



LEP – Sub Committee

LEP - Lancashire Skills and Employment Advisory Panel

Private and Confidential: NO

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Up-date from the Lancashire Skills & Employment Hub and partners

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Executive Summary

This paper provides an overview of activity since the last formal committee meeting in November 2020.


Recommendation

The committee are asked to note the update and comment on the revised structure of the update report.

Background

The structure of the regular update from the Lancashire Skills and Employment Hub and partners has been updated and structured against the strategic themes and priorities outlined in the refreshed Lancashire Skills and Employment Strategic Framework 2021. Feedback on the new report structure is welcomed from committee members, to inform future iterations.

Update from the Lancashire Skills and Employment Hub and partners

	Future Workforce: working with education and business to establish a talent pipeline and future workforce that meets the current and future demands of the local labour market.
Priority 1	Careers Hub: Excellent careers provision underpinned by Labour Market Intelligence (LMI)
The Lancashire Careers Hub and Enterprise Adviser Network have continued to develop and share good practice across the network of 154 secondary schools and colleges, and focus on the development of virtual encounters and experiences. Engagement with volunteer business leaders, Enterprise Advisers (EAs), and the schools and colleges has continued with Enterprise Coordinators (ECs) being	



sensitive to the environment – feedback has been positive and supportive. The pandemic has reduced the opportunity for young people to participate in employer encounters and workplace experience which has impacted on the Careers Hubs progress against targets. Virtual encounters and experiences are becoming more widely available, which will help to mitigate the risk, and progress will be made against Benchmark 5 (employer encounters). Benchmark 6 is more challenging as this is work experience and experiences of the work place.

	Benchmark 5 (Average %)		Benchmark 6 (Average %)	
	Target (July 2020)	Dec 2020	Target (July 2020)	Dec 2020
Careers Hub Wave 1 (Blackpool, Burnley, Pendle)	80	66	70	45
Careers Hub Wave 3 (Blackburn with Darwen and all other Lancashire areas)	70	65	60	49
Blackpool Opportunity Area	75	73	No target	33

Key developments include:

Enterprise Advisers (EAs)

During this reporting period, an additional 24 new EAs have been recruited, this takes the overall number of new EAs during the pandemic to 35. Vacancies have resulted from the growth in the network from 131 to 154, as well as churn resulting primarily from the pandemic. There still remains 21 EA vacancies (including 14 for Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) schools, who were new to the network in September 2020). A campaign is currently being run in tandem with the national Careers and Enterprise Company campaign 'Re-write the Story' (<https://enterpriseadviser.careersandenterprise.co.uk/>) to attract additional EAs. Committee members are asked to help raise the profile of the role with the business community.

SEND Community of Practice

This newly formed group includes all the SEND schools in the network and had its inaugural meeting in November with over 25 representatives from SEND schools, EAs, DWP and employers. The key objectives of the SEND COP are to develop good practice and innovative practices focused around:

- Labour Market Intelligence
- Transition and Progression
- Employer Engagement

Social Media and Lancashire Careers Hub website



The new Lancashire Careers Hub website was launched in December. The new website includes a fully functioning search and filtering system to allow Careers Leaders in schools and colleges to access resources, news, events and competitions to help support their careers programmes:

<https://lancashirecareershubs.co.uk/>

Lancashire Cornerstone Employers

Building on the success of the Blackpool Cornerstone Employer group, the Lancashire Cornerstone Employer group had its inaugural meeting in January, following a briefing in December. Cornerstone employers are ambassadors for the Careers Hub, and will work in partnership with the Careers Hub Leaders and ECs to drive the development of plans, activity and employer engagement across Lancashire. Twelve employers have confirmed their commitment: Pendleside Hospice, WEC Engineering, Conlon Construction, Wellbeing Lancashire, In Situ, John Lewis Partnership, United Utilities, Regenda Housing, Jacobs, Keepmoat, NHS, and DXC.

START in Lancashire

Following the success of START in Blackpool, funding was secured through the Blackpool Opportunity Area (twinning fund), CEC, Lancashire Digital Skills Partnership and Future U to further develop the platform and roll it out across the whole of the Lancashire area. START in Lancashire was launched in December. The interactive platform is organised by travel to work areas and priority sectors, and will provide access to a range of virtual encounters and experiences with employers and education providers. Plans are in place to further develop content from employers and Post 16 and Post 18 providers in the coming months.

