



## **LEP – Sub Committee**

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

**Private and Confidential: NO**

Wednesday, 18 October 2017

### **Skills and Employment Hub Update & Objectives**

Appendix A refers

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#### **Executive Summary**

This paper provides an overview of the Lancashire Skills & Employment Hub activity since the last committee meeting and an update of the one-pager outlining the objectives for the Hub for the coming year.

#### **Recommendation**

The board are asked to

- 1) Note the up-date
- 2) Note that the draft Technical Education visioning piece will be presented at the next committee meeting on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November
- 3) Approve the objectives for the Hub for the coming year

## **Background and Advice**

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

- 1.1 At the end of July, the Lancashire Enterprise Adviser Network with Inspira had grown to 72 schools and colleges, achieving the stretch target agreed with the Careers and Enterprise Company.
- 1.2 Three additional Enterprise Coordinators were appointed over the summer to support the full roll out across Lancashire: Paul Symes (West Lancashire, Chorley and South Ribble), Nicola Roberts (Fylde, Wyre, Lancaster and Morecambe) and Shaheen Gul (Preston, South Ribble and Ribble Valley). At the end of September the number of schools and colleges engaged was 78 and the number of Enterprise Advisers (business volunteers) 87.
- 1.3 Kay Vaughan will be taking on the role of Senior Enterprise Coordinator, alongside her cluster in Blackburn with Darwen and Burnley, and Penny Heys



will continue to work in Pendle, Hyndburn and Rossendale. Andrew Heydeman will now solely focus on the Blackpool area, dovetailing activity with the development of the Opportunity Area and in particular the focus on raising aspirations.

- 1.4 Activity has been undertaken locally to integrate the Enterprise Adviser Network and the National Collaborative Outreach Programme (Future U), aimed at raising aspirations of young people from disadvantaged wards, to ensure a coordinated and coherent approach to school and employer engagement. In recognition of good practice, a joint presentation was delivered at a recent Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE) conference.
- 1.5 Work continues with LearnLive – delivering live broadcasts to schools and colleges across Lancashire from SME premises. Seven broadcasts have been commissioned covering the 7 skills and employment priority sectors in Lancashire. Positive feedback was received from OFSTED who observed the broadcast in one school as part of an inspection. Four broadcasts covering Advanced Manufacturing, Professional and Business Services, Creative and Digital and Health and Social Care have taken place with 3 to follow covering Energy and Environment, Construction and Visitor Economy.
- 1.6 Work continues with National Careers Service (NCS) – delivering CPD sessions to teachers in the skills and employment priority sectors in Lancashire. A Health and Social Care session took place at Chorley Hospital in March and a Construction session was held at the company BSRIA in July. Iain Logan from NCS is organising an Energy and Environment session for 7th November at Lancashire Energy HQ in Blackpool (and is seeking employer inputs). A Digital session is to be held at Cotton Court, Preston on 28th November and ROQ have committed to take part along with one of their tenants. Further CPD events for the remaining sectors are to follow after Christmas.

## **2. European Structural Investment Funds (ESIF)**

- 2.1 In terms of procurement, two stage 1 applications were submitted against the Investment Priority 2.2. Skills for Growth call issued earlier in the year. Appraisal has been undertaken by DWP and comments in regard to strategic fit made by the ESIF Committee, and both proposals have progressed to stage 2. The deadline for the full applications has now passed. We are awaiting confirmation from DWP in regard to timescales, and have asked that the appraisals be completed so that recommendations can be made to the next ESIF Committee on the 1<sup>st</sup> December.
- 2.2 The Investment Priority 2.1 Skills for Growth call for Leadership and Management (focusing on succession planning) was released during the summer. The closing date for stage 1 applications is the 10<sup>th</sup> October. A workshop has been held with interested parties, to discuss strategic priorities and alignment with existing ESF and ERDF activity.



- 2.3 The Investment Priority 2.1 Skills for Growth call relating to Widening Participation, which was issued in 2016, has been reappraised following the failure of the bid submitted to pass the DWP gateway. The specification has been reviewed and positioned to focus on widening participation and underemployment. It is hoped that the specification will be released shortly, subject to DWP providing accurate data in relation to funding and outputs committed to-date.
- 2.4 The level of management information provided by the DWP Managing Authority continues to be a concern, and was raised again at the ESIF Committee in September. A recent meeting between the LEP Network and DWP raised similar issues. It is unclear whether this will be resolved.
- 2.5 The LEP are still awaiting further information in regard to the potential extension of the ESFA opt-in – it is hoped that further information will be received before the committee meeting. A verbal update will be provided, if this is the case, at the meeting.

### **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. Projects are progressing and all are currently RAG rated as green.
- 3.2 The opening of the Teaching Hub (University of Cumbria in Lancaster) and the launch of the Food and Farming Innovation Technology Centre (Myerscough College) both took place during September and were well attended. The opening of the Lancashire Adult Learning facility at Northlight is due to take place on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October. The launch of the Energy HQ (Blackpool and The Fylde College) has been postponed (to note, however that the building is open and learners and employers are using the facility). A joint press release referencing the broader investment was circulated by SKV and was publicised in multiple publications. See examples below:

<https://www.fenews.co.uk/press-releases/14827-lancashire-ramps-up-training-with-13m-of-new-skills-investment>

[https://www.insidermedia.com/insider/northwest/booth-hails-four-new-education-facilities?utm\\_source=lancashire\\_newsletter&utm\\_campaign=lancashire\\_news\\_tracker&utm\\_medium=business\\_article](https://www.insidermedia.com/insider/northwest/booth-hails-four-new-education-facilities?utm_source=lancashire_newsletter&utm_campaign=lancashire_news_tracker&utm_medium=business_article)

### **4. City Deal**

- 4.1 The City Deal 'Bridge the Gap' Lego bridge building activity has been piloted in 5 schools in central Lancashire throughout September. The pilot was delivered to 122 young people, 7 teachers and supported by 22 STEM Ambassadors. Over 74% of pupils said that Bridge the Gap increased their interest in having



a career in STEM and construction. Over 92% of pupils said they now knew more about jobs in construction.

