

Education Inquiry

Terms of Reference

Purpose

To examine the most pressing issues for primary and secondary school education in London and develop recommendations for practical action. To engage key partners, including boroughs, schools, policy makers, business, voluntary and cultural sectors, effectively in the inquiry.

Education is of vital importance to the Mayor's ambition for London to be the best big city in the world. The Inquiry's recommendations should harness education's power to drive regeneration and greater equality, to enable Londoners to find fulfilling work and to support a thriving cultural, sporting and scientific sector.

Key tasks

- Identify the key issues for London's schools, based on the latest research, available data and consultations with the key stakeholder groups.
- Determine, on this basis, the key themes of Inquiry, likely to include (but not necessarily limited to):
 - the priorities for education in the global city
 - funding challenges relating to London's demographic changes
 - educational standards and quality of learning provision
 - the attainment of currently under-achieving groups, including some ethnic groups, boys, children living in poverty
 - discipline, truancy, exclusion and anti-social behaviour
 - partnerships that enrich provision and support fulfilling post-16 pathways (for example between business and the cultural sector and schools, or private and state schools and colleges)
- Steer the development and delivery/commissioning of a research, consultation and analysis programme to ensure the Inquiry is comprehensively informed.
- Develop and sustain strong collaborative relationships with key regional and national partnerships and stakeholders, to facilitate buy-in to the final proposals.
- Develop innovative, workable solutions and clear recommendations across each of the themes of the Inquiry, clearly reflecting the research and consultation evidence.
- Act as advocates for education in London, as a key driver for regeneration, improved equality, economic wellbeing and a thriving cultural, sporting and scientific sector.

Outputs

- An interim report in February 2012 setting out the key issues for education in London and emerging solutions, supported by evidence.
- A final report in September 2012, with clear practical recommendations for the GLA, DfE, boroughs, school leaders and other agencies.
- A launch event and conference.

Frequency of meetings

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Monthly initially until February 2012 when frequency will be reviewed. Meetings will not normally be open to the public, though the panel may invite additional people to attend on specific issues.

Budget

A consultation/stakeholder engagement budget of £16,000 and a research and contingency budget of £10,000 will be available.

In addition members will be able to claim necessary travel and subsistence expenses.

Appointments

Appointment of the Chair and Members to take place in December 2011 and comply with Nolan principles.

If a place on the Inquiry falls vacant, the Chair will draw up a shortlist of potential new appointments in consultation with the Members and the Secretariat. The Mayor and the GLA will appoint from this shortlist.

Independence

The Inquiry is not party political, and members are expected to maintain a political independence at meetings and other activities.

Secretariat

CYPU at the GLA will provide a Secretariat to support the work of the Inquiry including drafting papers for meetings, commissioning research and data from Intelligence, organising stakeholder engagement events and visits, input to drafting and publishing of reports and steering press activity.

Publication

The Inquiry will publish key papers on a page on the GLA website (www.london.gov.uk), including the interim report, call for evidence, summary of evidence received and final report. Other Inquiry papers will be published as agreed by the Chair.