



## **LEP – Sub Committee**

### **LEP - Lancashire Skills and Employment Board**

**Private and Confidential: No**

Wednesday, 30 November 2016

### **Area Based Review (ABR) - Progress Report**

**Report Author:** Dr Michele Lawty-Jones, Director of the Lancashire Skills and Employment Hub, [michele.lawty-jones@lancashirelep.co.uk](mailto:michele.lawty-jones@lancashirelep.co.uk)

#### **Executive Summary**

The paper provides an update in relation to the Lancashire Area Based Review (ABR) and progress to-date.

The second steering group took place on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November, at which the Deputy FE Commissioner and the Chair/Principal of each institution outlined the options considered by institution and the preferred way forward. The third takes place on the 29<sup>th</sup> November (the day before the committee meeting). A verbal update in regard to the third steering group will be given at the meeting.

It was agreed by the committee that the ABR Working Group would continue to meet throughout the review. The notes from the meetings held on the 10<sup>th</sup> October and the 2<sup>nd</sup> November are provided for information in Appendix A. Key areas of focus include supporting the Joint Area Review Development Unit (JARDU) with stakeholder engagement, consideration of actions emerging from the steering groups and areas of collaboration with the Shadow CA/LEP to include in the ABR recommendations.

#### **Recommendation**

The committee is asked to note the update and to contribute to a discussion at the meeting about the outcomes of Steering Group 3 (held the day before the committee) and areas for strengthened collaboration.

## **Area Based Review – Progress Update**

### **1.0 Background**

1.1 As previously outlined, the Area Based Reviews (ABRs), driven by Government and the FE Commissioner, will review the College infrastructure



across England with view to delivering institutions which are financially viable, sustainable, resilient and efficient with an offer that meets each area's educational and economic needs.

- 1.2 Lancashire is in Wave 4 of the reviews and a schedule of 5 Steering Group meetings has been set; the schedule started in October, and ends with the final meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> February 2017.

## **2.0 Steering Groups**

- 2.1 The first meeting set the context for the review, and included the joint 'skills conclusion' presentation from the LEP and the Local Authorities on the economic and educational context in the County.
- 2.2 The second meeting included findings from the College site visits undertaken by JARDU and meetings with the Deputy FE Commissioner, and an input from each Chair/Principal about structural options considered to-date and the preferred option for their institution. A collective response to the challenges raised by the LEP and Local Authorities in the first meeting was also presented by The Lancashire Colleges (TLC), alongside an individual response from St Mary's College (who are not a member of TLC).
- 2.3 The presentation from TLC outlined the strengths of the Colleges collectively against the Skills and Employment Strategic Framework and identified a number of areas for increased collaboration and co-operation, with the Shadow Combined Authority and LEP. These included, for example, CEIAG, school improvement, high needs, apprenticeships and specialisms. These will be developed further for Steering Group 3, at which each College and TLC will input further information on considerations in regard to structural changes and areas for collaboration.
- 2.4 The third meeting will focus on the structural options that have emerged, and testing, as well as areas for softer collaboration. Meeting four will provide draft recommendations and meeting five will involve feedback from the institutions on decisions in relation to the recommendations, agreement of the Area Review report, discussion about implementation and communications.

## **3.0 ABR Working Group**

- 3.1 It was agreed at the last committee meeting that the ABR Working Group would continue to meet throughout the review. The notes from the two meetings held since the last committee meeting are provided for information in Appendix A. As can be seen from the notes, key areas of focus include supporting JARDU with stakeholder engagement, consideration of actions emerging from the steering groups and areas of collaboration with the Shadow CA/LEP to include in the ABR recommendations.



#### **4.0 Recommendations**

- 4.1 The committee is asked to note the update and to contribute to a discussion at the committee meeting about the outcomes of Steering Group 3 (held the day before) and areas for strengthened collaboration.

