

LEP - Lancashire Skills and Employment Board

Wednesday, 7th June, 2017 in Room 406 - Lancashire Adult College, Southport, Chorley PR7 1NB, at 8.00 am

Agenda

Part I (Items Publicly Available)

- 1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence**
- 2. Declarations of Interest**
- 3. Minutes of the meeting held on 22 February 2017** (Pages 1 - 8)
- 4. Matters Arising**
- 5. Skills & Employment Hub Update** (Pages 9 - 16)
- 6. Local Landscape - update**
Verbal report - Martin Kelly
- 7. Skills and Employment Framework Refresh**
Verbal report – Amanda Melton
- 8. Refresh of Evidence Base - Future Workforce (0-16)**
- 9. Area Based Review (ABR): Approval of Terms of Reference for the Implementation Group** (Pages 17 - 20)
- 10. Reporting to the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership**
 - Identification and agreement of any recommendations for consideration/approval by the LEP Board.
 - Identification and agreement of issues for inclusion in the feedback report for the LEP Board.
- 11. Any Other Business**
- 12. Date of Next Meeting**

The next formal meeting will be held on 18 October 2017 in Cabinet Room C – the Duke of Lancaster Room, County Hall, Preston.

Part II (Private and Confidential)

13. ESF SFA Opt-Ins

13a ESF SFA Opt-ins: Performance Report (Pages 21 - 34)

(Not for Publication - Exempt information as defined in Paragraph 41 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. It is considered that in all the circumstances of the case the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information)

13b ESF SFA Opt-ins: Re-profile Requests (Pages 35 - 40)

(Not for Publication - Exempt information as defined in Paragraph 41 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. It is considered that in all the circumstances of the case the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information)

13c ESF SFA Opt-ins: Capacity Building/Engagement Activity Plans - Progress Report (Pages 41 - 44)

(Not for Publication - Exempt information as defined in Paragraph 41 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. It is considered that in all the circumstances of the case the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information)

LEP - Lancashire Skills and Employment Board

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 22nd February, 2017 at 8.00am in Cabinet Room D - The Henry Bolingbroke Room, County Hall, Preston

Present

Amanda Melton

Lindsay Campbell
Steve Gray
Paul Holme
Lynne Livesey

Joanne Pickering
Bev Robinson
Andy Wood

Observers

Dean Langton
Sharon Riding

In Attendance

Michele Lawty-Jones, Lancashire Skills Hub
Lisa Moizer, Lancashire Skills Hub
Holly Tween, Company Services, Lancashire County Council

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that apologies had been received from Mark Allanson, Graham Haworth and Mark Townsend.

2. Declarations of Interest

Amanda Melton and Bev Robinson declared an interest in Item 12 as they represented organisations involved in the Area Based Review.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2017

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2017 are confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

4. Matters Arising

Any matters arising were dealt with elsewhere on the agenda.

5. Skills Hub Update

Michele Lawty-Jones presented the update report on Lancashire Skills Hub activity and highlighted the following:

The expansion of the Lancashire Enterprise Adviser Network with Inspira had exceeded the end of January target, as the network had now grown to include 62 schools. The Chair expressed thanks to Inspira and the Enterprise Coordinators Kay Vaughan, Penny Heyes and Andrew Heydeman for exceeding the engagement target.

The Careers and Enterprise Company has communicated that the Department for Education has confirmed funding for the Enterprise Adviser Network for a further two academic years (2018/19 and 2019/20). A total of £150k per year would be made available to support 6 Enterprise Coordinators for Lancashire. It was expected that a confirmation letter would be sent to the LEP in April. Match funding from Lancashire County Council was in place until the end of 2017/18; further match funding (of £150k per year – 50:50) would need to be confirmed to continue this activity.

The Skills Hub was involved in the development of the approach in the Blackpool Opportunity Area and was working with Graham Cowley, who would Chair the Executive Partnership which was being established to oversee the Opportunity Area Delivery Plan. It was agreed to invite Graham to attend the Committee's informal session in April to update the Committee on activity.

