomes will not be eligible for fee remission. They will have to pay the co-funded rate of 50% of the full cost of the course.
- 3. There will be no public funding for ESOL in the workplace. Learners or employers will be expected to pay full cost.
- 4. Since 2007, ESOL learners on benefits or low incomes have been able to get help towards fees from the discretionary Learner Support Fund for ESOL. This will be unavailable from September 2011.
- 5. Providers will receive less income from the Skills Funding Agency for offering ESOL courses. The funding weighting for ESOL, which was reduced from 1.4 to 1.2 in 2009, is to be further reduced to 1.0.

Impact

These changes will impact on current and prospective learners, local communities and on the economy.

The prioritising of learners from 'settled communities', without a clear definition or an indication of government priorities in relation to ESOL, has confused ESOL providers and provoked concerns about which groups might be excluded.

NIACE has serious concerns regarding the prioritising of learners who are on 'active benefits', meaning they are seeking work. Initial research amongst providers shows that the majority of ESOL learners are in receipt of 'non-active benefits' like Employment Support Allowance, Income Support, working Tax credit, Pension credit, Housing Benefit or Council Tax Benefit.

JSA and ESA benefits are paid to one member in a family. Dependents, usually women, who are not in receipt of these benefits, would therefore not be eligible for free ESOL tuition.

Claimants on income support become ineligible for funding. This is likely to impact on lone parents, those on parental or paternity leave, carers and refugees learning English who arrived less than a year ago.

Many ESOL providers have already conducted a survey of ESOL learners on their courses. They find that, on average, only 30% ESOL students are on one of the 'active benefits' - JSA or ESA. 70% are on 'non-active benefits'.

203,875 migrants were granted UK citizenship in 2009. 13% (26,503) of these new citizens took the ESOL citizenship course route by doing an Entry level ESOL Skills for Life qualification. Many of these prospective citizens will struggle to pay the fees for an ESOL course to lead to citizenship.

Recommendations

NIACE recommends that an Equality Impact Assessment is conducted before the proposed changes are implemented. The impact on women from black and minority ethnic communities is likely to be dramatic.

Because a number of policy streams impact on ESOL provision, NIACE suggests that the highly successful National ESOL Advisory Forum be re-convened to act as a source of advice to BIS, DWP and the Home Office.

In this case, it is important that parliamentarians, stakeholders, ESOL providers and teachers speak out on behalf of ESOL learners, who may not speak for themselves because they lack fluency or confidence in speaking English or for other reasons. Many learners are refugees because they spoke out in their home countries. It should not be surprising if they were reluctant to speak out again.

Further information from:

