



LEP – Sub Committee

LEP - 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 March 2021.

The paper includes reference to the extension of the local Skills Advisory Panels (SAPs) grants from the DfE into 2021/22, with a further offer of £75,000 to support analytical capacity. The panel are asked to recommend acceptance of the grant to the LEP Chair and Chief Executive, as per their levels of delegation.

Recommendation

The committee are asked to:


1. Note the update; and
2. Recommend the acceptance of the SAP grant to the LEP Chair and Chief Executive

Background

The structure of the update from the Lancashire Skills and Employment Hub and partners is structured against the strategic themes and priorities outlined in the Lancashire Skills and Employment Strategic Framework 2021.



Update from the Lancashire Skills and Employment Hub and partners

	<p>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.</p>
<p>Priority 1</p>	<p>Careers Hub: Excellent careers provision underpinned by Labour Market Intelligence (LMI)</p>

Following the partial closure of schools and colleges and the continuing pandemic restrictions during the past term, the Lancashire Careers Hub has continued to engage with Career Leaders in a virtual manner. Area Career Leader and Enterprise Adviser meetings, CPD sessions and Cornerstone meetings have all continued. The Lancashire Careers Hub Team has also continued to develop good practice and areas of innovation building on the past successes of the Careers Hub pilot and Enterprise Adviser Network, in preparation for next academic year.

Performance against targets has continued to be impacted due to COVID-19 as education returned to face-to-face teaching but was impacted by the priorities of curriculum catch-up, pastoral support, continued staff absence, regular testing and COVID-safe policies preventing visitors or experiences out. Equally, employers continue to adapt to and mitigate against the impact of the pandemic. The Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC) have slightly reduced targets relating to employer encounters (Benchmark 5) and experiences of the workplace (Benchmark 6), considering the pandemic (including the inclusion of the partial achievement rather than full against Benchmark 6, which is the most challenging in the current environment). The work undertaken to enable virtual encounters and experiences has contributed significantly to performance, and more importantly, in boosting the aspirations of young people and breaking myths regarding labour market buoyancy.

	Benchmark 5 Performance		Benchmark 6 Performance	
	Target (July 2020)	March 2021	Target (July 2020)	March 2021
Careers Hub Wave 1 (Blackpool, Burnley, Pendle)	75	62.1	100% partial achievement	100
Careers Hub Wave 3 (Blackburn with Darwen and all other Lancashire areas)	65	65.3	100% partial achievement	85.1
Blackpool Opportunity Area	75	73.3	100% partial achievement	93

Key developments that have been driven by Lancashire Careers Hub has this term include:

Enterprise Advisers (EAs)

During this term we have had a focus on EA recruitment focusing on the positive influence existing EA can play in recruiting more. Building on the national CEC recruitment campaign, we held a local 'Bring a Buddy' event; employers were able to hear from current EA on the benefits of the role and why they got involved. This has resulted in the recruitment of 5 new EAs to date.

FE Community of Practice

A key development during this term has been the commencement of the FE Community of Practice. In partnership with The Lancashire Colleges (TLC), all Lancashire College Careers Leaders now meet



to share practice. Additionally, they are planning and delivering a collaborative event for young people next term showcasing Lancashire alumni, post 18 pathways alongside virtual employer encounters. All colleges are attending the meetings which report back to both the Lancashire Careers Hub and TLC Principals Group. This Community of Practice will support both progression in the colleges' benchmark scores, and discussions on how colleges can build on their current offer to schools thus potentially increasing schools' scores, particularly Benchmark 3 (destination tracking) and Benchmark 7.

Career Leader CPD

Lancashire's Career Leader CPD complements the CEC's offer and includes input from local partners including ASK, Speakers for Schools, U Explore, Future U, Uni Taster Days and Skills Builder Framework. Three linked sessions have been delivered so far and the varied delivery ensures the 'Hear from' / 'Chat with' model disseminates key resources and messages with opportunities for reflection and the sharing of good practice. The January session was pivotal in rolling out information on employer encounters and work experience in a virtual world. Updated resources are available via the Hub website including the recent partnership with Speakers for Schools. Equally, Start in Lancashire was showcased once more with sessions on content and its integration in a careers programme. Feedback has been positive and has included: - 'The most useful zoom in a long time! Thank you.', 'Thank you, it has been really helpful', 'Really informative'.

