

Heart of the South West Skills Advisory Panel

Tuesday 31st May 2022, 10:00 – 12:00

Via Microsoft Teams

Attendees:

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|--------------------------|---------------------|
| ○ Vince Flower (Chair) | ○ Tina Brinkworth |
| ○ Nicholas Child | ○ Stuart Elford |
| ○ Hannah Keyte (Minutes) | ○ Melanie Roberts |
| ○ Charlotte Collyer | ○ Michael Green |
| ○ John Revill | ○ John Laramy |
| ○ Mike Matthews | ○ Charlotte Collyer |
| ○ Gabi Climie | ○ Connor Conneely |
| ○ Helen Hart | ○ Andy Dean |
| ○ Jamie Evans | ○ Khristine Norton |
| ○ Chris Young | ○ Bill Blythe |
| ○ Tony George | |
| ○ David Ralph | |
| ○ Sharron Robbie | |

Apologies:

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| ○ Keri Denton | ○ Joanne Caine |
| ○ Phill Adams | ○ Laurence Frewin |
| ○ Alan Denby | ○ Lee Tozer |
| ○ Andy Berry | ○ Nora Corkery |
| ○ Carl Wyard | ○ Paul Blackmore |
| ○ Chris Evans | ○ Rod Davis |
| ○ Fran Stratford | ○ Paul Turner |
| ○ Guy Hazlehurst | ○ Rosie Bates |
| ○ Helen Higgs | ○ Sean Mackney |
| ○ Hilary Stevens | ○ Suzanne Bond |
| ○ Isaac Young | ○ Debbie Stafford |
| ○ Jackie Grubb | ○ Mark Shepherd |
| ○ Julie Hawker | ○ Victoria Hatfield |
| ○ Katy Quinn | |

Welcome, Housekeeping and any new Declarations

- Vince Flower welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of Last Meeting

- ACTION: Sharron Robbie** to provide updated text in relation to Skills Bill to be included in the minutes from 8th March 2022 to be issued as an amendment.
- ACTION: Hannah Keyte** to add Melanie Roberts to the apologies list for 8th March 2022.

SAP Role going forward

- Nick Child talked through the MOU attached below. The role of the SAP has been updated this year to have two objectives, recognising the changes with the LEP function and the ERB.



MOU SAP
2022-2023.pptx

- Requirement to consider how the SAP will operate over the next 12 months. The funding is clear that it would like the SAP to continue some of the current contract arrangements and clear that the spend we have is available to support ERBs.
- Stuart Elford highlighted we have been invited to submit an EOI for the LSIP and there appears to be a lot of duplication, therefore keen to understand thoughts on moving forward.

- In terms of designation of ERB, Stuart Elford highlighted the text clearly defined within the LSIP EOI which indicates they are looking at accredited chambers or some B5 organisations. Under the Devon County Deal, DCC has nominated the Devon Chamber of Commerce to chair the LSIP. John Laramy highlighted it would be worth the SAP revisiting its role once the LSIP has been established.
- Vince Flower confirmed frequency of meetings has been considered and proposed for four times a year.
- Discussions around apprenticeships and challenges for employers who are struggling to fill apprenticeship vacancies. Sharron Robbie and David Ralph agreed to catch up outside of the meeting re apprenticeship challenges. Sharron Robbie confirmed campaigns are in progress and government are revising how employers use digital online service for apprenticeships.
- **ACTION: Vince Flower and Nick Child** to review the attendee list due to lack of Somerset representatives.
- Helen Hart provided reassurance that they have been working closely with Emma Rawlings from Somerset Chamber around the LSIPs. Currently LSIP is a collaboration for Heart of the South West however expecting to disaggregate this regionally between Devon and Somerset in due course.
- Mike Green raised understanding of the SAP is for us to advise central government on what is happening locally and to formulate plans for plugging our skills gap and improving this, however over time have not seen us advising government.
- Chris Young explained currently struggling to recruit people and also to obtain materials. Concerns raised about how many employers are aware of what an ERB is, requirement for clarity around what is being led, who is leading it and the breadth of businesses being represented. From employers perspective having more understanding and information would allow more employers to be engaged. Stuart Elford advised during submission of trailblazer bid, every sector had a representative body engaged.
- **ACTION: All** to provide feedback on how you wish to shape the SAP going forward along with how we can join up communication with LSIPs and Chambers.