**AREA BASED REVIEW – WORKING GROUP**

**MONDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2-4 PM, LANCASHIRE COLLEGE**

**Present:**

Julia Coleman  
Rosie Fearn  
Paul Holme  
Michele Lawty-Jones (chair)  
Lisa Moizer  
Robin Newton-Syms  
Ajay Sethi  
Mike Taplin  
John Barber (JARDU)

**Apologies:**

Dean Langton  
Andy Walker

**Key Points:**

**Matters Arising**

All actions had been completed and Steering Group membership confirmed with JARDU. The Skills and Employment Board approved continuation of the Working Group through the review process.

**Steering Group 1**

Positive feedback was shared regarding the joint presentation from the LEP and the Local Authorities, setting the economic and educational context for the review. The input set a positive tone for the start of the review, and showed the level of preparation and joint working undertaken to-date.

John asked that the data sharing agreement be signed by all parties involved, including representatives of the Shadow Combined Authority.

**Action: Data Sharing Agreement to be signed by all additional attendees – JB to take forward with DL.**

**Steering Group 2**

In terms of process, the colleges are required to respond to the economic and educational context described during Steering Group 1; responding to the 'checklist' set out against the quadrants of the Skills and Employment Strategic Framework.

It has been agreed that RN-S will provide a response on behalf of the members of The Lancashire Colleges (TLC), followed with individual inputs re: structural options from each member college. As St Mary's College and Thomas Whitham Sixth Form are not members, they will input independently. Whilst West Lancashire College are a member of TLC, it should be noted that they sit within the



Northeast review as they are part of NCG; the curriculum offer of the College is being considered in the analysis, as the College are taking a place-based approach to curriculum development.

The colleges have analysed all the options for their institution, including stand alone. They have considered all options and are thinking about what is best for their students.

Discussion is on-going regarding collaboration in relation to the curriculum offer and in regards to apprenticeships and apprenticeship growth. It is recognised that solutions and options are not just about the immediate future, but also about the medium to longer term.

It is intended that the TLC presentation will include reference to the existing curriculum offer, mapping, gaps and areas for improved collaboration. The draft will be shared with the Working Group, once it has received approval from the Principals. JB indicated that the final version needed to be with JARDU by the 26<sup>th</sup> October.

**Action: RN-S to circulate draft TLC presentation for comment, once approved by the Principals, and to send the final version to JB on the 26<sup>th</sup> October.**

There was a discussion about activity between Steering Groups 2 and 3, JB indicated that the Deputy Commissioner is responsible for taking forward consideration of the structural options that are emerging; the LEP/Local Authorities will have a role in considering collaborative models and curriculum offer with the Deputy Commissioner. It is important that structural options are reviewed and are viable, in terms of modelling (e.g. FE and HE) and in terms of access to any necessary infrastructure funds.

It was agreed that the review was also an opportunity to shine a light on policy issues which are impacting on progression, for example: Care Leavers are financially worse off if they live on their own and they start an apprenticeship; some young people's parents stop them doing apprenticeships at 16 as they lose child benefit.

### **Stakeholder Engagement**

John highlighted the process for stakeholder engagement and asked for support from the Working Group members.

#### **Actions:**

**MLJ to organise a meeting UCLAN and JB, and link JB to other HEIs.**

**MLJ to connect JB to employer representative groups.**

**MT to connect JB with Adult Learning providers.**

**As to connect JB with High Needs providers.**

**AS / MT / JC to connect JB with schools in the respective areas.**

**AREA BASED REVIEW – WORKING GROUP**

**WEDNESDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER 1-3 PM, LANCASHIRE COLLEGE**

**Present:**

Julia Coleman  
Rosie Fearn  
Paul Holme  
Dean Langton  
Michele Lawty-Jones (chair)  
Lisa Moizer  
Robin Newton-Syms  
Ajay Sethi  
Mike Taplin  
John Barber (JARDU)  
Jennie Winckley (JARDU)

**Apologies:**

Andy Walker

**Key Points:**

**Matters Arising**

The Data Sharing Agreements have been signed by all involved in the Steering Group, apart from Lancaster Diocese, this is being followed up by JW.