Priority 2

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

The Gatsby Foundation funded T Level Routes Ready project has now been running for three years through the Lancashire Skills and Employment Hub. The following list details some of the key achievements of the project, working in close partnership with Lancashire's FE colleges, businesses and strategic partners:

- Seven Routeway Networks and Industry Placement Network established with up to 15 members in each
- Over 30 network meetings held
- Five additional projects supported, bringing an additional £200k+ into Lancashire
- T Level CPD developed for IAG professionals, with 78 attending the training
- Consultative Sales training delivered for college Business Relations staff, with 29 attending the training
- Twelve Technical Education Newsletters designed and delivered to over 100 subscribers
- Over 2000 individuals and 650 businesses reached with awareness raising sessions about T Levels
- Industry Placements incorporated into the Lancashire Skills Pledge

Six Lancashire colleges are now recruiting to T Levels for September 2021 and are reporting good interest so far. Some industry placements are taking place on a small scale this term for those who commenced T Levels in September 2020. Colleges are involved in a number of development projects with the Education and Training Foundation (TRIPS), which include creating resources to prepare learners for industry placements and themed approaches to learning, such as a family case study for the Health T Level, taking learners through a range of health scenarios for a group of family members,

The first stage bid for the Lancashire Institute of Technology (IoT), submitted to DfE by the lead institution, Blackpool and The Fylde College, has been successful and the Skills Hub is supporting a cross college and university team to develop the second stage bid. The work on the bid



complements the work of local partnerships forming in response to the governments Skills Accelerator announcements and opportunities to bid for local resources to progress technical education collaboration between providers, employer representative bodies (ERBs) and businesses at a local level.

Priority 3

Digital Workforce of the future

The Lancashire Digital Skills Partnership (LDSP) continues to lead on several activities with partners to engage young people in digital careers, these include:

Teen Tech Festival Lancashire

The Lancashire Festival, which took place in January and February reached over 850 young people across Lancashire, with the replays of the workshops over February half-term being well received. The most popular workshops included game design and animation. Highlights of the 2021 Festival can be seen here: [Lancashire Festival highlights](#)

Following the de-briefing meeting held in April, the project steering group decided to build on the Festival's success and run a second Festival in 2022. The aim is to start online workshops after February half-term, re-play the workshops during the Easter holidays and then hold a face-to-face feedback and celebration event early May.

Digital Careers Videos

The series of short films produced on careers in tech are now available on the Start Lancashire Platform and on the new joint [YouTube Channel for the seven Local Digital Skills Partnerships](#). The Careers Hub webpage will shortly feature a blog from the local graduate who was fundamental in producing the films, highlighting her career pathway to this point and link to the videos for careers teams in schools to use. There are also several short teaser films that will feature as part of a social media campaign in the coming months.

Cyber Girls First

Partnership working on the Blackpool event for female Year 8 students continues with schools, with the first event planned for the 16th of June. Pat Ryan (Founder) and colleagues from BITC have been instrumental in bringing together local and national employers to speak at the event including:

- Larissa Chase - Chief Technology Officer at 10 Downing Street
- An incognito speaker from The National Cyber Security Centre
- Mary Speakman - Code Galaxy, Blackpool
- Helen Parkinson and Tripta Kershaw - Korber, Blackpool
- Christine Lester - Cyber Security at JPMorgan Bank

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) are 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'). Cumulatively from 2016, the projects have supported 5,987 young people who are at risk of or NEET and moved 3,021 into a positive destination.



Concerns have been raised about capacity, particularly for those young people who are at risk of NEET, with an increased demand for support from schools for 16 year olds. The three top tier authorities, TLC and the Careers Hub are working together to support the transition of Year 11, taking into account the difficulties associated with the pandemic and the impact on young people’s educational journey and health and well-being.