Chris Taylor

Programme Director, ESOL

NIACE

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21/01/2011

1 Changes To ESOL Funding From 2011-12: The Possible Impact On Adult ESOL Learners In Hackney

The impact on Hackney Learners

- The Learning Trust: we have analysed the enrolment forms of our **current learners** (using data available on 07/01/11), and only **6.5%** of 183 learners surveyed were on 'active benefits', i.e. will be eligible for full remission in 2010-11. We also analysed the initial assessment forms of people on our waiting list, and the percentage of these on 'active benefits' was **13.2%**.
- Hackney Community College: only 23% of female and 36% of male students out of 435 surveyed are on these 'active' (i.e. eligible) benefits. Learners in community based provision are disproportionately affected. In addition, at Hackney Community College, the removal of the programme weighting factor combined with a 4.3% cut in adult education funding translates to a cut of around 20% to adult ESOL funding.
- Along with other colleges and local education authorities, we have submitted figures
 on learners on eligible/ ineligible benefits to NATECLA (the National Association of
 Teachers of English and Community Languages) and NIACE. Hackney Community
 College have conducted the Association of Colleges' survey. From the information
 available so far, it appears that ESOL learners in Hackney are more likely to be
 affected by these cuts than those in other London boroughs/ local authority areas
 outside London.
- Other providers are reporting a clear distinction between learners on main sites and those accessing community provision. At the Learning Trust, our direct teach ESOL provision is all community-based, through partnerships with primary schools and Children's Centres. This model of delivery, providing ESOL classes in familiar, local centres, and working with partners to provide a crèche for nearly all classes, has enabled us to make ESOL provision accessible to the 'hard to reach'. Yet these are learners who will not be eligible for free ESOL next year. The vast majority of our learners are female and parents of young children. Because of their caring responsibilities, they are overwhelmingly on income support or child tax credit rather than 'active benefits'.
- If the cuts go ahead, then we will be limited in what we can offer the majority of our current learners in terms of progression routes for the next academic year. Some consideration can be given to the possibility of putting ESOL learners on alternative qualification aims (such as literacy or vocational aims¹) to minimise fee bearing elements, but this will need to be looked at carefully and the decision will need to ensure solutions are appropriate for entry level learners, who represent the vast majority of our learners and those on our waiting list. We are looking at sourcing alternative funding streams, however bids are less likely to be successful in the current economic climate. HCC and TLT continue to work in partnership, reviewing

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¹ Government is considering making FLT provision free to all without a first level 2 qualification.

the mix and balance of community ESOL provision to meet the specific needs of adult ESOL learners in Hackney.

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ESOL learners at HCC participated in a survey sent out to FE colleges by the Association of Colleges in January. Respondents were asked to indicate all the benefits they are claiming. 62% were not claiming JSA or ESA (work-related) and 33% said they were dependent on someone else in their household who receives benefits. 90.3% of the sample of 256 adult learners surveyed indicated that they are studying English 'to improve my skills so that I can get a good job' while 40.1% said 'so that I can help my children with their school work'. The majority said that they would be able to pay under £100 a year in future. However, 85% stated that they didn't know how they would find the money if they had to pay more for their course.

Impact on Hackney Organisations

These changes are being introduced without modelling of the impact on providers. Because students will not attract fee remission, the income they generate is reduced. As a result providers will have to generate more funding activity with less resources to hit their target or risk clawback. This is unlikely to be made up through fees from learners, a) because they say they can't afford full fees and b) many say they will not participate at all.

As a result of this and other changes, some providers in Hackney may become unviable, or at the least may be forced to reduce the volume of ESOL; threatening the local ESOL infrastructure.

Impact on Hackney community

Hackney's Sustainable Community Strategy sets a vision for greater prosperity and opportunity for all Hackney residents emphasising pride in its diversity and social cohesion.

Restricting access to English language classes could significantly affect these ambitions directly impacting on:

- Adults taking an active role in local community life.
- Adults developing a better knowledge of the education system and becoming better able to help their children with their learning at home.
- Aims to reduce poverty by improving adults' skills and employability.
- Aims to promote physical and mental wellbeing.
- Aims to promote and maintain mixed, sustainable communities.

Response to the changes: national level

The 'Action for ESOL' campaign was launched in January 2011. There is a national steering committee with representatives from organisations including NATECLA, NIACE, UCU, The Refugee Council, and providers and teachers from around the country.

Actions being taken at the national level include:

- Pressing for an Equality Impact Assessment (given the disproportionate impact these cuts will have on women and members of BMER communities)
- A national day of action on 24 March 2011
- A petition

- A parliamentary meeting and lobby
- Raising the issue with MPs and BIS officials

There is also an active London Action for ESOL group.

 The Association of Colleges have also been in regular discussions with BIS, and have had several parliamentary questions asked. The London AoC held a briefing for London MPs on the changes in December.

Response to the changes: Hackney

- The Hackney ESOL Working Party discussed the changes at a meeting on 07/02/11. Organisations represented on the ESOL Working Party are writing paragraphs about the impact the changes will have on the people they work with, and collecting case studies from learners. These will form the basis for an open letter to the two Hackney MPs.
- Hackney Action for ESOL hold regular meetings for local ESOL teachers, students and community organisations.
- Hackney Community College has been lobbying Ministers directly via letters from Governors and the Principal to Ministers. A recent FT article highlighted Hackney's difficulties. A public meeting is organised for the 3rd March at HCC.