**Stakeholder Engagement**

Jennie provided an up-date against the actions relating to stakeholder engagement.

Letters have been sent to schools in Lancashire via the 3 upper tier authorities. A deadline of the 10<sup>th</sup> November has been set for responses.

Colleges have provided details of individual employers; questionnaires have been sent to the employers by JARDU and responses are coming in. In addition, a number of employer representative bodies have been approached – some of which are submitting written responses on behalf of their members, some are sending questionnaires to members and in some cases JARDU are attending meetings.

A meeting has been held with UCLan and JB is attending the WBL Executive Forum Board on Monday. A number of out-of-area Colleges have also been sent questionnaires (based on delivery of 5%+ in Lancashire). It was suggested that a similar approach could be taken to engage the broader network of independent training providers operating in Lancashire (using volume as a benchmark rather than percentage in Lancashire).

**Action: JW to consider further engagement of independent training providers and sending questionnaires to those providers delivering adequate volumes in Lancashire.**

AS indicated that the majority of high needs providers were picked up via engagement with schools and through the colleges involved in the review.



JW indicated that a high needs data report would be produced for Steering Group 3, as this had been identified as a key theme nationally and also in the Lancashire skills conclusion. This was welcomed by the group. It was agreed that JW would circulate the data, after also reviewing and adding information from the LEP and LA detailed slide pack and circulate to colleagues for feedback – AS, JC, MT to provide additional narrative / context as appropriate. It was agreed that the focus needed to be in whether there was sufficient entry level and above provision that was good quality and provided a pathway to independent living and employment.

**Action: JW to develop high needs report and circulate to AS, JC, MT (and the wider Working Group) for input before SG3.**

It was confirmed that a progress report would be provided at Steering Group 3; this would be added to as further information came in. It was suggested that we consider the themes from the stakeholder report and how these map to the skills conclusion and recommendations for actions, particularly in relation to collaboration.

**Action: Working Group to consider themes emerging from the feedback from Stakeholders at the next meeting.**

### **Sixth Form Provision**

RN-S raised the discussion at SG2 regarding school sixth forms and the question from David Collins (DC) as to whether the Local Authority or the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) were considering a parallel or subsequent review of schools sixth form provision. Bob Stott indicated at the steering group that this wasn't currently intended, but that it would be discussed further outside of the SG. Unfortunately the RSC gave apologies to the meeting and so was not there to comment. It was agreed that it would be useful to pick up this discussion with Bob and the Regional Schools Commissioner and BwD and Blackpool. PH indicated that the exclusion of sixth forms in the ABR had been raised at a recent Education Select Committee, at which DC gave evidence.

**Action: AS to raise with Bob and liaise with JC and MT. JARDU to encourage attendance of the RSC at SG4.**

### **Steering Group 2**

MLJ provided an overview of the headlines from the input by the Deputy FE Commissioner, Andrew Tyley, in relation to the site visits and meetings with Principals and Chairs; who also then contributed on the position of their institution and structural options.

Positive feedback was shared regarding the input from The Lancashire Colleges and presentation, and areas identified for development and for increased collaboration, against the skills conclusion. It was agreed that it would be useful to further develop the commitments presented in the slides and develop a template from TLC (on behalf of members) for Steering Group 3, alongside / reinforcing the templates that each of the colleges will be submitting.

A number of themes were discussed e.g. curriculum rationalisation, CEIAG, school improvement, high needs, apprenticeships and specialisms / world class provision. These need to be considered on different levels e.g. colleges individually, locality within Lancashire e.g. Pennine Lancashire and Lancashire-wide.



RN-S indicated that the Principals are meeting next week and that there will be a session which will further develop the commitments in the slides presented at the Steering Group. TLC will develop a template for Steering Group 3 and share it with the Working Group prior to submission to JARDU (on or around the 21<sup>st</sup> November).

**Action: RN-S to work with Principal's Group to develop commitments in the Steering Group presentation, with view to submitting a template to next Steering Group.**

**Next meeting:** Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November, 1-3pm, Lancashire College.