<https://lancashire.startprofile.com/page/home-page>

Priroity 2

Technical Education Vision: roll out of T levels & progression pathways to higher technical qualifications

Following the first phase of T Level recruitment in September, the four Lancashire colleges involved are confident in the calibre of young people they have recruited to their Digital, Education & Childcare and Construction T level courses. Although most Industry Placements had been planned to start in Spring, discussions are taking place with employers about movement of these placements into the second year. Providers generally have good relationships with prospective employers for placements within T level study programmes and do not envisage a shortfall in placement opportunities for the three T level subject areas.

CPD and creation of T level resources are now being progressed. There is a range of courses/support available from the Education and Training Foundation (ETF). Locally organised CPD will fill gaps, such as the Consultative Sales Training held recently for Industry Placement Co-ordinators.

Further to the presentation at the November committee meeting, the first stage bid for the Lancashire Institute of Technology (IoT) was submitted to DfE by the lead institution, Blackpool and The Fylde College. The Skills White Paper published in January builds on the commitment of government to build an effective Technical



Education system, with progression routes to Higher Technical Qualifications and the establishment of IoTs across the country.

Priority 3

Digital Workforce of the future

The Lancashire Digital Skills Partnership (LDSP) has been driving a number of activities with partners to engage young people in digital careers, these include:

Teen Tech Festival Lancashire

As previously reported, the Teen Tech festival has been pivoted to virtual delivery in response to the pandemic. Online events progressed in mid-January with 6 Innovation Live workshops (11-18 year olds) and one City of Tomorrow workshop (for primary schools) to-date. These covered topics including: Game Design, Music, Space, Animation, Health and Future Technology. All sessions had segments from both national and local experts who set students tasks for completion prior to a feedback event the following week.

All the workshops have been re-broadcast during February half term, with a further feedback session planned for after half-term so that any projects submitted can receive feedback from the expert panels.

Teachers have continued to sign up throughout January and February, and it is expected that many will access resources on demand. After initial concerns in regard to numbers engaging due to the lockdown, the festival has been welcomed by the schools, in supporting on-line education and wider careers plans, with the Careers Hub helping to raise awareness, alongside Future U and STEMFirst.

Pre half term initial figures showed that 37 schools and 684 young people had joined the sessions so far. A showcase event will take place online on Friday 26th February 2021.

<https://www.teentech.com/live/lancashire/>

Digital Careers Videos

A series of short films of local business people talking about their careers in a range of digital roles have been produced in collaboration with Brilliant Trees Media. These short films are in final stages of production and will be integrated into the Start in Lancashire platform. The films include female role models, with view to attracting more females to digital roles to address the Digital Skills Landscape research published last year, which showed that only one in six of the Lancashire digital workforce are female. There is also potential to use clips from the films for a social media campaign to raise awareness of the diverse range of careers available in Lancashire.

Cyber Girls First

The LDSP Coordinator, with Blackpool Enterprise Coordinator, Lisa Scargill, is working with Pat Ryan (Founder) and Lady Parmley of Cyber Girls First to bring one of their careers events to Blackpool. The LDSP and Careers Hub are working with Cyber Girls First to move the event in to an online format, with a future local face-to-face event and a university visit. This event, planned for 16th June with Year 8 students, is also supporting the work of Frank Norris, Chair of the Blackpool



Education Improvement Board and member of the Blackpool Opportunity Area Partnership Board, and the development of a Digital Skills Education Plan for young people in Blackpool.

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) are also very interested in the project and how it could be replicated elsewhere. The aim would be to do this across Lancashire initially.

Priority 4

Supporting Young People who are NEET to reengage with learning and work

The Youth Steering Group continues to oversee the NEET provision funded by European Social Funds (ESF) ('Moving On' and 'Invest in Youth'). Concerns have been raised about capacity, particularly for those young people who are at risk of NEET. NEET provision has been raised as a priority for remaining National Reserve Funds (remainder of ESF) with the DWP Managing Authority and for the future UK Share Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), which is the domestic programme which will replace the European Structural Investment Funds (ESIF).

