

Learning Partnerships
National Advisory Group Members

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Dear Colleague,

LEARNING PARTNERSHIPS NATIONAL ADVISORY GROUP MEETING

I am writing enclosing a copy of the agenda for Friday's meeting and to let you know about the outcome of the consultation on Learning Partnerships. I attach a copy of Margaret Hodge's letter of 29 April to chairs of Learning Partnerships and a question and answer brief we have prepared, which is also on the Learning Partnership website www.lifelonglearning.co.uk/lip news page. Peter Mucklow will be writing to your chief executives later this week bringing them up to date on the review.

You will see from the Minister's letter that we have taken the opportunity to redefine the core roles for Learning Partnerships. These are based on two areas where there is greatest support from partners and where Partnerships have been particularly effective so far. The redefined core roles are:

- promoting provider collaboration in support of lifelong learning; and
- maximising the contribution of learning to local regeneration.

This gives Learning Partnerships a clear role which is distinctive from the LSC, a recurring theme from respondents to the review.

The letter also sets out a change in the funding and support arrangements. From April 2003, the £10m Learning Partnership fund will transfer to the LSC and become part of the Local Initiative Fund. John Harwood, the LSC Chief Executive, has given a commitment to continuity of funding for all Learning Partnerships for 2003-4. This will help smooth the transition to the new arrangements. Better coordination of the activities of Learning Partnerships and local LSCs will reduce duplication and confusion amongst providers and other partners, and reduce "partnership fatigue".

Officials in the Department and Government Offices will continue to support Partnerships throughout 2002-3 and I am sure you will wish to play your part in managing a successful transition. Friday's meeting gives us a chance to make a start and I look forward to meeting you all again.

Ian Goodwin