Work continues with local authorities and the 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

European Social Funds (ESF)

In February 2021 Lancashire was successful in securing a further £4.75m from the National Reserve Fund (NRF) to open a new call under Investment Priority 1.1, to support people displaced from employment by the pandemic who have barriers to re-entry. Two projects were submitted against the deadline of the 12th of April and are currently with DWP for appraisal.

Following input through a national task and finish group regarding the remaining NRF, an action note has been issued enabling directly matched projects to submit project change requests to DWP for extensions in time and growth in funds to run projects through to 2023. Projects must be performing well. Discussions are also underway to extend and grow the Big Lottery opt-in, which funds the Building Better Opportunities programme overseen by SELNET.

The ESF programme commenced delivery in 2016, and up to the end of March 2021 the following participants have been recorded. Almost a third have progressed into a positive destination so far.

Adults Supported under Investment Priority 1.4 (Active inclusion) and 1.1 (Access to employment for job seekers and inactive people)	
Participants Engaged	20,717
Males	9,871
Females	7,884
Aged 50+	5,491
Ethnic Minority Group	3,120
Disability	6,760
Progression into a positive destination	6,781

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 Forum supports the use of the on-line Escalate referral tool which now contains 144 opportunities and has been used by 4,377 users.

Plan for Jobs - Restart

The Forums also aims to work with any new providers in Lancashire who have been successful in gaining opportunities under the 'Plan for Jobs'. The Skills Hub worked collaboratively with DWP, Liverpool Mayoral Combined Authority, Cumbria LEP and Cheshire and Warrington LEP to support the procurement of a prime contractor for the Restart programme for the Northwest Contract Package Area. The Northwest contract was awarded to G4S who the Skills Hub have an existing relationship with and who have a representative on the Adult Skills Forum. This contract will be delivered over a five-year period and is expected to deliver to approximately 108,000 people across the Northwest region. Estimates suggest that 27% will be in Lancashire. A first meeting has been held with G4S to support the embedding of the Restart offer locally and they have been invited to the Forum meeting on the 9th of June to deliver a presentation to the members.

Influence shape of future provision through the development of a new domestic programme (UKSPF)

In April 2021, the Community Renewal Fund (CRF) was launched by government to enable pilots of localised activity in this financial year, as a precursor to the launch of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) in 2022. It is intended that UKSPF will replace the current European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF).

CRF aims to test localised approaches, which are innovative and span different priorities, which boost productivity, employment and support recovery from the pandemic in local areas. The aims respond to the feedback from different bodies involved in the ESIF programme, and the call for a bottom up, localised approach to setting priorities, with an ability to work across investment priorities to enable joined up activity, as well as a call for reduced bureaucracy. Key worker models are also referenced, which directly responds to the feedback from the Adult and Employer Skills Forums and learning from joining up projects through the Lancashire Skills Escalator.

Government has identified 100 priority places based on an economic resilience measure, this includes Blackpool, Blackburn with Darwen, Burnley, Pendle and Hyndburn. The 100 places will be prioritised for funding. Each of the three Lead Authorities in Lancashire have been tasked by government to run an open and transparent call for projects and submit a competitive bid to government by mid-June. Government anticipates informing successful areas by the end of July, which will enable delivery between September 2021 and March 2022.

In support, two sessions were held with the Lancashire Adult and Employer Skills Forums and wider partners, to outline the processes that each of the Lead Authorities were undertaking and to provide an on-line forum for partners to share ideas and to connect to enable collaborations to be formed. Several breakout sessions were run with a plenary in the second session to enable the sharing of ideas, at the request of members. There were over 30 attendees at each session.

Priority 2

Sector specific initiatives targeted at areas with labour market demand

CityFibre

The Skills Hub is working with CityFibre to support their recruitment and skills needs within Lancashire. CityFibre is investing £4bn in full-fibre connectivity. CityFibre has network rollouts underway with plans to connect up to 8 million homes and businesses in more than 60 towns and cities. A growing number of Gigabit City projects have been announced for full-city rollouts and



CityFibre continues to prime its existing network assets for expansion. To date conversations have been held with partners in Preston and the Blackpool area.