A meeting was held in January between the chair and members of the Skills and Employment Advisory Panel to consider the tracking of young people and those at risk of or NEET. A further meeting is being taken forward to discuss risks associated with the pandemic and the impact on young people approaching transition points. Work is also underway by DWP to establish 'Youth Hubs' in Local Authority areas to provide collaborative focal points for engaging with young people who are NEET or unemployed to support them into learning or work.



Inclusive Workforce: supporting unemployed and inactive residents into sustainable employment, driving up digital skills and embedding social value to 'level up' areas of Lancashire and accelerate inclusive growth.

Priority 1

Boost employability & skills of unemployed & inactive, & support journey into work, particularly in disadvantaged areas

As reported previously an application was made to the National Reserve Fund under Investment Priority 1.4 to enable provision to be procured to support those unemployed as a result of COVID-19 with barriers to re-entering the labour market to receive additional employability support. The alignment of the proposal with the Investment Priority was questioned, and the request was re-submitted under Investment Priority 1.1, which is aimed at boosting labour market mobility. The request was successful and a new call worth £4.75m opened for applications on the 15th February 2021. The deadline for applications is the 12th April 2021: https://www.gov.uk/european-structural-investment-funds/active-inclusion-supporting-those-with-barriers-to-entering-the-labour-market-and-most-affected-by-covid-19-oc19s21p1809?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=a92a1ac5-54f1-47bf-bb9c-8754e472c554&utm_content=daily



The Adult and Employer Skills Forums have continued to meet regularly with positive attendance. The group review local labour market intelligence and consider priorities for provision, share good practice, and new project information to ensure that any new provision is integrated alongside existing provision. The Forums aim to work with any new providers in Lancashire who have been successful in gaining opportunities under the 'Plan for Jobs' initiatives.

Procurement is underway by DWP for the 'Restart' programme under the Commercial Agreement for the provision of Employment and Health Related Services (CAEHRS) Framework, as part of the 'Plan for Jobs'. The Skills Hub has supported the LEP Network in engagement with DWP, including a meeting with the Minister of Employment pre-Christmas. The Skills Hub has been working collaboratively with the DWP policy and commercial teams with responsibility for CAEHRS and Restart, and neighbouring LEPs and MCA (Cumbria, Cheshire and Warrington, and Liverpool City Region), who make up the Contract Package Area for the Northwest, to support the procurement process.

Priority 2

Sector specific initiatives targeted at areas with labour market demand

Mass Vaccination Centre Recruitment

The Skills Hub has successfully worked in collaboration with the NHS, Lancashire Adult Learning, People Plus and referral organisations to support the NHS in recruiting clerical and administration staff for the Mass Vaccination Centres which opened across Lancashire in January. Due to the close working relationship with the members of the Lancashire Adult Skills Forum including DWP and the NHS it was possible to develop a pre-employment training course, filter suitable candidates, train and interview those who had successfully completed the training within the time requested. To date over 143 people have been interviewed and 121 have successfully been offered employment.

The Fast Track Digital Workforce Fund and Digital Bootcamps will be covered under a separate committee paper.

Priority 3

Raise digital inclusion

Digital Freedoms 50+

The Digital Freedom 50+ (Lancashire) project is administered by Selnet, in partnership with Lancashire Digital Skills Partnership (LDSP) with funding from the Community Foundation for Lancashire. By working with Distribution Partners (community based organisations), the project has supplied 320 digital devices and connectivity to digitally excluded over 50s across Lancashire.