2 Recommendations from the ESOL Advice Report

Funding from the Migration Impact Fund enabled the development of The Learning Trust's ESOL Advice Service and the employment of a part-time co-ordinator. Regular weekly ESOL Advice sessions are held at The Learning Trust and other venues across the borough. People requiring ESOL classes attend the location most convenient for them. Their level of English is assessed and they are referred to a class appropriate to their level and their needs delivered by any of our partners or they are placed on a relevant waiting list

The work currently being done by the ESOL Advice Service has enabled larger numbers of learners to find a class appropriate to their needs simply and quickly. The availability of regular ESOL advice sessions locally facilitates a first contact with the ESOL world. Additional one-off sessions organised through schools, children's centres and community organisations, brings the service to the users. Learners no longer need to approach a variety of organisations to find an appropriate class. Referrals are made easy when an adviser books an appointment and the learner takes their initial assessment documentation with them.

Statistics show that increasing numbers of people who want to join an ESOL class are contacting the service. Approximately 300 new people have been seen between September and December 2010, compared to approximately 600 for the whole of the previous academic year.

The ESOL Advice Service is collecting a range of information about ESOL learners in Hackney. With increased collaboration across providers this information will provide important insights into the backgrounds and needs of ESOL learners in the borough.

Improvements to the database will enable more effective monitoring of how the provision meets the need.

The service has built a reputation among ESOL providers for its effective referral system. Providers contact the service when they have vacancies in classes and advisers then refer new clients to these classes and also check waiting lists to inform learners of the availability of a place. The benefits of the service are obvious to both users and providers. It saves time, money and frustration (for both the learners and those involved in placing them) and offers information which informs provision. For those who have benefited from the work of the Learning Trust's ESOL Advice Service, the existence of such a service is seen as essential.

The service needs to be safeguarded beyond the funding of the Migration Impact Fund. The need for a borough-wide ESOL advice service has been demonstrated and the service needs to be maintained and further developed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following developments would increase the value of the service:

- All ESOL providers in the borough to provide up-to-date information on ESOL provision. This will be addressed at the ESOL Working Party (half-termly meetings) and co-ordinated by the Community ESOL Advice Co-ordinator.
- A move toward all ESOL providers in the Borough using a single ESOL initial assessment process. HCC and TLT have met and agreed a revised initial assessment form to be used from 2011/12. This will be rolled out to other providers, including ELATT.
- Data collected during initial assessment from all participating providers to be collected in one borough-wide database. The creation of a borough-wide database was raised at a meeting with Sonia Khan, Head of Policy.
- The Council's statistics department to take responsibility for the database after the transfer of the Learning Trust's services to the Local Authority. Technical support for design and update of the database, with all providers contributing information following initial assessment sessions.
- Information about ESOL needs gained from analysis of the data to be disseminated to all services working with migrants and refugees. Annual Report by the Community ESOI Advice Co-ordinator to be disseminated through the ESOL Working Party and existing links with community organisations.
- The planning and commissioning of any ESOL provision in the borough to be informed by the evidence of needs demonstrated by the ESOL Advice Service data. TLT and HCC are taking into account the findings of the ESOL Advice Report and planning for the next academic year. For example, the statistics show a large unmet need at Entry 1 and for women with childcare needs. It is expected that the annual report will inform all other providers and community organisations to support their planning.
- Funding for a full-time Community ESOL Advice Co-ordinator. TLT is working on a bid for funds through the European Integration Fund. The Hackney Migrant Strategy (draft) calls for a welcome centre and we would expect the Advice Coordinator to work closely with other services to provide an initial single point of contact for new migrants.
- **Continuing Lobbying:** The EDP Members, including the Council, are encouraged to continue lobbying against the proposed changes, pointing out the risks arising from loss of ESOL provision in an area like Hackney.