Three Strategic Partnerships Managers had been appointed to work on European Structural Investment Funds (ESIF) activity. They would produce an update report for each meeting of the Skills & Employment Board. The Committee discussed concerns around the accountability and monitoring of this work and the need for real scrutiny. It was agreed that the Strategic Partnership Managers should be invited to the April session to help the Committee understand performance, risks and contingencies for this area of work, to discuss the reporting role of the Strategic Partnership Managers, and to bring a paper setting out assurance of accountability. The Committee also felt a diagram setting out the reporting structure would be beneficial.

Resolved:

1. That Graham Cowley be invited to attend the Committee's informal session on 05 April to update on activity around the Blackpool Opportunity Area
2. That the three Strategic Partnership Managers be invited to attend the Committee's informal session on 05 April for a discussion around the ESIF activity, monitoring and accountability

3. A paper outlining the accountability of ESIF work, with a diagram of the ESIF activity reporting structure would be brought to the informal session on 05 April

6. National Collaboration Outreach Programme (NCOP)

Lynne Livesey gave a presentation outlining the National Collaborative Outreach Programme (NCOP), a two-year HEFCE funded programme targeting specific groups of students from disadvantaged backgrounds to encourage them to consider higher education.

The Lancashire Consortium's £2.2m funded programme was "Future U", linking young people in key stages 4 and 5 with mentoring and outreach activities in five delivery zones across Lancashire, selected by HEFCE. The aim was to double the proportion of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds in Higher Education (HE) by 2020, increase the number of students in HE from ethnic minority groups by 20% and increase the number of white young men from disadvantaged backgrounds, who were underrepresented in HE.

Future U will also develop an evidence base using a social impact mapping tool, and will evaluate links between education, enterprise and employability.

The Committee thanked Lynne for her presentation.

Joanne Pickering mentioned a group of people in Lancashire already qualified in mentoring who could work on this project, and would link with Lynne. It was also suggested that helpful links could be made with the employer ambassadors.

In response to discussion, it was confirmed that Future U would be coordinated with other projects in schools at a strategic level to minimise confusion for the young people, for example the Lancashire Enterprise Adviser Network, and some streams of work were taking place in the community to raise understanding of HE opportunities with parents, including an information pack on finance options.

Resolved: that the information presented be noted.

7. ESIF Programme - update and recommendations

Michele Lawty-Jones presented a report updating on progress in relation to the European Social Fund (ESF) element of the European Structural Investment Fund (ESIF) programme in Lancashire.

At the last Committee meeting it had been noted that no ESF calls had been issued in Lancashire since the EU referendum result. Following a discussion at the ESIF Committee, where the concern of the Skills and Employment Board was raised, the DWP had prioritised Lancashire and a call was issued on 30 January against investment priority 2.2, focusing on improving the labour market

relevance of provision and the engagement of small to medium enterprises.

Regarding the unallocated £13.7m SFA opt-in funding previously discussed, for use across priorities 1.1, 1.2 and 2.1, it was noted that policy remained unclear whether there would be the potential to extend timescales for current procured activities, but that a decision was expected in the next few months. It was therefore recommended that calls were not to be developed in relation to this funding until clarity is received in relation to national policy and that, if the policy remains unclear by June, recommendations be brought to the Committee with a view to developing calls for projects over the summer for release in September 2017.

Resolved:

1. That the progress in relation to procurement activity and release of the 2.2 call is noted
2. That calls would not be developed in relation to the £13.7m unallocated ESF funding until clarity is received in relation to national policy and that, if the policy remains unclear by June, recommendations be brought to the Committee with a view to developing calls for projects over the summer for release in September 2017.

8. Green Paper: Building our Industrial Strategy

Michele presented a summary report on The Green Paper 'Building our Industrial Strategy' which was published in January for consultation. The Committee were pointed to the pillar focussed on Developing Skills.