Distribution partners include:

Care Network, Community Solutions NW, Age UK (BwD), Groundwork, URPotential, Age UK, Social Enterprise Solutions, Great Places Housing Group, Just Good Friends (North West) Limited, Fishwick Rangers Youth & Community Development Scheme, Laugh Live Love CIC, Onward Housing Service delivered via 1st Call, Career Connect, PeoplePlus, Active Lancashire, Myplace Lancashire



Wildlife Trust, Lancashire & South Cumbria NHS Trust (Older Adults Community Mental Health Team), Lancashire Adult Learning, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council (Prevention, Neighbourhoods and Learning Services), Places for People, Layton Community House, First Light Trust, Preston City Council, Change Grow Live -Inspire, PHX Training, Blackpool Council Adult, Community and Family Learning, Virgin Care – West Lancashire, Disability Equality (NW), Citizens Advice Lancashire, Chorley Council, Ingeus, INTACT, Preston Muslim Forum, Recycling Lives, BPR CVS, IMO, Counselling in the Community, Calico, Progress Housing Association Limited.

Priority 4

Embed social value in commissioning, procurement and planning processes

Social Value highlights are listed below:

Preston Western Distributor Year 1 Social Value Report

Despite the very challenging conditions of operating a large scale, live infrastructure site amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, the project has generated some very positive early results in generating social value during the first year of the construction phase of the project.

In brief at the end of year 1 the project had generated the following outputs:

- 40.6% of spend this year is being made with local companies within 25 miles of the project
- Costain, the main contractor, has 30% local staff on the project, with 83 staff on site of which 25 live in the locality
- A total of eight apprentices are currently working on the project
- The project has provided employment opportunities for 14 ex-military
- Barratt Group – the formwork contractors have 21% BAME staff on their team, and 47% of their team are local to the project
- 53% of PSI labour agency staff are local to the project
- 66.6% of Frameworks labour agency staff are local to the project
- The project team have raised £3,080 for charity

Construction Skills Fund

The Skills Hub are working with the Construction Industry Training Broad (CITB) and Procure Plus on the roll out of the Construction Skills Fund programme across Lancashire.

The DfE funded and CITB managed programme is geared toward providing training and placements for new entrants/returners to the sector with a focus on priority and under-represented groups to secure employment in the sector.

Despite the restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic the programme has generated some very positive results during 2020 (see below). The Skills Hub will continue to be an active member of the Construction Skills Fund Board and scope opportunities across LEP programmes and projects including City Deal and Growth Deal.



Construction Skills Fund: 1st April – 29th December 2020	Lancashire
Training Completions	93
Diversity – All Trained	
BAME Trained	9
Female Trained	4
Learning difficulty and/or disability and/or health problem.	27
NEET Trained	27
Ex-Offender Trained	10
Care Leaver Trained	7
Unemployed >6months Trained	57
Unemployed <6months Trained	63

D'Urton Lane Development Social Value

The second meeting of the D'Urton Lane Development Social Value Design Action Group took place on the 20th January. The Group was established with the support of the Skills Hub to shape the social value programme for the D'urton Lane development and meets every quarter to design and direct and set priorities for community projects, monitor and review performance against KPI's and provide community linkages/publicise opportunities.


This development, by Trafford Housing Trust and Wilmott Dixon, is expected to be delivered over a three and a half year period, which will provide the opportunity to bring significant social value to the local area. Membership of the group comprises a wide range of local partners including Preston City Council, Preston's College, DWP/Job Centre Plus, Inspira, Procure Plus, Calico and Intact community centre.

UCLan/Balfour Beatty - Generating Local Economic Benefits

Highways work on the University of Central Lancashire's (UCLan) £200m Masterplan is supporting local SMEs around Preston and the North West.

Every penny spent on the supply chain by main highways contractor Balfour Beatty has been awarded to companies based within 40 miles of the construction site in the centre of the University's Preston Campus, with 96p of every pound spent with small or medium sized enterprises (SMEs).

In addition to spending over £4 million with local SMEs since 2019, Balfour Beatty hired nine graduates and apprentices across the highways improvements project, created twelve new jobs and provided seventy weeks of paid work experience to local people, as well as working with over 2,500 local students via virtual events and participating in twelve volunteer days around the city.

	Skilled & Productive Workforce: working with business to drive up skills in Lancashire's workforce to boost productivity, in-line with the needs of Lancashire's growth pillars.
Priority 1	Technical Education Vision: Apprenticeships aligned with business needs, alongside growth in higher level and degree Apprenticeships



Apprenticeship Action Plan Refresh 2021-2023

A refreshed Apprenticeship Action Plan has been produced with a shared aim of enabling the Apprentice system to meet the needs of the Lancashire economy. This is the second iteration of the action plan and aligns with the Lancashire Skills and Employment Strategic Framework and the Lancashire Technical Education Vision.