Alice Robson and Sylvia Perin, ESOL Curriculum Managers, The Learning Trust

Sandra Jones, Head of Skills for Life and Work, Hackney Community College

23 February 2011

Additional information

Skills for Sustainable Growth, available at http://www.bis.gov.uk/news/topstories/2010/Nov/skills-for-sustainable-growth

Action for ESOL's briefing on the changes, available at http://actionforesol.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/ESOLBriefing2011-3.pdf

FAQ's on ESOL Funding by NATECLA, available at http://www.natecla.org.uk/uploads/documents/doc 3223.pdf

National press coverage

Financial Times 23 February

English language cuts seen as threat to integration plan (case study of HCC)

http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/2dee8d56-3ebc-11e0-834e-00144feabdc0, i email=y.html

TES 18 February

Esol cuts 'not thought through', claims NIACE

http://www.tes.co.uk/article.aspx?storycode=6070629

BBC news 16 February

English course cuts 'to hit citizenship and jobs' http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-12478909

Observer 13 Feb

'Job anguish for immigrants as English language courses face cuts'

http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2011/feb/13/english-language-teaching-immigrants-cutbacks

TES 21 January

The 'cruel' cuts that could silence a generation

http://www.tes.co.uk/article.aspx?storycode=6068055

Guardian 18 January

Funding cuts threaten English lessons.

http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2011/jan/18/esol-courses-funding-cuts?CMP=twt_fd

Hackney EDP, March 2011: JCP Update

Please find below an update on developments within DWP/JCP that is known at the time of writing.

Lone Parents

Since 25 October 2010 – LPs with a youngest child aged 7 and over making new or repeat claim to IS were no longer be entitled. There are plans to extend this to age 5 which is thought to be early 2012. Existing LPs entitlement to IS will cease between November 2010 and April 2011.

Incapacity Benefit/Income Support (Reassessment)

Commenced October 2010 in pilot areas Burnley and Aberdeen

The majority of the IB/IS load will start migration on 28 Feb 2011 (Medical referrals and WCA) and April 2011 (assess and award onwards) - completing by April 2014.

The principle behind reassessment is the same as that behind ESA – that it will focus on what people can do – not on what they cannot do and the belief that appropriate work is good for most people's physical and mental health and well-being. Treating existing incapacity benefit customers in the same way as new claimants is both fairer and simpler for everyone concerned.

Those assessed fully capable of work can make a claim to Jobseekers Allowance and those who cannot work or have limited capability to work will move to Employment and Support Allowance

Following the Harrington report into the WCA the rate of intake from February will be reduced to be ramped up later in the year to allow for DWP/ATOS to introduce recommendations.

Early indications from the pilots show 71% of reassessed customers moved from IB to ESA comprising 32% for the Support Group and 39% for the Work Related Activity Group (fit for work at some time). 29% were considered fit for work now of which 41% are appealing against that decision. Only 2% of the overall total is claiming JSA at this point.

Work Programme

Aims to:

- increase off flow rates for WP customer groups (more people into work);
- decrease average time on benefit for WP customer groups (people into work sooner);
- increase average time in employment for WP customer groups (longer sustained jobs);

- narrow the gap between off flow/time in employment rates for disadvantaged groups and everyone else; and
- contribute to a decrease in numbers of workless households.

Is 'black box' provision ie whatever is needed to get the individual back to work. Covers ESA and JSA. Customers will be randomly allocated to a provider.

Customer eligibility and payment structure for Work Programme is as follows.

