

Heart of the South West Skills Advisory Panel

Tuesday 8th March 2022, 10:00 – 12:00

Via Microsoft Teams

Attendees:

- Vince Flower (Chair)
- Nicholas Child
- Keri Denton
- Tina Brinkworth
- Stuart Elford
- Hilary Stevens
- Michael Green
- Connor Conneely
- Mike Matthews
- Laurence Frewin
- Rosie Bates
- David Ralph
- Khristine Norton
- Stuart Evans
- Sharron Robbie
- Gabi Climie
- Victoria Hatfield
- Bill Blythe
- Jamie Evans
- Jo Skeel

Apologies:

- Lee Tozer
- Chris Evans
- Paul Blackmore
- Mark Shepherd
- John Laramy
- Hannah Keyte
- Nora Corkery
- Melanie Roberts
- Joanne Caine
- Debbie Stafford
- Jackie Grubb
- Rod Davis
- Julie Hawker

10am Welcome, Housekeeping and any new Declarations

- Vince Flower welcomed everyone to the meeting.

10:05am Minutes of Last Meeting

- All previous actions completed.
- Board members approved the minutes from the meeting held on 26th January 2022.

10:10am Roundtable of Members – All

- Michael Green updated that Bank of England and Office for National Statistics regard a national unemployment rate of 4.3% as full employment. The current unemployment rate is 4.1%. On this basis there is not enough people across the country to fill the available roles. Not sure what the South West stats are, but it would be useful to know? To which Hilary Stevens confirmed: South West ILO unemployment rate is 2.9%.
- Sharron Robbie updated that Digital Devon - Community Renewal Fund project has now launched working with partners UoE & Learn Devon to support digital skills and to increase the pool of digital skills trainers.
- Across engineering manufacturing there is competition for skills with companies effectively approaching staff rather than seeing an increased pipeline of entrance. One impact is an increased wage bill.
- The Skills Bill is currently going through Parliament, and will be subject to further amendments, which may have an impact on businesses. Sharron gave a brief overview and

commented on one of the proposed elements of the Bill; that there should be requirement for a minimum proportion of apprenticeship funding that employers need to use on young people, rather than being used for / to subsidise training that is already planned for older, existing workers.

Point of clarification – this proposal was repelled and has not made it into the final Bill.

- Sir Gary Streeter is visiting Plymouth on 28th April – Skills for Plymouth however it was unclear as to the purpose of the visit and how this has come about.
- Commentary regarding the role of the SAP going forwards to develop action rather than simply a forum for discussion.
- Overall the commentary was that this is not simply a difficulty with skills but actually finding people to fill vacancies which is having a negative impact on business.
- Tina Brinkworth requested an opportunity to update the SAP on their plans in Plymouth. It was agreed that this would be included as an agenda item at a future meeting.
- The SAP members welcomed the opportunity to meet up in this forum, sharing insights and experiences. However, the group is really keen to work and collaborate with the team at Devon County Council to move things forward, to make a real difference, sharing best practice, to address the challenges that we all face. The Chair will work with the team at DCC to develop a plan to achieve this.

10:40am Draft Core Indicator Dashboard – Gabi Climie

- Gabi Climie shared an interactive version of the Core Indicator Dashboard on screen. The Board were pleased with this and thought the analysis was really helpful.
- CC asked what source the data typically comes from to which GC confirmed primarily ONS.
- NC mentioned it is good to use common language across sectors and groups so it is understandable for all audiences. This will also be helpful in measuring the wider impact of the work that we carry out.

11:10am Covid Impact Update – Nicholas Child

- Nicholas Child provided an update on the Covid Impact, a copy of the presentation can be found below.
- JE observed that covid has accelerated trends that were going to happen i.e. 8 years of changes have been condensed into 2 years. Similarly, we now have Ukraine crisis accelerating trends that were already there i.e. energy and food.



sap data.pptx

11:30am Careers Hub – Jo Skeel / Khristine Norton

- Jo Skeel provided an update on the careers hub, a copy of the presentation has been provided below.
- The board welcomed this update and were pleased to see the work / impact that has taken place.



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11:50am **AOB – Chair**

12:00 **Close**

The next SAP Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 19th April 15:00 – 17:00.