A meeting is planned in March with key partners to agree the draft plan and collective actions. Due to the impact of COVID-19 the Lancashire Apprenticeship system has been negatively affected, as has the country overall. The plan aims to take action where we have local influence, by maximising the benefits of Apprenticeship training to businesses and individuals. This will support Apprenticeship training which contributes to businesses having the skilled and productive workforce they require to enable resilience, recovery and regrowth of Lancashire. The refreshed Action Plan will be presented at the next committee meeting in May.

National Apprenticeship Week 2021

National Apprenticeship Week 2021 took place from Monday 8 to Sunday 14 February. The theme for this year's campaign was Build the Future: Train, Retain and Achieve. The ask was for all supporters of Apprenticeships to celebrate the diversity of opportunity and value that Apprenticeships bring, and how they can help individuals and employers build their future.

The Lancashire Skills Hub supported the campaign on their social media channels: Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook using the national hashtag #NAW2021. The Skills Hub has also been sharing stories of Apprentices and how they've progressed which the local Colleges, private training providers and Universities across Lancashire. The stories have included the benefits Apprentices have brought to their employers. Providers have also been running and promoting virtual Apprenticeship information and recruitment events.

Lancashire Apprenticeships Conference 2021

Lisa Moizer from the Skills Hub was interviewed as part of the Lancashire Apprenticeships Conference 2021, organised by Lancashire Business View on Tuesday 9th February during National Apprenticeship Week. The event took an in-depth look at the Apprenticeships programme in Lancashire, including the benefits to both employers and learners and the role that training and education plays in bridging Lancashire's skills gap. The interview was followed by three discussion panels. The event attracted 60 delegates, see the press release here:

<https://www.lancashirebusinessview.co.uk/latest-news-and-features/apprenticeship-benefits-in-the-spotlight>

Priority 2

Reskilling & Upskilling the current workforce – with focus on digital skills to support technology adoption and the growth pillars

ESF Provision

Further to the previous update, there are five projects which have been submitted under the Investment Priority 2.1 call which took place early in 2020. These continue to be appraised by DWP Managing Authority. Discussions indicate that the



appraisals are almost complete; once completed the projects will go to the ESIF Committee for comment on strategic fit and value for money.

Under the 2.2 call, The Lancashire Colleges (TLC) have been successful in gaining a contract to deliver a project to support Technical Education, working with employers (small to medium enterprises) to boost their capability and capacity to engage in industrial placements.

Tech Talent Charter

As previously, the LEP signed up to the Tech Talent Charter (TTC) to advocate greater gender diversity in Lancashire's digital workforce. Provision has been in planning to support businesses with inclusion and diversity, covering the business case for inclusion and diversity and whole company buy-in, building an inclusive culture and recruitment practices. In consideration of the lock down and feedback from local businesses, the working group decided to postpone the TTC training originally planned for January. A [register of interest page](#) has been opened for businesses and in March dates for training will be set.

During February further promotion will be undertaken, alongside the release of a thought piece penned jointly between UCLAN, Lancashire Digital Skills Partnership (LDSP) and the LEP Innovation Board to promote the project.

Google Digital Garage Training

The LDSP, alongside its six fellow DSPs across the country, has teamed up with Google Digital Garage to deliver a series of weekly sessions in March providing practical digital advice for small businesses, charities and individuals. The seven DSP Coordinators came together to share local insight for their areas and agreed a programme of useful webinars that address common local needs or fill regional gaps.


The first five hour-long sessions will kick off on the 3rd March at 11am with a webinar on Setting Up and Growing Your Charity Online. With a further four sessions following weekly, covering Business Visibility on Google, Improving Digital Marketing Strategies, Setting Up Online Shops and Using Google Analytics.:

Those interested in attending can register through Eventbrite at <https://digitalskillspartnerships.eventbrite.co.uk> – the sessions are being promoted via a press release and social media.