Fast Track Digital Workforce Fund and Digital Bootcamps

The round 2 projects, funded by DCMS and the round 3 projects, funded by DfE have now finished delivery. The majority completed the delivery phase before the end of March. We are now tracking the numbers recruited into employment over the next 6 months.

The extension funding received from DfE has funded 4 new bootcamps working with two new commercial bootcamp specialists and 2 existing Fast Track projects. These include: Code Nation, Northcoders, Tech Returners and IN4.0 Talent Academy. Content of the programmes focuses on software developer and cloud roles. [Further details of the programmes can be seen here.](#) Delivery has started for all programmes with some recruitment for Lancashire participants for future cohorts still ongoing for Code Nation and Northcoders.

Announcement of the results from the national procurement process undertaken by DfE for the roll out of Digital and Technical Bootcamps nationally under the National Skills Funds are anticipated shortly. A number of bids from local consortiums were submitted, as per the input at the last meeting.

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 nearly 500 digital devices and connectivity to digitally excluded over 50s across Lancashire.

This project has now concluded but partners are keen to explore alternative funding sources to continue this work.

Priority 4

Embed social value in commissioning, procurement and planning processes

Growth Deal

The impact of the adoption of this approach can be seen at programme and project level. As reported in December's LEP Board Report, the Growth Deal programme generated a total of £31.1m of social value in the last reporting period (2019-20). The table below provides a detailed breakdown of social value delivered across the framework metrics:

Future Workforce

Metric	To date	Indicative Social Value
Hours volunteered to support learning and education through curriculum links, careers and STEM activity.	531	£84,271
Number of work experience placements for 15-18 year olds at Lancashire schools and colleges	213	£33,703
Number of undergraduate project placements offered to Lancashire's Universities.	101	£15,981
Number of graduate internships for graduates living in Lancashire	22	£20,886

Inclusive Workforce



Metric	To date	Indicative Social Value
Number of local people (FTE) employed on contract through construction phase activity (limited project level data available)	335	£9,633,930
Number of work placements or trails offered to unemployed Lancashire residents.	87	£51,835
Working days committed from business volunteers to mentor NEET ('not in education, employment or training') young people (16-18 year olds).	43	£37,812
Number of employment opportunities offered to Lancashire residents that are unemployed or at a disadvantage.	45	£853,425

Skilled and Productive Workforce

Metric	To date	Indicative Social Value
Number of apprenticeships (16-18 year old and Adults).	622	£6,708,146
Commitment to workforce planning and investment in training of employees.	1050	£271,373
Investment in leadership skills	212	£1,424,576

Wider Community Benefits

Metric	To date	Indicative Social Value
Community based projects driven by the local communities in which the project is based.	146	£16,424
Procurement of local Lancashire based supply chain through the contract (limited project level data available)		£11,911,671
Procurement and commissioning of local SMEs and social enterprises / third sector organisations (limited project level data available)		£2,763,316

The South East Blackburn Link Road project in Blackburn with Darwen has continued to generate some impressive social value outputs through the delivery of the project. The project has an ambitious social value programme to generate a range of local social and economic benefits including work placements, apprenticeships, careers activity and wider community benefits.

The project, valued at over £5 million, has ensured that at least 70% of all costs (labour, subcontractor and other suppliers) has been spent locally, within 25 miles of the borough.

Performance data across the Growth Deal programme is currently in the process of being reviewed and an annual Growth Deal Social and Economic Report, covering the 2020/21 period to the end of March 2021, will be presented to the LEP Board later in the year.

Construction Skills Fund

In the construction sector the Skills Hub continues to work closely with partners and developers across the county to provide employment and skills opportunities for local people. The Skills Hub are working with the Construction Industry Training Broad and Procure Plus on the roll out of the Construction Skills Fund across Lancashire.

