



LEP – Sub Committee

LEP - Lancashire Skills and Employment Board

Private and Confidential: NO

Date: Wednesday, 3 April 2019

Apprenticeship Action Group

Appendices A and B refer

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Executive Summary

This paper provides an update in regards to the work of the Apprenticeship Action Group. The formation of the group was an action from the last Skills and Employment Board in November 2018. It describes the process the Action Group has gone through to create an evidence base which has in turn enabled the Action Group to produce draft recommendations and an associated action plan.

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to:

1. Note the work of the Apprenticeship Action Group.
2. Review and comment on the draft recommendations and associated action plan, with view to a final version being submitted to the committee at the next meeting for approval.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 At the last formal Skills and Employment Board in November 2019 it was suggested that the committee should work in partnership with Lancashire Leaders in order to review the reduction in Apprenticeship starts in Lancashire, the impact of the Apprenticeship Reforms and establish examples of good practice in relation to use of the Apprenticeship Levy. It was proposed that a task and finish group be established, which would report back to the committee.
- 1.2 An Apprenticeship Action Group has been established and the group has met on the 1st December 2018 and the 22nd January and 27th February 2019.



1.3 The membership of the Apprenticeship Action Group is as follows:

Vanessa Carthy	Lancashire County Council
Jennifer Clough	South Ribble Borough Council
Raeleen Duthoit,	Lancashire Work Based Learning Executive Forum
Sara Gaskell	Lancashire Skills Hub
Pam Goulding	Lancashire County Council
Janette Healy	DTS Learndirect
Dean Langton	Pendle Borough Council
Dr Michele Lawty-Jones	Lancashire Skills Hub
Gareth Lindsay	NLTG
Lisa Moizer	Lancashire Skills Hub
Mark Townsend	Burnley Borough Council

2.0 Summary of Apprenticeship Action Group's work to date

2.1 Evidence Base

An evidence base has been created from a broad range of national and local research and data. A key component of the data compiled was data purchased from a company called Bluesheep which enables identification of business workplaces where Apprentices are employed. This data can be cross referenced against the database provided to LEPs by the Department for Education which provides Apprenticeship numbers, levels, qualifications etc. Please refer to **Appendix A** for a full explanation of the data and the analysis of the Bluesheep data to-date.

The following research has contributed to the evidence base.

Local:

- Eunoia Associates report - Effective Employer Engagement Action Research Project (August 2018) commissioned by Lancashire Work Based Learning Executive Forum
- Learndirect qualitative research (Autumn 2018)
- Lancashire Work Based Learning Executive Forum survey feedback (January 2019)
- Local Authority survey feedback (January 2019)

National:

- City & Guild and ILM report - Flex for success, Employers perspective on the Apprenticeship Levy (January 2019)

2..1.1 Two questionnaires have been devised by the Action Group, one of which was completed by each of the Councils requesting information on levy spend and activity. The other was completed by a number of Lancashire based Apprenticeship Providers and was distributed by the Lancashire Work Based Learning Executive Forum. The results of both surveys have fed into the draft action plan.

2.2 Draft Recommendations and Action Plan



The evidence base has enabled the Action Group to determine the priority issues for Lancashire, in the context of a joint partnership approach and the consideration of the level of resource available. The Action Group has produced a set of draft recommendations and actions which are being presented to the Lancashire Skills and Employment Board and the Lancashire Leaders for review and comment concurrently. Please refer to **Appendix B** for the draft recommendations and action plan.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
N/A		

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate
N/A