There was a brief discussion, during which the Committee noted their dissatisfaction with the language used and assumptions made in the Green Paper and it was agreed that, due to the depth of the consultation questions, Committee Members would send their comments to Michele, to be fed into the wider LEP response.

Resolved:

1. That the Industrial Strategy paper be noted
2. That Committee Members should send comments to Michele by 10 March 2017, to be fed into the LEP response to the consultation

9. Apprenticeship Growth Plan

Lisa presented the report setting out the draft Apprenticeship Growth Plan.

It was highlighted that the consultation responses had raised the need for an informed and nuanced approach to determining local apprenticeship growth

priorities, focusing on the socio-economic benefits for Lancashire.

The Skills Funding Agency have granted £5k funding to commission research analysing Lancashire employers to determine the expected number of apprenticeships for Lancashire that will be generated through the levy paying businesses. The research is planned to complete in April 2017.

In considering the report, the Committee noted that many employers were still struggling to understand how the apprenticeship levy would impact on them and the long term strategic benefits. It was suggested that there may be an opportunity to advise employers about the levy at the Lancashire HR Employers Forum in March. It was also commented that there was a need to ensure the quality of the programme, and that employers had the skills necessary to manage the programme properly.

It was suggested that the Plan should be a living document to capture any developments, and that close monitoring was needed of issues with colleges and providers so potential problems could be flagged up early.

Resolved: that the Committee sign off the Apprenticeship Growth Plan, on the understanding that it would be a living document.

10. DWP Fuller Working Lives Strategy and Lancashire 'The Value of Experience' Conference

Michele Lawty-Jones presented the report from Tracy Heyes, Strategic Partnership Manager, updating on DWP's Fuller Working Lives Strategy and highlighted that a conference titled 'The Value of Experience: retaining, retraining and recruiting older workers' was planned to be held in Lancashire on 25 April 2017. The aim of the conference was to challenge the perceptions of employers around recruiting and retaining older workers.

The conference would be funded through the ESIF capacity building fund, and UCLan had agreed to host without charge. Thanks were given to Lynne Livesey.

The Committee discussed the need for careful use of language to avoid being potentially offensive or patronising, and the need to make employers aware of unlawful discrimination against an employee because of their age.

The Committee were requested to send any further feedback, suggestions or good examples of businesses actively retaining older workers to Michele.

Resolved:

1. That the Fuller Working Lives report be noted
2. That the Value of Experience conference be noted, and that any further feedback, suggestions or good examples of businesses actively retaining or recruiting older workers be sent to Michele

11. Strategic Planning Session - expanding the evidence base

At this point the Committee approved that the meeting move into Part II, Private and Confidential to consider the items which contained exempt information provided in confidence as defined in the Freedom of Information Act 2000. It was considered that in all the circumstances of the case the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

The Committee was advised that any Committee Member wishing to tender for this project work should declare an interest and leave the room at this point. No declarations were made and all members present remained in the room.

Michele presented the draft specification for the Future Workforce evidence base study which, after the Committee had considered it, would be passed to the Local Education Authorities, and then to the LEP. In considering it, the Committee commented that the work should have a very tight remit, and noted the 10 week timescale.

Resolved: that the study specification be approved subject to discussion with the Local Education Authorities, and funding be sought from the LEP and Combined Authority to enable the piece of work to be commissioned

12. Area Based Review progress report

Michele Lawty-Jones presented the Area Based Review (ABR) progress report.

It was noted that the Lancashire ABR report would not be published until May.

The Committee discussed the task and finish implementation group and Pennine Strategic Planning Group, both of which would report to the Skills and Employment Board, and commented that the Terms of Reference should be kept very tight, include membership and governance arrangements, and that the focus of both groups should be on collaboration.

The working group was meeting on 22 February in the afternoon, and it was agreed that the focus should be on developing the Terms of Reference and membership for each.

Resolved:

1. That progress made in relation to ABR be noted
2. That the working group on 22 February should focus on the developing Terms of Reference and membership for the task and finish implementation group and Pennine Strategic Planning Group

3. That the proposed Terms of Reference should be brought to the Skills and Employment Board for approval by written resolution

The meeting then returned to Part I of the agenda (items publicly available).