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

Despite the restrictions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic the programme continues to deliver some very positive results (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 2020 – 6th April 2021	Lancashire
Training Completions	132
Employed to date	55
Diversity – All Trained	
BAME Trained	9
Female Trained	7
Learning difficulty and/or disability and/or health problem.	17
NEET Trained	51
Ex-Offender Trained	11
Care Leaver Trained	7
Unemployed >6months Trained	60
Unemployed <6months Trained	75


The Construction Skills Fund came to a close for new starts at the end of March 2021 and will be superseded by the Onsite Experience programme which will continue to provide employment and skills opportunities for Lancashire residents.

D'Urton Lane Development Social Value

The Skills Hub are currently working with Wilmott Dixon and L&Q/Trafford Housing Trust, to develop an ambitious social value programme for the D'Urton Lane development.

The project team are working with an extensive range of local partners to realise their social value offering and have set up two action groups focussing on Education and Skills & Employment opportunities for local people including work placements, Apprenticeships, and Kickstart placements.

Despite being at a very early stage in the programme with enabling works and site preparation the project has already generated 4 employment opportunities, 3 Apprenticeships and engaged with a total of 117 students. The project team are currently working with Preston's College to develop a series of Masterclasses for students.

	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

The Apprenticeship Action Plan has been refreshed for 2021-23 in consultation with partners. The plan will be presented at the meeting for approval by the committee in a separate paper.

Priority 2

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

Tech Talent Charter

The LEP is a signatory of the Tech Talent Charter, as an advocate for diversity in the digital workforce. In February, a thought-piece, jointly authored by Adrian Wright (UCLan), Kerry Harrison (Lancashire Digital Skills Partnership) and May Ellis (Lancashire County Council), was published to raise awareness of the issues and the training available to businesses. [You can read the article here.](#)

To further the local conversation on the issue of diversity and inclusion, working with colleagues at Frazer House – the new community and office hub for fast growing technology and digital companies and start-ups in Lancaster, based on White Cross Business Park – we are hosting a series of lunch-time chats with local businesses and GCHQ NW on why they feel this issue is so important for their business. Michael Lough – Blue Wren, Peter, Martin Peters – Miralis Data and Sameena K and Simon C – GCHQ are key contributors. [You can find out more about the events here.](#)

Google Digital Garage Training

The Lancashire Digital Skills Partnership (DSP), alongside its six fellow DSPs across the country, continues to work with Google Digital Garage to deliver a series of weekly sessions in May and June. The seven DSP Coordinators came together and agreed a programme of useful webinars that address common local needs or fill regional gaps.

The workshops start with Build your Personal Brand Online on the 19th May and also include topics such as: Keep your Family Safe Online, #IamRemarkable, Find Your Career Goals, Update your CV and Cover Letter, Productivity for Working Remotely, Safety First: Protect Yourself. Registration is via Eventbrite at: <https://digitalskillspartnerships.eventbrite.co.uk>.

European Social Funds (ESF)

Following on from the successful request for additional National Reserve Funding under Investment Priority 2.1, a call took place early in 2020. Four projects were successfully procured by DWP, the Managing Authority and details are provided in the table below:

Project	Lead Accountable Body	ESIF Funding	Overview
Building Successful Futures	PHX Training Limited	£1,528,000	Targeting Retail, Customer Service, Hospitality, Warehousing and Business, the project aims to develop the skills and career prospects of employed people, particularly within SMEs and micro businesses. The project will support employees to progress from entry level jobs, through the delivery of flexible and responsive vocational provision which meets employers' needs.



LEAP	UCLan	£2,259,000	Aligned with the Apprenticeship Action Plan the project aims to provide L3 bridging programmes, an Apprenticeship Mentoring Programme for supervisors, CPD for Apprenticeship Ambassadors and support the evolving Lancashire Levy Transfer Network (LLTN).
Upskilling Health & Social Care	Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service	£2,134,000	Partners will engage with VCFSE organisations, who are part of the Lancashire Integrated Care System and undertake organisational diagnostics and skills audits to create workforce development plans and individual learning plans. Bespoke training will be developed and delivered, with pathways created that will lead to and complement other provision, supporting individual career paths and the upskilling of organisation's workforce.
Building Blocks-Business Health Matters	Active Lancashire	£5,191,000	The project aims to boost the health of Lancashire's SME workforce by delivering Level 2 and Level 3 Workplace Health Champion training and other qualifications such as Mental Health First Aid. The project aims to train 5000 Workplace Health Champions across Lancashire, who will act as advocates for Workplace Health and Wellbeing within their organisation.

