

## Bitesize Briefing

# Notes from Liaison meeting between LSC & East Midlands Learning & Development Consortia (January 2008)

### Funding & Opportunities

- More money for level 3 is coming into the East Midlands
- Volunteers working alongside employees are eligible for Train to Gain
- LSC Funding is increasingly going along the escalator model, for example the OLASS part of the ESF tenders
- East Midlands LSC is underperforming on Skills for Life part of Train to Gain
- 14-19 alternative pathways is an opportunity for VCS organisations
- Likely to be funding for an Employability Skills Programme in 2008-9
- LSC trying to open up capital funding so that it spreads beyond FE institutions. A VCS pilot is being developed to link with the Local Authority Asset Transfer
- DLDC will be funded to deliver Level 3 IAG training for members

### Tendering

- All LSC procurement now has to go to open and competitive tendering. Organisations not meeting minimum requirements, will result in re-tendering
- Compact will form part of procurement and the VCS is included in the statement of priorities
- Next Step contract will be going out for tender for 2008-2010

### Other

- An Adult Learning Strategy is being developed for each area
- Liaising with LAA & City Partnerships will become vital
- The Third Sector Single Platform has now replaced Engage and Voice. It will not provide any direct delivery, but will act as an assembly and a point of VCS contact for EMDA & GOEM
- Adult apprenticeships will be a big drive
- Consult LSC website for "Working Together: an update on the LSC strategy for working with the third sector"

### Machinery of Government

- End of Feb / beg of March a joint CSF / DIUS consultation paper on the learning and skills structure will be funded. Particularly focusing on Funding, 14-19 and 19+
- It is intended that 14-19 will remain linked to 19+ to avoid an unnatural division
- It is intended that local authorities will be able to fund complementary services for young people
- Funding will be for provision not for the area
- Inclination for 19+ Skills Agency, but uncertain how to set that up to meet the needs of a demand-led system
- Policy decisions in June; Legislation in Autumn 08; Royal assent summer 09