13. Reporting to the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership

Resolved: that the outcomes from the Area Based Review be reported to the LEP Board and the shadow Combined Authority

14. Any Other Business

Dean Langton reported that the request for establishing the Lancashire Combined Authority had been submitted with a proposed commencement date for April; however, the Government had not yet responded so the proposed start date was expected to be delayed. It was expected that skills activity would be reported to the LEP Board and to the Combined Authority.

It was agreed that discussion at the informal session would focus on the Blackpool Opportunity Area, and ESIF Activity with the three Strategic Partnership Managers who would be invited to attend. Lisa would confirm the venue.

15. Date of Next Meeting

The next formal meeting of the Committee was scheduled to take place at 08.00 on 07 June 2017 in Cabinet Room D – Henry Bolingbroke Room, County Hall, Preston.

An informal session was scheduled for 05 April 2017, proposed venue Lancashire College – to be confirmed.



LEP – Sub Committee

LEP - Lancashire Skills and Employment Board

Private and Confidential: No

Wednesday, 7 June 2017

Skills & Employment Hub Update

Report Author: Dr M Lawty-Jones, Michele.Lawty-Jones@lancashirelep.co.uk & L Moizer, lisa.moizer@lancashirelep.co.uk

Executive Summary

This paper provides an overview of the Lancashire Skills Hub activity since the last board meeting.

Recommendation

The Board are asked to:

- 1) Note the update
- 2) Approve the proposal that the September committee meeting be held at Myerscough College, to support attendance of the launch of the Food and Farming Innovation Technology Centre.

Background and Advice

1. Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG)

- 1.1 The Lancashire Enterprise Adviser Network with Inspira has grown to 63 schools and colleges. As reported previously, the network is spread across Burnley and Blackburn with Darwen, and the 2016/17 roll-out areas: Blackpool, Morecambe, Preston, Pendle, Rossendale and Hyndburn. Discussions are underway with additional schools to achieve the Careers & Enterprise Company stretch target (72) by the end of June. Recruitment of an additional Enterprise Coordinator is underway.
- 1.2 All new schools and colleges are undertaking initial diagnostics and self-assessments with their Enterprise Coordinator and Enterprise Adviser. By the end of the academic year all schools and colleges will have plans in place including baseline information – which impact will then be assessed against.



- 1.3 Fifty-two Enterprise Advisers have been recruited to date. 65% are SMEs and 35% are large employers. Discussions are underway with an additional 13 employers across Blackpool, Pendle and Rossendale; the focus for the next month is to increase the engagement and recruitment of employers in Hyndburn. The support of both the Burnley Bondholders, Hive Business Network and Chambers of Commerce has been invaluable in both promoting the network and supporting the engagement of their members in the delivery of activities in schools which has resulted in an increase in encounters that young people have with employers. During the past quarter over 80 encounters took place with employers.
- 1.4 Priorities differ by school, however here are some examples from the last quarter in regard to the increase in employer encounters resulting from the network:
- Encounters in the workplace: two schools have had full year groups spending half a day with local employers on workplace visits. This has been followed by presentations to their peers about the companies they have visited.
 - Increasing encounters in Key Stage 3: pupils have undertaken work place visits, a borough-wide skills event and undertaken speed networking sessions, engaging in excess of 1600 young people.
 - Embedding encounters with employers into the curriculum: whilst a range of activities are planned across the year, for example, Business Leaders providing Year 10 Business Studies students with an insight into starting and running a business, students from a pupil referral unit spent time with Pendleside Hospice's Fundraising team to work as a team to plan and deliver a fundraising project, supporting the development of employability skills and the development of a Urban Geography project to support a unit of the curriculum in partnership with Burnley Council and employers located on Innovation Drive business park in Burnley.
- 1.5 The Careers and Enterprise Company Annual Conference was held on the 10th May. At the conference the Learn Live UK Lancashire project, funded through the activity funds, was held up as good practise in the use of digital media and engagement of schools in rural areas. Learn Live organises live broadcasts from SMEs in priority sectors into multiple schools. The conference also included a celebration with the introduction of regional awards - recognising one exceptional Enterprise Adviser by region. Locally, Joanne Pickering and Mo Isap were nominated by the Skills Hub and Inspira as inspirational advisers. Mo won the North West award with his linked school, Tauheedul Girls High School! See here for the press release: <http://www.lancashirelep-co-uk-liveadmin/news/archive/2017/blackburn-businessman-award.aspx>



