



MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CORPORATION – LAKES COLLEGE, WEST CUMBRIA

Held on Thursday 29 January 2009 at 18.45pm in the Boardroom, Lakes College, West Cumbria.

PRESENT: Damian McSweeney (Chair), Paul Pharaoh, Joe Holliday, John Lackie, Cath Richardson (Principal), Eunice Simmons, Michael Doyle, Andrew Oldham, Jimi Adams and Gerald Humes

APOLOGIES: Steve Bradley, Norma Boyes, Susie Shepherd, Mike Davidson, Clare Walker, Adrian Taylor and Jo Lomax (Acting Assistant Principal, Curriculum and Quality)

IN ATTENDANCE: Karen Wilson (Director of Finance and Corporate Services), Cyril Wheat (Assistant Principal, External Relations) and Hilary Hemm (Clerk to the Governors).

01/09 PROPOSED SUB-CONTRACTING ARRANGEMENT

The Assistant Principal, External Relations presented his report on this proposal, which would require Corporation approval.

Since the report had been prepared there had been further discussion with the LSC and it had become clear that the sub-contract would not in fact be a viable proposition at the level indicated in his report. There was a risk that an arrangement at too high a level may adversely affect funding from the LSC in future years. He therefore sought members' approval in principle for a smaller contract.

There followed a long discussion about the proposal and its details, with members seeking reassurance on a number of issues including: that the sub-contractor, Learning Curve, would not take up work in competition with the College in future years, that training provision in the care sector was both viable and needed at present, that this was the most beneficial method of carrying out this training for the College, that risks such as quality control had been covered, that this was work better carried out by the College alone rather than in collaboration with the other Cumbrian Colleges and that there would be regular monitoring of the contract to ensure no major difficulties would arise.

The Assistant Principal, External Relations, the Director of Finance and Corporate Services and the Principal dealt with the queries between them. It was explained that it was the College that had access to the funding stream from the LSC and that Learning Curve would carry out the bulk of the work for this contract with 85% of the funding going to them and 15% to College. The company had been carefully investigated and had a good reputation in the sector. There would be close and regular monitoring of their activities with tight service level agreements in place and the ability to cancel the arrangement in the event of major problems. The financial return for the College was very similar to that which would be achieved were College to carry out the training itself and use of an outside trainer meant that there was no need to recruit the additional staff who would otherwise be needed. It was important for college that adult learner numbers were increased during the current year.

So far as future funding was concern, it had become clear that what activities College undertook in the current year could have an impact on funding allocated two years in the future. It was essential to ensure stability between the learner numbers and standard learner numbers ratios.

After further discussion,

RESOLVED that approval in principle be given for a sub contract arrangement with Learning Curve up to a value of £150,000, with the expectation that the final agreed value would be in the region of £100,000. The Assistant Principal, External Relations undertook to keep the Chair informed of developments, with an update on the situation being given to members at their next meeting in March. The Chair to have delegated authority to act on this matter if required prior to the next Corporation meeting in accordance with Para 3 of Appendix 3 of the Corporation Standing Orders.

The meeting closed at 19.30pm