

Heart of the South West Skills Advisory Panel

Tuesday 2nd November 2022, 10:00 – 12:00

Attendees:

- Vince Flower (Chair)
- Nicholas Child
- Hannah Keyte (Minutes)
- Bill Blythe
- Tina Brinkworth
- Gabrielle Climie
- David Ralph
- Andy Dean
- Debbie Stafford
- Helen Hart
- Julie Hawker
- Khristine Norton
- Laurence Frewin
- Melanie Roberts
- Mike Matthews
- Nicholas Child
- Nora Corkery
- Mary Payne
- Rod Davis
- Rosie Bates
- Sharron Robbie
- Mark Shepherd
- Lee Tozer

Apologies:

- Andy Berry
- Alan Denby
- Carl Wyard
- Chris Evans
- Connor Conneely
- Emma Wearne
- Guy Hazlehurst
- Helen Higgs
- Isaac Young
- Jackie Grubb
- Jamie Evans
- Joanne Caine
- John Revill
- John Laramy
- Katy Hockings
- Keri Denton
- Mike Green
- Paul Blackmore
- Paul Turner
- Phill Adams
- Sean Mackney
- Stuart Elford
- Suzanne Bond
- Tony Skeel
- Tony George
- Victoria Hatfield

Welcome, Housekeeping and any new Declarations

- Vince Flower welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- No conflicts of interest were declared.

Minutes of Last Meeting

- SAP Board were content with the minutes from the previous meeting and all actions completed.
- In terms of the University of Exeter Skills Strategy, this has been completed and is currently going through final checks. **ACTION: Andrew Dean** to share this once available.

Plymouth Skills Plan – Tina Brinkworth

- Tina Brinkworth provided a presentation on the Skills4Plymouth Plan focused on individuals having the right skills to enter into and progress within employment.
- Skills Launchpad includes the Youth Hub supporting those aged between 16-24 and the Adult Hub supporting those 25+. Currently the only Adult Hub in the country and DWP are interested in potentially rolling these out more widely.
- NEET Strategy is currently in development at PCC, looking at preventative model to ensure early identification and early interventions for individuals.
- A number of high profile and high footfall innovative events are being held to raise aspirations and broaden horizons. Employers have been in attendance hosting interactive activities.
- Skills4Plymouth have been successful in securing funding for all activity through a combination of public and private sector money. Currently in year 2 of delivery for the Youth Hub Service however commitment provided from DWP to fund next year. **ACTION: Debbie Stafford & Tina Brinkworth** to discuss methods of engagement for young people.
- PCC have bought in a business case and encouraged buy in from employers based on a collective need to grow a talent pool which they are able to draw down on. Range of communication channels are used to attract volume. Whilst mapping all stakeholders within partnership is a time-

consuming piece of work, once completed and the business case has been built it is very straight forward.

LSIP Update – Helen Hart

- Monitoring visit with DfE held a couple of weeks ago and next visit is scheduled for 13th Dec 2023.
- Key progress includes having created an LSIP brand (incl. website and other marketing collateral) which provides information to potential stakeholders, inviting them to share experiences.
- Meetings scheduled with employers and ERBs for Dec and Jan 2023 to identify skills they are seeking within existing workforce but also in future workforce, things that are working well or not, and what their ideal solution may be (to inform recommendations to government).
- Questionnaire for employers will be live on website, collating qualitative data. Requesting ERBs share the questionnaires with members but also pull together a group of relevant employers for a roundtable conversation to discuss issues and potential solutions.
- Devon and Somerset have now recruited administrative support for LSIP. Helen Hart met with Regional Ofsted Inspectors and is due to meet with all inspectors (within region) next week around LSIP and desired outcomes.
- 11th Jan 2023 is proposed date for LSIP Launch Event and Chamber will share more details to SAP Board members in due course.
- **ACTION: Helen Hart** to provide SAP Board Members with a briefing note detailing the timeline of actions being taken, what this looks like and who is required to be involved / support.
- Laurence Frewin suggested a conversation with ESFA. Helen Hart recognises funding is fundamental as without it, we are unable to take recommendations forward.
- Rod Davis raised concerns that the Chamber ought to be communicating with a controlled group to ensure consistency. Helen Hart advised the focus is very much on those sectors identified in the initial LSIP plan. **ACTION: Helen Hart** to share original list of stakeholders with David Ralph.
- The requirement to embed the cross-cutting theme of inclusivity throughout the plan was raised.
- Laurence Frewin advised when the Skills Act was brought in (April), it legally requires Colleges to engage in LSIP process and part of the mechanism for this will be form funding and accountability statement which colleges will need to sign by April / May. This was more than an accord but more a formal agreement that colleges will be held account for.
- **ACTION: Helen Hart** to provide an update at the next SAP Board, once research has completed and the Chamber are starting to pull together report.