- 1.6 As reported at the last meeting, The Careers and Enterprise Company has awarded two contracts for mentoring Lancashire: EBNW in the East of Lancashire and Preston, and Inspira in Blackpool and Morecambe. The Inspira mentoring provision is targeting 84 mentees in Years 8 to 10. A Mentoring Coordinator has been appointed, Leigh Ingleby and three Blackpool Schools have been engaged and 15 mentees identified to-date in one of the schools. 150 businesses have been contacted and 11 mentors have commenced training out of the 28 mentors that will be required. EBNW are supporting 7 schools along the M65 corridor, and have initiated mentoring with 66 mentees, with support from 31 business mentors that have been recruited and trained. The mentors will deliver a mix of one-to-one and group mentoring. 5 of the 7 schools have also undertaken employer visits, with a further 2 planned.
- 1.7 A grant funding offer has been received from The Careers Enterprise Company for 3 years of funding (2017/18 to 2019/20) for the Enterprise Adviser Network. Match funding is in place until the end of 2017/18 in Lancashire via Lancashire County Council. Further match will be need to be confirmed to continue activity; a business case will be formulated.
- 1.8 The Skills Hub delivered a workshop at the Annual LCC Chair of Governors Conference covering CEIAG, Labour Market Intelligence (LMI) and the apprenticeship reforms. 19 chairs attended, and 10 rated the workshop as excellent, 6 as good and 3 as satisfactory. Results include engagement with the Enterprise Adviser Network, Amazing Apprenticeship sessions and LMI workshops.

2. European Structural Investment Funds (ESIF)

- 2.1 In terms of procurement, the Stage 2 applications to the Active Inclusion call were appraised against strategic fit at the ESIF committee in January and DWP were appraising project applications against the recently introduced national benchmarks for value for money. During the appraisal period one project withdrew their application. Four Grant Funding Offers have now been issued, prior to the start of purdah, and one project application has been rejected. It is understood that the project was rejected due to the value for money assessment. Once projects have returned their signed GFAs, the lead applicant will be invited to be part of the Lancashire Adult Forum so that the project can be integrated into the mapping, referral processes and skills escalator.
- 2.2 Two Stage 1 applications were submitted to DWP against the 2.2 Skills for Growth call which was issued earlier in the year. Appraisal of the projects by DWP has been delayed. It is hoped that the appraisal will be completed prior to the ESIF committee on the 27th June, so that the committee can consider strategic fit and, if approved, applicants can then proceed to Stage 2.
- 2.3 The Skills Hub and Sean McGrath are in discussion with DWP in relation to future calls. DWP have indicated that the focus at present is contract management and spend, as opposed to procurement of new activity, however



work is underway to develop the 2.1 Leadership & Management in preparation for future calls.

3. Growth Deal Skills Capital

- 3.1 The 16 projects that were approved are being monitored by the Growth Deal Programme Team. A number have completed the capital phase and outputs are now being monitored. The majority of projects are progressing as planned. One project is awaiting planning permission (Fleetwood Fire Training Centre) due to a change in the nature of the facility.
- 3.2 Discussion is taking place between projects, the Skills Hub and SKV to plan launches and PR. It is anticipated that Energy HQ (Blackpool and The Fylde College), the Food and Farming Innovation Technology Centre (Myerscough College) and the Teaching Hub (University of Cumbria in Lancaster) will all launch in September. The launch of the FFIT has been scheduled to take place after the Skills and Employment Board on the 7th September, and so it is proposed that the meeting take place at the College – board members are asked to make a note of the date in their diaries.