- 4.2 Partners that have bought the resource box are: UCLAN, Eric Wright and Preston's College. The following businesses were involved in the pilots and are interested in buying a resource box: Robertson Construction, CITB, Siemens, BAE Systems.

Follow the links below to see tweets of the sessions with photos:

- [RobertsonGroup tweet](#)
- [STEM Ambassador tweet](#)
- [Penwortham Priory Academy tweet](#)
- [Brownedge St Mary tweet](#)

Quotes from Young People...

- "Very fun session, I have learned many more skills"
- "I really enjoyed the session and it has made me consider a job in STEM"
- "Thanks for the chance to do this"
- "Thank you for building my courage"

Quotes from Teachers...

- "Excellent, kept pupils busy and challenged. Very Enjoyable"
- "I am very impressed by the number of STEM Ambassadors involved"
- "Happy to be involved in any future events"

Quotes from Partners...

- "I think it helped students be more confident and consider engineering. Really good activity and great fun!"
- "Great activity! Young people really engaged in all the activities which were relevant to their local community"
- "A good session that I think got young people thinking about roles in construction."



- 4.3 The City Deal Skills and Employment Steering Group, chaired by Lis Smith Principal of Preston's College, last met on 3<sup>rd</sup> October. The group will be reporting skills and employment metrics alongside case studies to the City Deal Stewardship Board and Executive in November.

## 5. Events

A workshop was held with providers, employers and stakeholders to discuss the findings of the research undertaken by CITB regarding demand for construction skills. Further information will be provided under the dedicated agenda item.

## 6. Visitor Economy workshop

- 6.1 In partnership with Marketing Lancashire, the Skills & Employment Hub held a Visitor Economy skills and employment workshop for stakeholders which took place at Brockholes on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October. The aim of the event was to 'take the temperature' of the sector, inform them of what support currently existed and establish if it was relevant.
- 6.2 The skills and employment issues identified were similar to those that the sector skills study identified in 2015 and the support that is currently on offer was welcomed. There were 36 delegates from partners and business, and there were two very well received presentations from our Board member Lindsay Campbell and Katie Mellor from Cummins Mellor Chefs Job UK.
- 6.3 The evaluations indicated that 95% of attendees found that the event mostly or completely met expectations and 95% wanted further information. We are now following up those requests for further information.

## 7. Digital Advantage

- 7.1 Digital Advantage has been successful in securing funding for a second year in Lancashire and this year 50% of the funded will come from the Careers Enterprise Company activity fund. This year's level of funding has enabled The White Room to deliver Digital Advantage to 12 schools/colleges and 240 young people across Lancashire. This is in comparison to last year where, ten schools and colleges and 169 young people were involved. 11 schools and colleges have either signed up or stated they are interested to-date.
- 7.2 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.



- 7.3 Digital Advantage is delivered in partnership with a school or college and is run by industry experts who come from local businesses. Each group is tasked to create a digital app idea and film a pitch for the app.

## **8. Technical Education – Visioning Piece**

- 8.1 As discussed at the last committee meeting a Technical Education visioning piece has been commissioned. We have commissioned a company called SDG Economic Development (SDG-ED) to work with us to develop a clear vision for a high performing technical education system in Lancashire. The vision will encapsulate Lancashire's future ambitions for technical education, identify objectives and priorities and suggest pragmatic recommendations for action, which are shared and owned by stakeholders.
- 8.2 The visioning piece will take into account the national policy context, the forecast labour market demands in Lancashire's priority sectors, current and emerging physical learning assets and future ambitions of providers based in the Lancashire area.
- 8.3 Stakeholder engagement is a critical element of this visioning piece. The process recommended by SDG-ED is iterative and involves a number of stages involving one-to-one stakeholder consultation and workshops. The first workshop takes place on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October and the second on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November. Workshops will involve a mix of employers, providers and stakeholders.
- 8.4 SDG-ED are due to present the final draft of the visioning piece at the committee meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> November.

## **9. Institutes of Technology**

- 9.1 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). There is an expectation from DfE that LEPs will comment on bids from their local areas, and also an indication that LEPs will be asked to prioritise if there are multiple applications.
- 9.2 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; addressing primarily the technical skills gap at Levels 4 and 5 in STEM based industries, meet local economic needs and enable the workforce to keep pace with rapid technological change.
- 9.3 DfE issued further guidance in September, asking for interested providers to register an interest, with view to the full prospectus being published before the end of the calendar year. This will be followed by a two stage application process which will be undertaken during 2018.
- 9.4 Interested institutions have been encouraged to connect with the Skills & Employment Hub before the launch of the prospectus, and collaborative discussions are being encouraged.



- 9.5 It is intended that the Technical Education visioning piece will help to frame the context in Lancashire, setting out ambitions and labour market requirements, building on the ABR Skills Conclusion.

## **10 Objectives for the coming year**

- 10.1 The one-sider detailing the objectives for the Skills & Employment Hub has been updated for the coming year and is provided in Appendix A. The objectives have been changed to reflect the changing policy landscape, and the move from concept to implementation as a variety of activities have now been initiated that require oversight.
- 10.2 To note, the objectives relate specifically to the Hub. An objective is to refresh the Lancashire Skills and Employment Strategic Framework which outlines the wider objectives of the committee and the partnership with employers, providers and stakeholders.
- 10.3 Committee members are asked to approve the proposed objectives.