Customer Group	Time of Referral	Basis for referral
JSA customers aged 25+	From 12 months	Mandatory
JSA customers aged 18-24	From 9 months	Mandatory
JSA customers who have recently moved from Incapacity Benefit	From 3 months	Mandatory
JSA customers facing significant disadvantage (early entry mandatory) - JSA customers aged 18 who have not been in employment, education or training (NEET) in the previous six months; - JSA customers returning to JSA who have previously received benefit for 22 out of the last 24 months, 'Repeaters'; - JSA customers who have moved onto JSA from incapacity benefits following reassessment.		Mandatory
JSA customers facing significant disadvantage (early entry voluntary – see list below)	From 3 months	Voluntary
All ESA customers	At any time	Voluntary
ESA (income related) customers who are placed in the Work Related Activity Group	When customers are expected to be fit for work within 3 months	Mandatory

Early entry - most disadvantaged - from 13 weeks are:

- An ex-offender;
- A disabled person;
- A person with mild to moderate mental health issues;
- A care-leaver;
- A carer on JSA;
- An ex-carer;
- A homeless person;
- A former member of HM Armed Forces personnel;
- A partner of current or former HM Armed Forces personnel; or

 A person with either current or previous substance dependency problems that present a significant barrier to employment.

Payment structure

- an attachment fee giving providers a payment at the point of engagement to help cash-flow; Yr 1 = 100%
- Yr 2 = 75% of the original amount
- Yr 3 = 50% of the original amount
- Yr 4/5 = 0%
- a Job Outcome payment paid when a customer has been in work for either a continuous or a cumulative period;
- Sustainment Outcome payments paid to the provider whilst they keep a customer in work up to a maximum number of weeks; and
- Incentive payments paid to providers who have high performance for the JSA 18 to 24 and 25+ client groups.

Contracts will be for 5 years with a possible extension to 7 years.

Support can be up to 104 weeks. This is the allotted time. Should a customer enter the programme then leave ie start work and then fall out of work during that time they will return to the programme for the balance of time unless they are deemed to have completed the programme.

A completer is someone:

- who has reached the end of the Allotted Time from the date of referral; or
- for whom the Provider has claimed the final eligible outcome payment; or
- who has had a decision made by JCP that it is appropriate for them to be referred to Work choice; or
- who has died.

Latest:

Closing date for bids was 14/2/11. Announcement expected early April for a common start up date in June.

Current provision ie, Employment Zones, New Deals, has been extended and will now remain until Sept 2011 with last referrals being made by end June 11. Progress to Work is also likely to be extended unti IWork programme commences. Pathways to Work provision will still end on April 2011, with last referrals being made 17/2/11, to be folded into the Work Programme.

Get Britain Working

Get Britain Working is an umbrella title to cover all aspects of a range of additional support options to help customers off benefits and into work. Work Together and Work Clubs initiatives has been announced.

Work Together

Work Together is a Great Britain wide initiative that was introduced on 4 October 2010, Its aim is to encourage and promote the take up of volunteering opportunities to JSA, IS and ESA customers before they are mandated to the Work Programme or other provision.

- Normal rules benefit rules apply which should not normally preclude volunteering
- Work Together entitlement/involvement will cease once the customer becomes eligible for the work programme
- JCP has been engaging with voluntary organisations to signpost customers to volunteering options
- Organisations will NOT be contracted to JCP

Latest: 10 organisations offer support under Work together, 3 District wide, 4 specifically for Tower Hamlets, 2 for Hackney and 2 for Newham. Four more are in progress

Work Club

Work Clubs can come in all shapes and sizes, but they essentially provide unemployed people with a place to meet, exchange skills, share experiences, find opportunities, make contacts and get support to them in their return to work. Work Clubs can be set up, or supported by any suitable group, including voluntary sector organisations, local authorities, community groups, and both local and national employers amongst others. Introduced on 4 October 2010

- JCP has been engaging with organisations offer services that could be considered Work Clubs to signpost customers
- JCP are working with organisations or individuals who are looking to set up workclubs, offering support and guidance which is also available under the Directgov website
- Organisations will NOT be contracted to JCP