4. City Deal

- 4.1 The City Deal Skills and Employment Steering Group, chaired by Lis Smith Principal of Preston's College, last met on Wednesday 1st March. Skills and employment data is being fed into the City Deal annual report by steering group members as per the agreed City Deal skills and employment metrics.
- 4.2 A process to support inward investment opportunities with a skills and employment offer as been developed which includes the ESF Skills Support for the Workforce and Access to Employment projects.

5. Events

5.1 'Value of Experience' Conference

- 5.1.1 The 'Value of Experience' Conference took place on Tuesday 25th April, organised in partnership with the DWP Fuller Working Lives Unit and the local DWP team in Lancashire. As per discussion at the Skills & Employment Board in February, the event aimed to raise awareness of the ageing workforce in Lancashire, highlight the publication of the Fuller Working Lives publication, and support employers to retain, retrain and recruit older workers by sharing research and good practice.
- 5.1.2 Unfortunately the Minister was unable to open the conference due to the announcement of the general election and purdah, however the senior civil servant, Lis Robinson presented, as did one of the Business Champions for Older Workers (Helen Webb, Chief HR Director from the Coop). Graham Cowley opened the event on behalf of the LEP.
- 5.1.3 In total 66 people registered for the event including SMEs, larger employers and Public Sector organisations; 46 attended on the day (excluding DWP representatives, attendees from the Skills Hub, facilitators and presenters and



market place representatives which took the total to c62). 20 evaluation forms were completed – 85% said that the conference met or exceeded their expectations. The research/stats, case studies and networking were cited as most useful; a number of employers said that they would review their recruitment and training practices as a result of attending and were keen to receive more information about the projects offering support, as well as the apprenticeship levy, Skills Hub and DWP.

- 5.1.4 A task and finish group is being brought together to take forward the actions from the conference, and to continue working with the DWP Fuller Working Lives Unit; this includes piloting targeting of National Careers Service activity at older workers and learning from the older workers apprenticeship pilot in Surrey.

5.2 National Festival of Making

The National Festival of Making took place in Blackburn earlier in May. The Skills Hub sponsored two activities: 1) a pop-up textiles factory, provided by The Alliance in partnership with local employers; and 2) a paper plane activity at the festival and allied packs for school activities. In relation to the former, 28 textiles companies contributed to the stand, and the stand was visited by approximately 600 people, of which 180 took part in 'have a go' activities. 18 of the visitors have been referred to the ESF 'Access to Employment' project for support to access jobs in the sector, and many of the younger people who engaged with the stand went away interested in apprenticeship opportunities, for example: *"I didn't know there were even apprenticeships in the sector – can't believe it! I'm going to show our teacher"* (Copley High School pupil). The paper plane folding table and activity proved hugely popular with young people and was positioned with providers of engineering apprenticeships. The Festival organisers stated that a plane was made every 90 seconds over the weekend, resulting in around 700 planes being made. A teacher pack to go with the folding table is being developed in partnership with STEMfirst, for use with schools in the new academic year to promote STEM skills and engineering.

5.3 Lancashire Business Growth Forum

- 5.3.1 The Lancashire Business Growth Forum, organised by CBP, on Thursday 2nd March, had a focus on the work of the Skills Hub and skills and employment. It aimed to raise awareness of the key projects championed by The Skills Hub (including the Enterprise Adviser Network and the ESF projects) under three key banners: Inspire, Recruit and Upskill.
- 5.3.2 Under each of the themes of Inspire, Recruit and Upskill a business presented to the forum about how the project they were engaged with had helped them and the presentations were followed with a marketplace for businesses to speak directly to each project.
- 5.3.3 Approximately 80 businesses attended and positive feedback was received from delegates in regard to the speakers, content and flow. Direct referrals were made on the day to all projects.



