

EDUCATION POLICY GROUP MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 4TH MAY

AT BAILLIE GIFFORD, 1 GREENSIDE ROW, EDINBURGH 1400-1600

Attendees

Sandy Paton (Chair)
Graham Bell, ECC
Nichola Dobson, ECC
Stephen Leach, Baillie Gifford
David Gilmour, Preston Lodge High School
Kay Smith

Apologies

Ron Hewitt, ECC
Jane Richardson, Oracle
Vivienne Taylor, Telford College
Alastair Hector, George Heriot's School

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Chair welcomed the group and the noted apologies from a number of members.

2. MINUTES OF MEETING 21st MARCH 2006

The group agreed the accuracy of the previous minutes.

3. MATTERS ARISING

The group agreed that there were no matters arising.

4. PILOT SCHEMES – WORK EXPERIENCE, GUEST SPEAKERS

The group discussed the work experience pilot that ECC is proposing to develop 'best practice' and a model which can consistently benchmark the quality of the work experience pupils receive. It was confirmed that four schools have been nominated to take part in the pilot; George Heriots School, George Watsons College, Preston Lodge High School and Broughton High School.

It was agreed that guest speakers would be high profile entrepreneurs from local businesses would visit schools and hopefully institute return visits to their own businesses.

Alison McClure from the Institute of Physics stated that it is usual that business is not directly utilised by people in this field.

Focus on both S1/2 and S5/6 (one for each).

The question was asked when the most appropriate time is to conduct the work experience. August was suggested as a potential time. This may or may not be feasible. Concerns about exam diet intervening. Several groups may be required to achieve useful feedback.

DG commented that the web tools and collaboration online were working well in East Lothian.

KD suggested 'best practice' template would be a good initiative. A questionnaire could be designed to assess what pupils require out of the work experience week. This could be in the form of a 5 point Likert scale.

The work place could provide schools with forms to assess skills, etc which would assist in the development of a skills profile for pupils. Employers would be required to provide plans on pupils' workday activities.

DG – what might we do as longer term plan?

If the pilot in Edinburgh is a success it could be replicated in other schools in other areas by referring to the guidelines issued in published materials.

It was agreed the pilot would need to demonstrate successful outcomes which could be measured by referring to pupil and employee testimonials.

5. SIGNPOST CAREERS PAPER.

Jane Richardson tabled a paper, for information, outlining the Signposter service, an electronic information service providing information on learning and employment opportunities.

6. AOB

6. 1 Excel Website

David Gilmour Excel website East Lothian. Meeting with G Bell to discuss? Curriculum reforms? No progress with group . Careers Scotland. AP pursuing.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The chair will circulate details of next meeting to group.

ND/AJ