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.

The Skills Hub continues to work with providers to ensure that employer facing provision meets the current and future needs of businesses. From the start of the ESF provision until the end of March 2021 the projects have engaged with 3,182 Businesses and delivered to 15,312 employees.

Redundancy Taskforce

The Redundancy Taskforce was established in June 2020 with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), National Careers Service (NCS), and ESF providers. The taskforce has enabled a joined-up approach to communication with employers and the coordination of offers from different partners. As a result, partners are working with employers in developing tailored packages of support for employees who are at risk of/who are being made redundant.

Initially support was offered remotely using digital means. This continues to be the case, with some face-to-face support now taking place at employer premises in-line with COVID-19 regulations. From June 2020 until the end of February 2021, the taskforce has been in contact



with over 110 businesses. The group will continue to focus on how it improves awareness of the support available and will continue to meet for the foreseeable future and continue to work proactively to support businesses and their employees.

Priority 3

Leadership & Management capacity in SMEs

European Social Funds (ESF)

Leading Lancashire and Skills Support for the Workforce (SSW) continue to deliver provision to leaders and managers across Lancashire, with the former seeking to boost diversity and support succession planning, as well as pivoting to provide resilience and change management workshops in response to the pandemic. The Growth Company, the accountable body for SSW is also a member of the Redundancy Taskforce and is supporting businesses with employees at risk of redundancy and supervisor with restructuring, coordinating their offer with the National Careers Service, for which they are the northwest prime contractor.

Priority 4

Healthy Workplaces

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. Active Lancashire have been successful in gaining an ESF contract: Building Blocks- Business Health Matters, as detailed in the table.

A presentation will be provided by Active Lancashire at the committee meeting.



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.

Skills Advisory Panels – Local Skills Report

The Skills Hub worked closely with the Skills Advisory Panel Team in the DfE to agree a pragmatic approach to meeting the requirements of publishing a Local Skills Report while not diluting the Lancashire Skills and Employment Strategic Framework. As a result, the two documents have been brought together and the Strategic Framework incorporating the Local Skills Report was published at the end of March, meeting the DfE's deadline, see here:

<https://www.lancshireskillshub.co.uk/strategies/strategic-framework/>. It received positive feedback from the department and was one of the first presented to the Skills and Productivity Board as an example of good practice.

Skills Advisory Panels – 2021/22 Grant

The DfE have offered a further grant of £75,000 in 2021/22 as per previous years (this will be the third year of funds) to help support SAPs local analytical capability and meet SAP requirements.

The three key objectives for the grant are:

1. Continue to produce high quality local-level skills analysis
2. Maintain relationships to deliver the local skills agenda
3. Refresh Local Skills Reports



The committee are asked to recommend to the LEP Chair and Chief Executive that they accept the £75k grant being offered by the DfE.

Evidence Base

The Evidence Base page on the Skills Hub website, which is open source, now includes an interactive data dashboard for partners, in addition to the LMI Toolkit. The page has received over 1,671 visits, from the start of the 2021 until 6th May 2021, compared to 254 views in the same period last year. Showing the value and impact of the new approach. The evidence base will continue to evolve in line with partners and stakeholder feedback, utilising the SAP grant. The Evidence Base page can be viewed here: <https://www.lancashireskillshub.co.uk/our-people/evidence-base/>

Data Intelligence Stakeholder Briefings

Joseph Mount, Skills and Economic Intelligence Officer, has held stakeholder briefings with FE Colleges, Sixth Forms and Universities across the LEP to provide analytical insight into their respective Travel to Work Areas (TTWAs) business base, skills base, demand for skills, and sector forecasts. This information has been used by stakeholders to inform decisions regarding curriculum and capacity plan and has been well received by all involved. All those attending a briefing were able to take away with them their own bespoke interactive data dashboard to refer to and explore insights further with colleagues.