- 5.3.4 We are looking to do another joint event in October and have business beneficiaries present complete case studies, including the impact the project has had on the business, to generate further engagement with the projects.

5.4 Lancashire Residential Provider Forum

- 5.4.1 The Lancashire Residential Provider Forum took place on Tuesday 23rd May. The Health and Social Care (H&SC) Skills Partnership jointly created the input to the Lancashire Residential Provider Forum. The aim was to inform the Residential Providers of the work of the H&SC Skills Partnership and ask them to shape how the Skills Partnership engaged with them going forward to achieve the objective of upskilling the care sector workforce.
- 5.4.2 Out of 28 delegates 23 questionnaires were completed; from these 100% requested further information. Upskilling and recruitment were the themes of most interest. Delegates requested workshops and more detailed information via local events and emails.
- 5.4.3 The questionnaire will go out to the forum members who did not attend and the information will inform the H&SC Skills Partnership engagement action plan.

5.5 Other events

A range of presentations have been provided at a number of employer forums raising awareness of the Enterprise Adviser Network and ESF support. This includes, for example, the Skelmersdale Ambassador Network, Lancashire HR Forum, and other events.

6. Digital Advantage

- 6.1 The Digital Advantage Graduation and Prize Day took place at the Council Chambers at Lancashire County Council on Friday 19th May, which marked the end of the 2016/17 Digital Advantage delivery programme.
- 6.2 As reported previously, [Digital Advantage](#) is a Digital Skills Pop-Up Agency delivered by The White Room, and its main objectives are to:
- Provide young people, who have an interest in working in the creative and digital industries, with digital skills and help them gain real-world digital employability skills employers look for.
 - Provide inspiring digital careers advice and guidance to the young people and also their teachers and parents.
 - Provide accelerated access to digital apprenticeships.
- 6.3 Digital Advantage is delivered in partnership with a school or college and is run by industry experts who come from local businesses. Each group was tasked to create a digital app idea and film a pitch for it. The filmed pitches were judged by an industry panel and the winner was picked 'Dragon's Den style' on Friday 19th.
- 6.4 Here are links to the filmed pitched for you to see what fantastic ideas the Digital Advantage Graduates developed:



This link takes you to 9 of the 10, <https://vimeo.com/217452688/c1696a6fa8>, and this link the final pitch <https://vimeo.com/217815619/692849c653>.

The team from West Lancashire College won the monetary prize, together with ongoing support to help accelerate their business to market.

- 6.5 In total, ten schools and colleges were part of the Digital Advantage programme and 169 young people (exceeding the target of 120). There is a full evaluation currently taking place and a report will be shared with the board once completed.
- 6.6 We are now looking to co-ordinate an alumni project, with The White Room working closely with [Digital Lancashire](#), to bring together the DA graduates and local businesses with digital job and apprenticeship opportunities to enable the talent pipeline to flow into local businesses.

7. Institutes of Technology

- 7.1 As discussed previously and as per the Industrial Strategy, the Department for Education (DfE) are developing the criteria for the proposed Institutes of Technology (IoT). The DfE provided an input at the LEP Network Skills Leads meeting in April, and indicated that a call for proposals would be launched after the election. References in the Conservative Manifesto are not entirely consistent with the information provided at the meeting, so it is difficult to be absolutely clear at this stage about the positioning of the IoTs.
- 7.2 However, the DfE are expecting the LEPs to endorse one bid from their local area. It will be a highly competitive process, as the Government are anticipating funding 10-15 IoTs from the £170m pot referenced in the Industrial Strategy, in the first instance.
- 7.3 Information provided to-date indicates that IoT's aims will be to raise the prestige of technical education – as a credible high quality alternative to academic routes; address the technical skills gap at Levels 3, 4 and 5 in STEM based industries, meet local economic needs and enable the workforce to keep pace with rapid technological change.
- 7.4 From a LEP perspective priorities are reflected in the ABR Skills Conclusion slide pack: ideally an IoT in Lancashire would address the skills gaps in our STEM industries, join the dots on the Growth Deal investments that have been made in science, engineering and digital facilities and build a collaborative approach to engaging employers and upskilling the workforce – thereby closing the gap at Level 3 and above which currently exists in Lancashire. The approach would also need to incorporate digital skills and Industry 4.0.
- 7.5 Interested institutions have been encouraged to connect with the LEP before the launch of the prospectus, and collaborative discussions are currently being encouraged.



