



The world we're in – autumn 2010
LSIS Council meeting
Caroline Mager, 7th October 2010

Structure...



- A reminder of what we *don't* know
- What we do know – key themes
- Priorities for LSIS support

Known unknowns...



- The Spending Review and all that goes with it – due 20th October
- The Browne Review of HE funding and student finance – next week
- Skills strategy – due later in the autumn
- The future of 14-19 vocational education – Alison Wolf's review – interim report end December; final report spring 2011
- The final form of the funding body or bodies for our sector

New since July...



Funding and skills strategy consultations:

- Serious review of fees and who pays
- Entitlements – a break on responsiveness? Or critical to the fairness agenda?
- Major review of how funding works:
 - Minimum contract values
 - Funding on outcomes
 - Public funding following private investment
- Colleges role in communities emphasised
- Local Enterprise Partnerships – led by private sector

The Big Society – the story



The three pillars:

- Freedom
- Fairness
- Responsibility

Society is not a spectator sport

Freedom – opportunities and challenges



Greater freedom and devolution:

- Less answers and direction from the centre
- A new era of governance/trusteeship and leadership
- A need to focus on ethical decision-making

And in a time of austerity...

- Moving from a culture of compliance to a culture of enterprise and innovation

Fairness – opportunities and challenges



... a new conversation about what fairness really means

... those with broad shoulders bear a greater load

How to

- engage in the debate to promote FE's role?
- ensure that simplicity is not the enemy of fairness?
- work more effectively with the welfare strategy?
- Flaunt/develop the sector's contribution to social mobility?
- develop our role in widening access to HE?

Responsibility – opportunities and challenges



- Rethinking accountability and sources of legitimacy – shifting accountability from Whitehall to civil society
- Becoming accountable to citizens and customers – through data?
- Maintaining credibility and legitimacy with citizens
- Centre no longer responsible – don't ask for advice
- What's the legitimate role of central government?

Public investment and the economy



- Rethinking public investment
- Rebalancing of self-help and state intervention
- Competition and collaboration?
- Private sector led growth and economic renewal
- *Business working in equal partnership with civic leaders via local enterprise partnerships*
- Very limited role for central government - reduction in central support functions and advice

Curriculum



- Greater control of curriculum is critical to real freedom; rhetoric of greater responsiveness – mechanisms unclear?
- Capacity for curriculum design and development?
- Clear support for technical and practical learning
- 14-19 vocational education review – Alison Wolf
- How to maintain a coherent and comprehensive offer for young people and for adults?

Summary...



- Greater demand and higher expectations
- More responsibility, more strategic choices
- Less money
- Less central advice and guidance – *over to you* culture

Where should LSIS focus its resource?

Major priorities for support?



- Strategic and operational planning
- Leadership and governance for self-regulation
- New approaches to accountability
- Fairness and social mobility
- Place-based collaboration, partnerships and development

Regional seminars



Exploring the new world we're in – stepping up to the opportunities and challenges ahead

Wednesday 13th October – Southwark College, London

Tuesday 19th October – Centre for Life, Newcastle

Thursday 21st October – City of Bristol College

Monday 25th October – EMFEC, Nottingham

Monday 1st November – Salford City College

10.30-1.00 followed by lunch