Vacancy Data Consultation

Following the consultation with the DfE's SAP Team on a new experimental vacancy dataset from the University of Warwick, it has been decided that this will be discontinued. Given the positive feedback The Skills Hub has received from stakeholders concerning vacancy data from Burning Glass, and the visualisations produced using it, the Skills Hub have extended their licence with Burning Glass for a further 6 months.

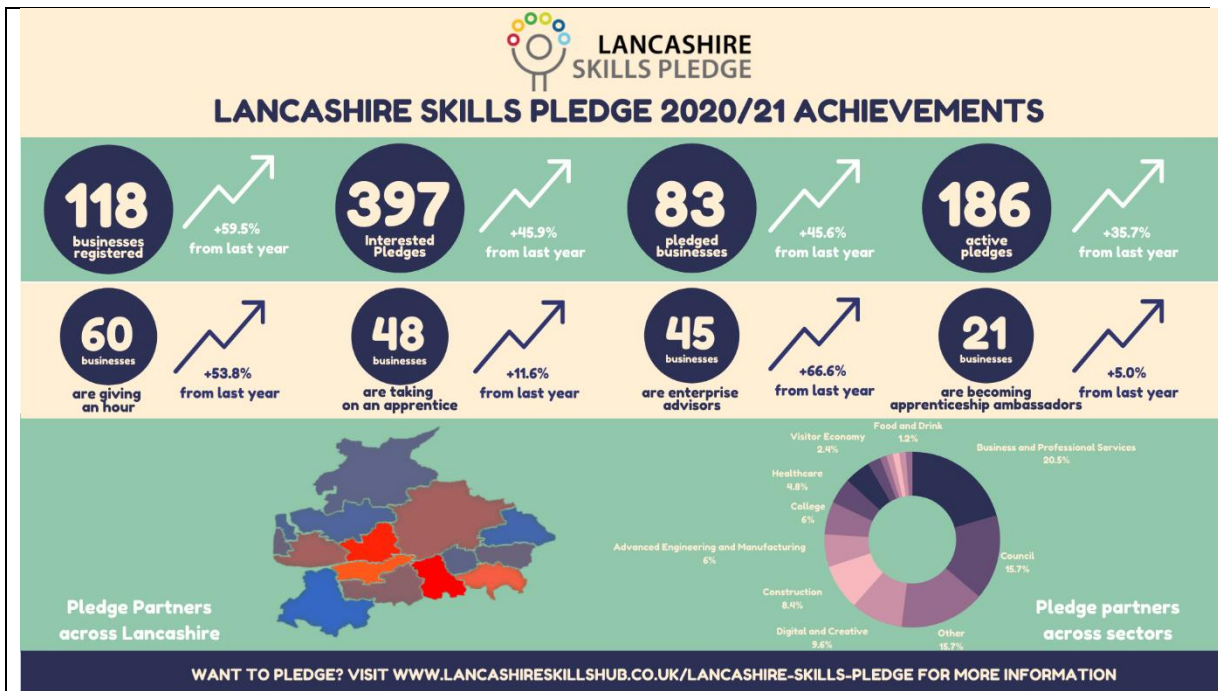
Cross cutting tools

Skills Pledge

The Lancashire Skills Pledge provides recognition to businesses, private, public and third sector, who inspire, recruit and upskill the people of Lancashire.

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 to receive support to engage with them and be recognised. 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.

Throughout 2020/21, the Skills Pledge initiative has continued to gain traction and is well represented geographically across the LEP, with Pledge Partners from all districts within the LEP. As of the 31st of March 2021, there were 83 businesses actively pledging (an increase of over 45% from the previous year) to a total of 186 pledges (an increase of over 35% from the previous year). Lancashire's wide array of sectors continue to be well represented by Pledge Partners.



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 7th May 2021, the website has received 15,500 views, including over 5,300 to the 16-24 page; and there were 2,700 external links clicked through to the support on partner sites.

Twitter

As of 11 May 2021, Twitter followers had increased by 110 followers since February 2021, making our total number of followers 2,918.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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N/A

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A