

POLICY AND PARTNERSHIP NEWS

Edition 3 – Tuesday 24th October 2006

REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS

1. **LSC Grant Letter**

The Grant Letter from the Secretary of State to the Chairman of the Learning and Skills Council sets out the priorities and the budget for the Council for the next financial year.

The Remit Letter sets out the Learning and Skills Council's strategic priorities."

[LSC Grant Letter 2007-08 from Alan Johnson \(pdf; 322.11KB\)](#)

2. **Learning for Living and Work: Improving Education and Training Opportunities for People with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities**

Subtitled, Going Forward - Implementing the vision of Through Inclusion to Excellence, this is the national strategy for LSC funded provision for learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities across the FE system: 2006/07 to 2009/10.

The strategy should be of interest to everyone involved in improving skills and learning opportunities across England.

[Learning for Living and Work: Improving Education and Training Opportunities for People with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities \(pdf; 348.74KB\)](#)

3. **Delivering Learning and Skills: Progress Report 2006**

This report pulls together a range of key information, from reports, statistical data releases and wider research data, into a single document that details the extent and nature of education, training and skills funded through the Learning and Skills Council (LSC).

The further education system is facing a number of important challenges. If it is to continue to increase the record number of young people participating in learning and continue the drive of raising the skills base and economic competitiveness of the nation, we must understand how the delivery system is currently performing. This report provides the initial phase of this analysis, by drawing together key statistical intelligence into a single view. It is hoped that it will provide an important source of delivery evidence for partners and other stakeholders.

The report is structured around the key national priority areas across the learning and skills sector.

[Delivering Learning and Skills: Progress Report 2006 \(pdf; 1.8MB\)](#)

4. Raising our Game - the LSC's Annual Statement of Priorities 2007-08

"Raising our Game" sets out the LSC's ambitious funding and planning priorities for 2007-08. These aim to increase achievement and promote economic competitiveness and social inclusion in England.

[Raising our game: Our Annual Statement of Priorities \(pdf; 1.24MB\)](#)

BRIEFINGS FROM THE LGIU

The following briefings have appeared on the LGIU website and can be accessed by clicking on the following link:

<http://www.lgiu.gov.uk/briefings.jsp?section=briefing>.

Partners may need to register to view the briefings, or alternatively hard copies can be sent to you upon request by emailing

lisa.driscoll@halton.gov.uk

1. CSR Targets 2007

Ed Balls MP, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, has made a speech about the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007, which contains some interesting views on changes to central targets for local government

<http://www.lgiu.gov.uk/briefings.jsp?section=briefing>.

2. Opportunity for All

Opportunity for All is the annual report on progress on the 1999 government pledge to eradicate child poverty by 2020. This is the eighth annual report. This briefing also looks at some other recent reports on child poverty.

<http://www.lgiu.gov.uk/briefings.jsp?section=briefing>.

3. Final Assisted Areas Map

The Government, on the 10 October, published its final map of Assisted Areas showing the zones where businesses can apply for regional aid.

<http://www.lgiu.gov.uk/briefings.jsp?section=briefing>.

4. Creating an Ideopolis: Structures and Powers for City Regions

The Work Foundation has published a report on the development of the Greater Manchester area: 'Creating an Ideopolis: Case Study of Manchester'. The report discusses the model of an Ideopolis as a focus of the developing knowledge economy. It sets out analysis of Manchester's strengths and weaknesses against this model, and makes recommendations for the future. The model has relevance for the development of other cities.

<http://www.lgiu.gov.uk/briefings.jsp?section=briefing>.

IN THE NEWS...

Labour market figures - employment above 29 million for first time...

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/mediacentre/pressreleases/2006/oct/stat181006-lms.asp>

Ed Miliband launches £2m centre for research into what makes people give to Charity...

<http://www.gnn.gov.uk/Content/Detail.asp?ReleaseID=234677&NewsAreaID=2>

Many people unhappy with their council...

Fewer than 50 per cent of people are happy with the way their local authority runs things in their area, according to a government-commissioned survey. The communities secretary, Ruth Kelly, hopes to use the results as a springboard for the local government white paper.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/480e2932-6232-11db-af3e-0000779e2340.html>

EU Migrant Restrictions...

The Home Secretary, John Reid, is set to announce plans to restrict the number of people from Romania and Bulgaria who can work in the UK when those countries join the European Union next year. There are fears an 'open door' policy would be unsustainable.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/1b7581bc-6233-11db-af3e-0000779e2340.html>

Blair's Six Policy Groups To Safeguard Legacy...

Tony Blair yesterday secured Cabinet backing for a plan to establish six new policy groups. The move seen as a bid to rival the Conservatives's efforts to produce new policies for the next election will cover public services, the environment and energy, economic dynamism, security, crime and justice as well as the role of the State and Britain and the World.

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,17129-2413102,00.html>

More Freedom For Councils...

The Local Government White Paper, due out next week, is expected to give greater freedoms to councils run by directly elected mayors.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/guardianpolitics/story/0,,1926800,00.html>

Regions Face Fall In Brussels Aid...

UK regions face sharp falls in the amount of European Union aid they receive for economic development over the next seven years, under plans announced by the Government.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/b6cae81e-62fb-11db-8faa-0000779e2340.html>

New Powers For Parish Councils...

Parish councils are to be given new powers to deliver instant justice by imposing fixed penalty fines of up to £100. They will also be able to set local laws without seeking the approval of central government. Ruth Kelly believes, ahead of the local government white paper that as bylaws are local laws dealing with local issues, they should be set locally in consultation with people in the area without reference to central government.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/crime/article/0,,1929868,00.html>

CONFERENCES

**LGA conference: Local Area Agreements looking to 2008 and beyond
Thursday 11 January 2007.**

The conference will cover the key concerns of those currently making LAAs happen on the ground. It will also look to the future, generating ideas from councils and their local partners, to put to Ministers. Leading LGA members will outline their proposition for an ambitious second generation of LAAs, for 2008 and beyond. Delegate booking forms are available on the website at www.lga.gov.uk in the events section. Online booking is available to all LGA members. Contact: LGconnect on 020 7664 3131 or info@lga.gov.uk

HALTON NEWS

Launching the Enterprise Game

Halton EBP is currently finalising the initial production run of three thousand Games ready to launch 'The Enterprise Game' on November 16, 2006, as part of Enterprise Week. Two thousand of these Games will be 'standard' editions and can be played anywhere in the country. Five hundred, however, will be customised for Halton and feature 28 Halton enterprises, while another five hundred Games will incorporate the logos of 28 businesses drawn from the six boroughs of Greater Merseyside. The launch will take place at the Halton Stadium on 16th November 2006 between 9 a.m. and 1p.m.

For further information and to find out more about the launch contact Karen Tunstall at the Enterprise Business Partnership on 0151 424 2061 ext 4216 or email Karen.tunstall@halton.gov.uk

You can also visit www.enterpriseweek.org for more information about November's Enterprise Week.

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