Inclusion – Social Mobility – Debbie Stafford

- Social Mobility in the South West (levelling up through education) report from Exeter University in April 2022 focused on prospect of children and young people from disadvantaged backgrounds being able to live decent lives in the future.
- The 4 priorities to shape inclusive growth programme are: good businesses and jobs, good skills, good housing and good health.
- The aim of 'Ability not Disability' (delivered by DCC through CRF) is not just supporting people into employment but also supporting businesses. This includes developing confidence, 1-2-1 support to apply for work and how to retain work.
- Exeter Works (25+) and Youth Hub (16-24) provide skills and careers guidance for any individual looking to enhance career prospects / find employment.
- Youth Voice Census 2022 indicates young people are struggling to overcome barriers to wellbeing due to mental health. 51% of young people aged 19+ thought that mental health was the biggest barrier to accessing employment either now or in future. Young people also fear they do not have adequate experience or life skills for employment. Estimated approx. 5-6 young people in every

class in Devon have an underlying mental health condition with approx. 50% presenting conditions by the age of 14. Requirement for this to be a priority and to ensure all services are provided in an accessible and inclusive way i.e., providing internet access and connectivity, hardware training, flexible provision to allow for care responsibilities etc.

- Ask for SAP Board members to reflect on how we are meeting the needs of all our citizens and communities and how we could improve on this.
- Nora Corkery raised importance of rural proofing plans, linking in with other inclusion tools such as the Equality Impact Assessment NHS tool currently being delivered. The importance of this was acknowledged and consideration will be provided through cross sector working and collaboration with VCSE, Social Enterprise Network etc.
- Laurence Frewin suggested linking in with Plymouth University on their work around inclusivity.
- Supported internships and apprenticeships are being promoted by the training provider networks.
- Devon & Plymouth Chamber are hosting a Health, Wellbeing and HR Event on Fri 25th Nov at Market Hall in Devonport for anyone able to attend.
- Mel Roberts advised that post covid, it is much harder to engage young people let alone prepare them for employment. Concerns around many funding streams ceasing at the end of March 2023 and not aware of any replacement funding.
- David Ralph acknowledged sufficient progress is not being made on this and suggestion to come back in March 2023 to look at proposition for the next 12 months. **ACTION: Debbie Stafford** to provide an update at the next SAP Board Meeting in March 2023.

Economic Update – Gabrielle Climie

- The below presentation was provided to the SAP Board:



HotSW November
2022.pptx

- Really useful tool which shows population levels but likely to have more data as this comes out of the census: www.ons.gov.uk/census/maps/choropleth/population.

Roundtable of Members

- Sharron Robbie noted that DTPN (in collaboration with FSB) carried out a survey of over 5,500 SMEs and Micro-SMEs about vacancies and recruitment. This highlighted there were 15 employers who reported vacancies (a total of 25 vacancies).
- National Apprenticeship week is W/C 6th Feb 2023 and theme is 'Skills for Life'. A range of work will be taking place to raise awareness of apprenticeship opportunities.
- David Ralph highlighted the need to look at Careers Hub funding for next year, in advance of the next SAP Meeting, as likely to require match funding from LAs as well as LEP.

Close

- The next SAP Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 21st March 2023 – 10:00 – 12:00