LONDON metropolitan university

Working in partnership: setting the scene

Professor Malcolm Gillies

Vice-Chancellor
London Metropolitan University

.

LONDON metropolitan university

Setting the Scene

Malcolm Gillies

Higher Education and Schools Partnerships Conference, London

"Social Mobility through Higher Education"

Tuesday 25 May 2010

Setting the Scene

LONDON metropolitan university

Once Upon a Time . . .

2006: Better skills “to maximise economic prosperity, productivity and to improve social justice” (Leitch)

2013: Compulsory education to age 17

2015: Compulsory education to age 18

2020: “Prosperity for all in the global economic – world-class skills” (Leitch)

Setting the Scene

LONDON metropolitan university

Pledge 1

Every maintained secondary school in London will have a partnership with a higher education institution

(London Challenge, School-HE Links in London)

Setting the Scene

LONDON metropolitan university

For Schools

- Master classes on the latest research in subject areas
- Better information, advice and guidance to give to pupils and parents - particularly on student finance and admissions
- Opportunities for enhancing the curriculum. Generating a better understanding of progression

(www.londonhigher.ac.uk/shell.html)

Setting the Scene

LONDON metropolitan university

For HEIs

- Better understanding of recent advances in the areas of personalised learning and pedagogical development
- Creating long-term and sustainable outreach programmes
- Enriching undergraduate opportunities by facilitating the mentoring of pupils

(www.londonhigher.ac.uk/shell.html)

Setting the Scene

LONDON metropolitan university

Pledge 2

A higher proportion of young Londoners will go on to higher education, including the more competitive universities

(London Challenge, School-HE Links in London)

Setting the Scene

LONDON metropolitan university

Leitch's 2020 ambitions

Basic skills: over 90 per cent of adult population Level 2 or above

Intermediate skills: over 70 per cent of adult population Level 3 or above

Higher skills: over 40 per cent of adult population Level 4 or above

London skills: 50 per cent of London **jobs** requiring Level 4 or above

Setting the Scene

LONDON metropolitan university

Current Tensions

- Participation in selecting universities not widening?
- Proportion of population going on to HE not increasing?

In particular:

- Participation in recruiting universities narrowing?

Setting the Scene

Participation in selecting universities not widening?

- "widening participation has broadly speaking not increased in the most selective third of institutions"
- the key is "to raise aspiration levels as early as possible"
- "social confidence" is a key factor

(Martin Harris, "What more can be done to widen access to highly selective universities?", April 2010)

Setting the Scene

LONDON metropolitan university

Proportion going to HE not increasing?

- Stuck at around 40 per cent, although changing balance
- Reducing number of funded places
- Inadequacy of bursary schemes

(House of Commons Public Accounts committee, *Widening participation in higher education,* February 2009)

Setting the Scene

LONDON metropolitan university

Participation in recruiting universities narrowing?

- Reducing number of funded places
- Less secure employment prospects
- Emerging higher percentage of higher SES participation
- Higher fees, debt and risk
- From social mobility to individual talent?

Setting the Scene

LONDON metropolitan university

Lord Browne HE Funding Review: Second consultation

1. Sustainability “ensured”
2. Quality, efficiency and innovation “driven up”
3. Participation “incentivized”
4. Fair access “promoted and enforced”

(15 March 2010, www.hereview.independent.ac.uk/hereview)

Setting the Scene

To watch

From participation to access? "fairer access" rather than "wider participation"

From HE to HE/FE? funding mechanisms and policy integration

From ring-fencing to "comprehensive spending review"? Relative protection or exposure of (higher) education

From partnerships to . . . coalitions?

Setting the Scene

Malcolm Gillies

m.gillies@londonmet.ac.uk

SHELL programme

http://www.londonhigher.ac.uk/shell.html