Latest: there are 10 organisations offering Work Clubs, 2 District wide, 4 specifically for Tower Hamlets, 1 for Hackney and 2 for Newham. Five more are in progress

Work Experience To ensure that young people have support to develop the skills they need to secure sustainable jobs by offering a period of work experience. Details are still being worked through, in consultation with relevant organisations and stakeholders however it is felt it will feature placements of at least 2 weeks, but preferably up to 8 weeks for young people aged 18 – 21 with no or limited experience of work. JCP will:

- source placements.
- develop a selection process to match claimants to placements.
- Advisers will recommend the scheme to eligible benefit claimants.
- encourage employers as good practice to assist with and enable YP the time to search and apply for vacancies
- contact the participant on a fortnightly basis to check progress Participants will continue to be paid at their benefit rate and conditionality will apply. This went live 24/1/11

Latest: There are 18 employers offering over 28 placements, five people have started on work placements.

Work for Yourself

This will encourage people to see self –employment as a viable route off benefits and into financial independence. Work for Yourself will promote self-employment as a route off benefits and into financial independence. The help provided will include advice and financial support coupled with mentoring. The process for delivering Work for Yourself is being worked through jointly between DWP and the Department for Business Innovation and Skills.

JCP will:

- identify and engage mentors / business advisers locally through Local Authority links; and also micro-finance institutions e.g. credit unions.
- Promote and encourage benefit recipients to consider self employment / setting up their own business
- Bring together relevant and interested customers and mentoring
- Provide customers with literature on Work for Yourself e.g. a factsheet
- Payment of expenses to mentors, a small grant payable to each mentor recruited

Work For Yourself will be available to customers over 25 years or age who have been receiving JSA for over 6 months. **The New Enterprise Allowance** will help unemployed people who want to start and grow their own business. It will provide access to business mentoring, and offering financial support of around £2,000. Features a weekly allowance based on the basic rate of JSA for 3 months, and then at half that rate for a further 3 months and access to a loan up to £1,000 to help with start-up costs. Expected to be rolled out nationally around autumn this year.

Service Academies

Are to provide training and work experience for unemployed people of all ages. The emphasis will be on local colleges, employers and Jobcentre Plus working together to offer training and work experience appropriate for the local labour market and employment sector, leading to a guaranteed interview. It is proposed that Service Academies will go live from April 2011. JCP will broker and match individuals into Service Academies and to support joint working between providers and employers and facilitate broking and matching for individuals who are not successful in finding employment with their host. Service Academies will be available in England only, for people on out of work benefits i.e. JSA, ESA and IS.

Enterpise Clubs

On 31 January 2011, the Minister for Employment announced the launch of Enterprise Clubs An Enterprise Club is a Get Britain Working measure which could be set up and run by local partners or businesses for people who are out of work and are considering starting their own business or becoming self-employed.

Enterprise Clubs can come in all shapes and sizes, but they essentially provide a place where unemployed people who are thinking about setting up their own business can meet, share ideas and receive expert advice and support from local business people. As with Work Clubs and Work Together, organisations will not be contracted to JCP

Flexible Support Fund

Is additional discretionary resource to help customers with small barriers to move into work. A single budget determined by the prevailing labour market devolved to District Managers.

Work Choice

Work Choice replaced Work Step, Work Prep and Job Introduction Scheme. It's for those customers that by reason of significant disability cannot be helped into employment by JCP mainstream programmes. It is aimed at people with mental health and learning difficulties but not exclusively. It's offered to all benefit recipients at any stage of their claim

The contract is being delivered by Ellingham and Newco on behalf of Working Links. The programme commenced 25 October 2010. Remploy will also participate in the delivery of this programme

JCP Network:

From 14/2/11 JCP Regions reduced 11-7 and Districts reduced from 48-37.