Redundancy Taskforce

The Lancashire Redundancy Task Force was established with partners, including DWP/Jobcentre Plus, the National Careers Service and the accountable body of the 'Skills Support for the Workforce' programme, The Growth Company in June 2020 to ensure a coordinated approach to supporting those at risk of or being made redundant. A full reports was presented to the Skills and Employment Advisory Panel in November and since then the taskforce has had, in addition to contact with businesses in other sectors, a particular focus on potential redundancies in the retail sector and seeking to ensure awareness of the support available



Priority 3	Leadership & Management capacity in SMEs
<p>The ESF 2.1 call for projects early in 2020, as referenced under Priority 2 in this section, referenced Diversity in Leadership as one of a number of priority areas prioritised for the call, referencing succession planning and diversity in leadership roles in SMEs across the area. Project submissions are currently under appraisal by DWP Managing Authority.</p> <p>Existing ESF projects that are currently delivering that support this priority include Leading Lancashire and Skills Support for the Workforce.</p> <p>The Leading Lancashire project delivers leadership and management training for the Lancashire workforce, enabling people to develop their skills through training, coaching and support. The programme includes accredited qualifications, workshops and webinars and has for example included delivery of workshops regarding resilience and change management, in response to the pandemic.</p> <p>The Skills Support for the Workforce programme offers fully funded support to help develop staff through a range of training programmes which are tailored to business needs. Programmes include Team Leading and also specialist support for businesses going through restructures and where staff are at risk of redundancy. During the pandemic delivery has included in particular support regarding digital/remote working.</p>	
Priority 4	Healthy Workplaces
<p>The LEP Strategic Economic Framework identifies health and well-being as an enabler, recognising that good health is a contributor to the productivity of Lancashire's workforce. The ESF 2.1 call for projects early in 2020, as referenced under Priority 2 in this section, included reference to testing innovative approaches to enabling businesses to adopt effective employment support packages to improve health and wellbeing in the workplace. Project submissions are currently under appraisal by DWP Managing Authority.</p>	
	<p>Informed Approach: taking an evidence based approach to identifying the skills and employment issues facing Lancashire's businesses and industries, prioritising and influencing locally and nationally, and working with partners to identify best practice.</p>
<p>Skills Advisory Panels – Local Skills Report</p> <p>The final guidance for producing a Local Skills Report was issued by the Department for Education (DfE) in November, and the requirement to publish the report by the end of this financial year still remains. There is a significant amount of cross over between the contents of the published Lancashire Skills and Employment Strategic Framework 2021 and the Local Skills Report, and so the Skills Hub and the Skills Advisory Panel Team in the DfE are discussing a pragmatic way forward which brings the two documents together into one. This would not change the substance of the Framework but add elements to it, such as an annex which presents case studies evidencing good practise.</p>	



Skills and Employment Lancashire's Response webinars

The Skills Hub have continued to deliver regular webinars to stakeholders since the summer with circa 30 attendees at each. Four took place up to Christmas with the fifth taking place on 17 March. The webinars:

- Inform people of the Skills Hub and partner's response to date on the impact of COVID-19 on skills and employment, engaging partners with key initiatives
- Provide updates on policy and guidance
- Provide local data on COVID-19 impact to support partner's decision making regarding priorities
- Coordinate locally and work together to the benefit of local businesses and residents
- Enable partners, including DWP and providers, to give updates

Partner Data Pack

The partner data pack is an online interactive data dashboard, which builds on the provision of the LMI Toolkit. Stakeholders can interact with the data displayed in the dashboard and drill down to data specific to their geographic area and compare to Lancashire, the North West, and nationally. First published in mid-December it will be updated six times a year, and is circulated to around 150 stakeholders.

This approach has been well received by stakeholders, and has led to discussions with them which has improved their understanding of the economic landscape in their area, in turn this has resulted in further evidenced-based decision making. The Partner Data Pack can be viewed here: <http://www.lancashireskillshub.co.uk/our-people/evidence-base>

Vacancy Data Consultation

The Skills Hub have been invited by the DfE's SAP Team to give their thoughts on a new experimental dataset compiled by the University of Warwick, entitled "LMI for All". This concerns online vacancy data, and what insight can be drawn from it. The Skills Hub have received and are reviewing the first iteration of the test data. The consultation takes place on the 18th February and will help inform whether the LEP and Skills Hub need to continue to invest in their own online vacancy data solution.

www.SkillsforWork.info

The Skills for Work microsite was launched in July 2020, to enable Lancashire residents to access support if furloughed, facing redundancy, looking for work or 16-25.

