

Purpose

To support the Lancashire Skills Board to discharge its duties and in doing so facilitate/enable a better balanced, skilled and inclusive labour market which underpins and contributes to economic well-being and growth across the County. The Skills Hub is a strategic unit not a delivery organisation.

Key Objectives

- To develop a robust evidence base for Lancashire and a Skills and Employment Strategic Framework which will drive a balanced, skilled and inclusive labour market.
 - The framework will include sector skills action plans and the facilitation of Sector Skills Development Partnerships.
 - The framework will include a Careers Education and Information, Advice and Guidance section.
- To consult and gain stakeholderⁱ ownership of the Skills and Employment Framework and allied actions, and facilitate and monitor implementation.
- To use the Skills and Employment Framework and related intelligence to influence and prioritise the use of relevant mainstream and discretionary funding, policy and reviews. For example:
 - The Lancashire European Structural Investment Fund (ESIF) strategy and allocation of funding, in particular European Social Funds (ESF).
 - Reviews of infrastructure and provision e.g. Lancashire Area Review.
 - Prioritisation of skills capital allocations via Growth Deal.
 - Asks of Government in the context of the Northern Powerhouse and the devolution agenda.
- To be a hub of intelligence in regard to relevant policy and labour market intelligence (LMI) for local stakeholders and to influence and position Lancashire in the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) network and nationally.
- To be a catalyst for improving supply side capacity and responsiveness, instigating innovation and the development of new products and services (delivered by providers).
 - For example, the development of higher and degree level apprenticeships.
- To facilitate a coherent 'umbrella' of marketing and communications activities (which add value to individual provider activity and which align with the local Growth Hub – 'Boost') and drive the engagement of employers and learners.

Success Criteria for 2015/16

- Skills and Employment Framework completed with ownership of key stakeholders; evidence of action in accordance with the timelines in the framework.
- ESIF & Growth Deal skills capital funding aligned to the priorities in the Framework and a significant proportion of ESIF funding allocated.

- Engage with and influence future mainstream 'skills' allocations to meet Lancashire priorities. Area review underway (working with SFA, BIS and DfE), based on intelligence / needs of Lancashire.
- Evidence of innovation and new products facilitated by the Lancashire Skills Hub.
- Evidence of marketing and communications activities which have engaged new employers and learners.
- Valued by local stakeholders.

ⁱ Stakeholders include employers, providers (public, private and third sector), representative bodies, Local Authorities and other relevant interested parties.