Waltham Forest, Barking and Dagenham, Redbridge and Havering are joining Newham, Hackney Tower Hamlets and City of London to become East London. The region will be expanded from London to become 'Greater London and Home Counties' which will also feature the Districts of Essex, Kent and Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire. Staff allocation processes taking place between now and mid April 11.

Coming Up.

Skills conditionality (consultation). From Aug 11, advisers and Work Programme providers can mandate people to Next Step, training providers or colleges where provision exists and funded by state

Changes to SFA funding. Full state funding available only for Basic Skills 19+, first level 2 or 3 for 19-24s, those on JSA or ESA Work Related Activity Group 19+ where needed to help back to work.

Drug Treatment. Changes to JSA conditionality for those undertaking treatment (2012)

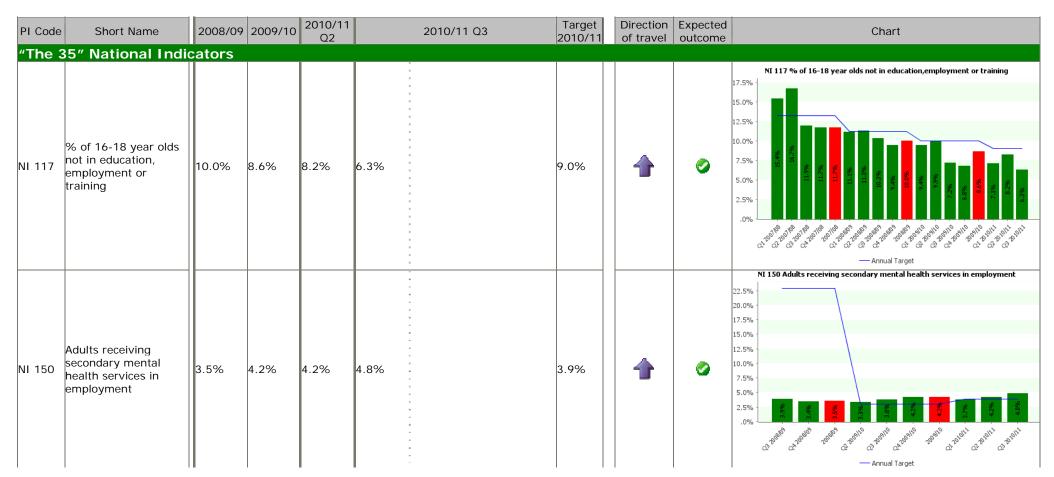
Mandatory Work Activity. Intensive 4 week programme of placements for the benefit of the community for JSA customers on habits and routines of working life. Provider led, ITT to go providers on the Framework after 14/2/11 with go-live expected sometime late April.

ESF. SFA and DWP looking at provision for 2011-1013

EDP Local Area Agreement (LAA) - Quarterly Performance Indicator Report, Q3 2010/11

On course to achieve target?		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	This PI is on course to achieve/exceed target.	10	12	12	
	This PI is .below target , but likely to recover	3	1	0	
	This PI is below target and unlikely to recover	2	2	4	
N/A	Not available/applicable	3	3	2	

Perf	Performance compared to previous		Q2	Q3	Q4
	quarter				
1	The value of this PI has improved since the previous quarter.	7	10	9	
4	The value of this PI has worsened since the previous quarter	7	5	2	
	The value of this PI has not changed since the previous quarter.	1	0	1	
N/A	Not available/applicable	3	3	6	



PI Code	Short Name	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11 Q2		2010/11 Q3	Target 2010/11
NI 151	Overall Employment rate (working-age)	63.9%	69.0%	68.5%	70.1%		63.9%
NI 153	Working age people claiming out of work benefits in the worst performing Neighbourhoods	26.1%	26.0%	26.8%	26.8%	NOMIS have not yet released Q3 data so latest figures (Q2) are reported for reference. Performance of 26.8% is reported as green as it is within the target level of being 0.4% better than the London average which was last reported as 27.4%.	0.4% better than the London average