8. Apprenticeship Growth National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) Pilot

- 8.1 The Lancashire Skills Hub is one of two LEPs across the country who are working with NAS to pilot a closer working and data sharing approach that aims to create a joint approach linking national and local resources to support businesses to grow apprenticeships.
- 8.2 The pilot has begun by identifying which businesses in Lancashire are account managed by the national NAS team, and may lead to joint investment in business engagement with NAS.



LEP – Sub Committee

LEP - Lancashire Skills and Employment Board

Private and Confidential: NO

Wednesday, 7 June 2017

Area Based Review (ABR): Approval of Terms of Reference for the Implementation Group

Appendix A refers

Report Author: Dr M Lawty-Jones,
Michele.lawty-jones@lancashirelep.co.uk

Executive Summary

The final steering group of the Area Based Review took place on Tuesday 21st February 2017. It was agreed at the final steering group that a local Implementation Group would be created, building on the work of the ABR Working Group, to oversee the implementation of the recommendations in the final report. To note this is a typical outcome of an ABR, and that there are similar implementation groups elsewhere in the country. The proposed terms of reference have been shared with The Lancashire Colleges (TLC) group and the two institutions which are not members of TLC and all are supportive. The terms of reference are provided for approval at Appendix A.

The final report was due to be published towards the end of May, but that this has now been delayed due to purdah. ESFA have indicated that the final report will be published after the election.

Recommendation

The committee are asked to approve the proposed terms of reference for the Implementation Group.



Lancashire Area Based Review – Implementation Group

DRAFT Terms of Reference

Aim

The Implementation Group's primary responsibility is to support the successful implementation of the Lancashire ABR's recommendations agreed by the steering group and communicate progress, working with the funding agencies and local partners.

Objectives

1. Ensure that the achievement of the wider ambition set out during the review process is realised through implementation of the agreed recommendations and that this is effectively communicated to stakeholders.
2. Ensure that implementation progresses at a pace and in a way that continues to align with the area's educational and economic needs, as presented in the LEP and Local Authority skills conclusion, as summarised in the Lancashire ABR Report.
3. Support the successful implementation of recommended structural changes and escalate concerns specifically raised by the colleges involved to the funding agencies and the FE Commissioner if risks arise*.
4. Oversee the successful implementation of the non-structural recommendations, including the establishment of a Pennine Strategic Planning Group, The Lancashire Colleges' plan for collaborative working and receive findings from the Local Authorities and Regional Schools Commissioner on work with schools with sixth forms.
5. Coordinate implementation with other decisions taken locally and national policy which may impact on the review and the implementation of recommendations.
6. Report regularly on progress towards implementing the recommendations to the Lancashire Skills and Employment Board and feed into the national formal independent evaluation of the Area Review programme.

Chair

The Implementation Group will be chaired by the Director of the Lancashire Skills and Employment Hub. Clerking will be provided by the Skills and Employment Hub.

Membership

- Lancashire Skills and Employment Hub
- Non conflicted Member of the Lancashire Skills and Employment Board
- Representative of the Lancashire Combined Authority (Lead CEO for skills)
- Skills Funding Agency
- Education Funding Agency



- Lancashire County Council
- Blackpool Council
- Blackburn with Darwen Council
- The Lancashire Colleges (TLC Executive Director)

Meeting Frequency

Bi-monthly meetings.

Governance

The Implementation Group will report to the Lancashire Skills and Employment Board, which in turn reports to the LEP Board and the shadow Lancashire Combined Authority Leaders.

*It is recognised that the colleges are independent corporations and are responsible for the management and implementation of all recommended changes agreed during the review that specifically relate to them.

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