Economic Data

- Gabi Climie shared a slideshow looking at LEP position overall. Key contextual concerns are lingering impact from the pandemic, ongoing impacts from the UK leaving EU, the cost of living crisis and the conflict in Ukraine.
- Economic overview was provided and data will be shared following the meeting.
- Nick Child mentioned concerns around economic impact we are facing and looking at concern around vacancy levels dropping and market progressing. In terms of skills, concerns around how we are able to draw in those who are economically inactive and ensuring that we support those in lower scale levels to reach more permanent opportunities and upskill individuals to progress them in their careers.
- Tina Brinkworth confirmed they have seen significant early retirement in the city with people retiring at 54+ (as they have accrued high pensions), young unemployment and employment is at its lowest. There have been 3,800 job postings in a month and the highest demand since August 2015. **ACTION: Gabi Climie** to obtain data from DWP to track UC Claimants on health journeys.
- Connor Conneely advised that in Torbay, they are seeing and hearing from those previously on employment programmes needing CV, guidance and more tailored support as a result of covid

and cost of living. Individuals that we are engaging with have more complex circumstances and our coaches are working with them on financial support, health needs etc.

- **ACTION: Gabi Climie** to provide wage data disaggregated by districts to provide more intelligence on the disparity in Devon.

Updates from Members

Bootcamps – Charlotte Collyer



SAP MAY 2022.pdf

- Charlotte Collyer highlighted some operational changes including; Charlotte's role now includes managing the Digital and Sector Skills Team in Devon and email address has been updated as follows: charlotte.x.collyer@devon.gov.uk. In March, Julie Hawker, who was previous chair of DSP, stepped down and new chair has been appointed.
- Charlotte Collyer provided updates on the digital course finder, currently around 170 courses from 20 providers detailed on the website however a plea for more course details to be provided and for this tool to be promoted.
- The digital maturity index which is launching next month to assess where a business is in terms of digital transformation journey, linking into the digital course finder.
- The Train 4 Tomorrow Skills Bootcamps, funded by DfE for adults 19+ to encourage progression to higher paid work. Courses are a minimum of 60 guided learning hours therefore ranging between 12 to 16 weeks. Wave 3 proposal put forward for Cornwall and Devon was awarded £1.8m for 2022-23. If successful in investing this funding and tracking against milestones in year 1, a further £1.8m will be secured for year 2 and then again for year 3. Should all funding be spent within the first 6 months, there is an opportunity to apply for potential further funding.
- ITT currently open and extended for 2 weeks thus closing on 8th June with delivery anticipated in July.
- John Laramy highlighted concerns on behalf of providers around the large amount of activity going on from bootcamps, CRF, multiply etc and concerns around shortage of people to deliver these programmes. Charlotte Collyer recognises there is a lack of digital trainers and through CRF we have piloted Train the Trainers which was oversubscribed and a good model for us to replicate.

Somerset Bootcamps Programme – Mel Roberts

- Just under £1m worth of funding to deliver 22 bootcamps across digital construction and also plan on running a health and care pilot.
- Targeting just under 400 learners with potential to extend the GFA for a 2 x 12 month period. Will be looking to have a more open tender process in years 2 and 3.

Careers Hub – Nick Child

- Careers Hubs funding has been agreed for a further 12 months supported by LA, Careers Enterprise Company and the LEP.

LSIPS – Stuart Elford

- EOI is being developed and will be submitted on Monday 6th June. Currently working on building up stakeholder engagement and this is progressing well.
- Working closely with Emma Rawlings at the Somerset Chamber to ensure the LEP region is covered and represented.

Multiply Programme – Nick Child

- Multiply funding has been provided to support individuals 19+ who do not have GCSEs in Maths, to improve their maths skills either through qualifications or through using Maths skills in every day life.
- This has been awarded to Somerset, Plymouth, Torbay and Devon as upper tier authorities to deliver the skills over the next 3 years. Each authority has been asked to develop an investment plan to be submitted at the end of June to identify where demands are and opportunities for delivery.
- After 1 year this programme will be reviewed to provide the opportunity to shape learning into years 2 and 3.
- From Devon perspective focusing on three key themes; employer support and how we develop maths skills to support productivity and employers in the workplace, to reach communities that have not traditionally engaged with maths provision and finally to develop the capacity across Devon to support engagement and teaching of maths.
- Somerset are able to bid for up to £2.5m across the three years and adopting a similar approach in terms of employer support, employed individuals and building capacity across the network. Conscious of capacity within training provider network and therefore will be looking for voluntary sectors to support individuals.

Headline updates from members

- Concerns around crowded marketplace and employers being bombarded with opportunities. Requirement to focus on what is best for employers and simplify this marketplace, working as a group to achieve a more consistent offer. Suggestion from Bill Blythe that it would be helpful if BEIS, DWP etc discuss initiatives being launched together with the geographies.
- Andy Dean mentioned the University of Exeter are happy to work with Helen Hart and the Chamber to ensure data is current.

AOB

- None.

Close

- The next SAP Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 12th July 2022 10:00 – 12:00