As of 16 Feb 2021 the website has received 14,600 views, including around 5,000 to the 16-24 page; and there were 2,500 external links clicked through to the support on partner sites. We have driven people to the site via Facebook activity and the pilot Skills Up Lancashire campaign which was targeted at 16-24 year olds.

Twitter

As of 16 Feb 2021 Twitter followers have increased by 199 followers since November 2020, making our total number of followers 2,808.



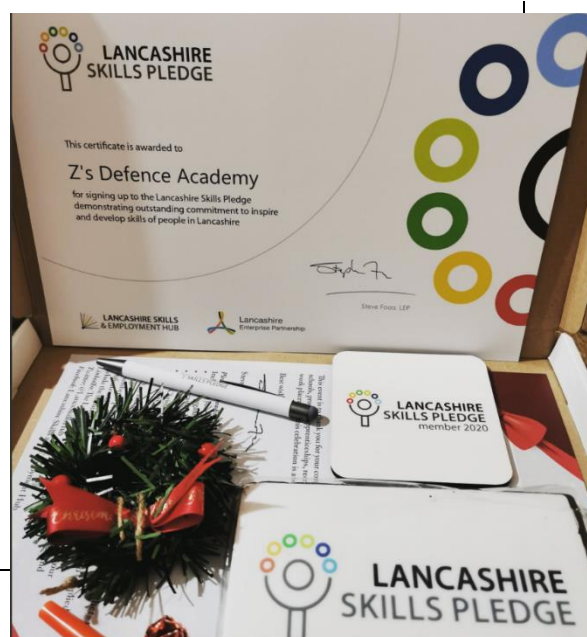
Lancashire Skills Pledge - Celebration Event 2020

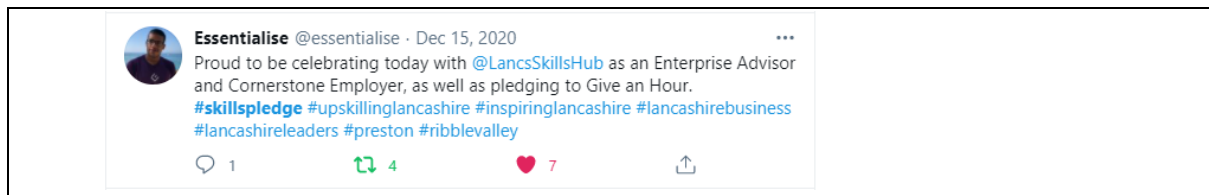
The Lancashire Skills Pledge provides recognition to businesses, private, public and third sector, for engaging with projects to upskill, recruit and inspire the people of Lancashire. Benefits include meeting Social Value and CSR outcomes, PR, receiving funded training for staff and support to employ people who are out of work: <https://www.lancshireskillshub.co.uk/lancashire-skills-pledge/>

The Skills Pledge provides employers with one entry point to find out more about the seven key employer facing skills and training initiatives in Lancashire and get support to engage with them. The Pledges are: Give an hour / Be an Enterprise Adviser / T Level industry placements / Take on an Apprentice / Become an Apprenticeship Ambassador / Employ people who are out of work / Skills support for the workforce.

Over the last 12 months the number of Skills Pledge Members (businesses with at least one active pledge) has grown from 26 to 75 businesses, with very little promotion due to the pandemic.

The second annual Lancashire Skills Pledge celebration took place on 15th December. Of the 75 Skills Pledge Members around half attended the event. Skills Pledge Members received a certificate and a locally sourced 'goody bag' through the post which the LEP chair, Steve Fogg virtually presented to them at the event. There was a lot of positive activity on social media, which will be built upon to reinvigorate the promotion of the Skills Pledge.





List of Background Papers

N/A

Reason for inclusion in Part II it appropriate

N/A