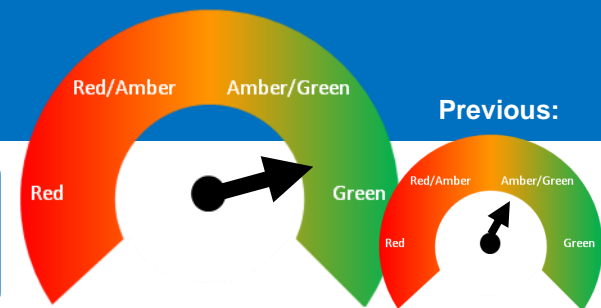


Workstream: People

Lead: Keri Denton

Summary: People sit at the heart of our economy. Whilst our people are self reliant , work hard and participate in society, they tend not to be well paid and many are working below their capabilities. Research has flagged that in key areas we face not just a skills crisis but a people crisis – the workforce is too small. We have limited levers to make an impact on these agendas with the majority of education and training budgets still retained centrally. Our focus is on deployment of those budgets we can influence.



Priority /Activity	Highlights / Progress
Creating a responsive environment with the right facilities, which are accessible and have employer engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ GD1/2 – All projects now completed. ✓ GD3- all projects completed. ✓ Additional project with Colleges agreed in April, following on from removal of Blue Screen IT programme from growth deal programme.
Increasing productivity by moving people into employment, supporting progress to better jobs and improving workforce skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ ESF calls and opt-ins tendered in late 2018. extensions offered in 2020 through to the end of the programme. ✓ Careers Hub – extended to 2021 and will now cover all schools in the LEP area. ✓ Institute of Technology – launched in September 2020. ✓ Work on going around COVID-19 recovery packages – including get building fund projects.
Supporting higher value growth by creating a world class workforce with higher level skills, aligned to opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ LEP worked with MA (DWP) to develop further ESF calls. ✓ DSP – second of 6 nationally. Digital Skills research published & website updated. 2019 Action Plan in progress. Innovation fund project ongoing. ✓ Nuclear skills Co-ordinator began Aug 19. ✓ Wider skills capacity now in place, including research capacity through Exeter Uni.

Key Issues & Risks	Proposed Mitigating Actions
Ability to deliver ESFA projects in light of reduced timescales and process, and lack of communication and timelines from ESFA.	Contractors delivering. Need to keep on top of contract management with ESFA to get best outcomes. Quarterly review pattern instigated to support LEP assurance role.
Completion of funding agreements for FE capital projects	GD1/2 complete. GD3 complete, bar one project.
Managing expectations around EU funding	Maintain dialogue & comms with all stakeholders and partners, including Government. Implementation for £28.6m of ESF underway, or complete with provision being made for further calls for remaining funds. Ahead of timetable on ESF.
Lack of investment through future funding rounds - such as growth deal, particularly for skills projects.	Support to develop pipeline projects with robust business cases. Pipeline established work now ongoing to complete GD3. Work also ongoing around CSR20.
Concerns around skills funding and FE landscape – linked to Area Based reviews and devolution	Emerging thinking & work ongoing on skills strategy to reflect local priorities. Wider work underway with partners around national policy / consultations.