

Heart of the South West Skills Advisory Panel

Monday 22nd March 2023, 10:00 – 12:00

Attendees:

- Vince Flower (Chair)
- Phill Adams
- Hannah Keyte (Minutes)
- Bill Blythe
- Gabrielle Climie
- Connor Conneely
- David Ralph
- Debbie Stafford
- Tony George
- Helen Hart
- Jo Skeel
- Julie Hawker
- Lisa Tuck
- Melanie Roberts
- Mick Green
- Sarah Newham
- Nicholas Child
- Phill Adams
- Rod Davis
- Sharron Robbie
- Tina Brinkworth
- Tony Skeel
- Victoria Hatfield

Apologies:

- Alex Coull
- Andy Dean
- Andy Berry
- Carl Wyard
- Chris Evans
- Guy Hazlehurst
- Helen Higgs
- Isaac Young
- Jackie Grubb
- Jamie Evans
- John Laramy
- John Revill
- Keri Denton
- Khristine Norton
- Lee Tozer
- Laurence Frewin
- Mark Shepherd
- Mary Payne
- Mike Matthews
- Nora Corkery
- Paul Blackmore
- Paul Turner
- Sean Mackney
- Suzanne Bond

Welcome, Housekeeping and any new Declarations

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

Minutes of Last Meeting

- The Board were content with the minutes from the previous meeting and all actions completed.

Skills Advisory Panel Update – Phill Adams

- The Skills Advisory Panel (SAP) was created by the DfE working with LEP and other partnerships as a pre-cursor to what came through in the Skills Act. It ensured consistency of data and partnerships around the country to put together embryonic skills strategies.
- DfE emailed about a month ago to advise in the advent of the LSIP and Skills Act, the intent was to bring the SAP Programme to a close on 31st March. LAs responded to DfE to ask for a longer-term plan and guidance is due out in the next couple of weeks. Interim need over next 6-9 months to have a forum for skills discussions.
- Current proposal is to sustain the SAP using resource from DCC throughout the year, looking at integration with LSIP in the longer term.
- The Board were in agreement with this proposal to prevent leaving a gap in the interim period.

LSIP Update – Helen Hart

- The final draft report has been sent to the Governance Board this morning for their review and sign off. Submission required to Government by 31st May 2023.
- Helen Hart provided a brief overview of the 6 headline topics and 19 recommendations.
- Helen Hart thanked Vince Flower and David Ralph for their statement of support which will accompany the report in the submission.

- After submission, there will be discussions with DfE, looking at roadmap and action plan on implementation over the next couple of years. Hopeful to have acquired Secretary of State sign off by middle of July 2023 and will then be able to publish the report more widely.
- Phase 2 (August 2023 to March 2025) will focus on implementation of actions and recommendations and embedding LSIP in local skills system. There will be ongoing reviews with DfE to ensure on track and looking at challenges and resolutions.
- LSIF – no clear details have been issued yet. This is wider than SDF and will not just be colleges.
- Will be developing plans in more detail in June and July including any funding asks.
- **ACTION: Helen Hart** to provide an update at the next SAP Board Meeting.

Inclusion – Social Mobility – Phill Adams

- Phill Adams presented on Social Mobility education data and pay and productivity for 22/23.
- Whilst education is important, need the ability to progress in work, development of the local economy and general outlook of community is often crucial around creating local mobility / transformation.
- Key focus areas include education and skills, creating successful local economies and diversity and inclusion.
- Require an action plan and co-ordination around Social Mobility Commission and wider mobility activity within the HotSW area.
- Tina Brinkworth advised Plymouth has been working on SEND Employment work and have just launched a NEET Strategy. Challenge around positions and opportunities not being available for people to transition into work.
- David Ralph suggested some deep dives to focus on various service areas.
- **ACTION: Vince Flower** to take this forward, thinking about how we can co-ordinate the deep dives and extend the invite to Tina Brinkworth and Sharron Robbie to share their learning.

Careers Hub Update – Jo Skeel

- Jo Skeel presented an update on the Careers Hub providing some national headlines, performance, 22/23 projects and looking forward at 23/24. In terms of 23/24, proposing HotSW will split into two separate careers hub and staff (employed on behalf of the HotSW LEP) delivering in Somerset will TUPE across to SCC.
- Mel Roberts suggested presenting work on NEETS in Somerset at a future HotSW SAP Meeting.

Train4Tomorrow Update – Charlotte Collyer

- T4T Skills Bootcamp update provided by Charlotte Collyer, talking through programme changes and performance as the requirements changed between wave 1 and 2.
- Last cohort of learners finished in March 2023 and have up to 3 months to secure a successful outcome i.e., promotion, new job, evidence they have used the knowledge to advance business etc. To date, 162 of 461 have achieved that milestone.
- Wave 4 has started and runs for this financial year. Will be running Wave 4 campaign including a new website due to go live at the end of the month. This will be the main engagement tool.
- Any meetings / events coming up where a presentation on T4T would be helpful, please let Charlotte Collyer know.
- Confirmation there will be Wave 4b with a January start date and understand there is an intention for Wave 5.
- Somerset and Dorset have a smaller programme with just over £1m to target just under 300 learners. Wave 4 will look at wraparound support and business engagement will focus on

upskilling workforce individuals. Also looking at Health and Care as part of the 30% flexibility. Potential future agenda item.

Roundtable of Members

- Mel Roberts – In terms of UKSPF – funding has now been permitted for this year on People and Skills theme rather than only being able to spend from April 2024. Announcement was received late and therefore most funding has already been committed elsewhere. Looking to continue ESF Programmes running in Somerset prior to March, Building Better Opportunities – supporting individuals into the workforce and the Focus 5 provision around supporting NEETs. Somerset ESF NEETS programme running through to end of summer (topped up through CRF).
- Rod Davis – Anticipate hearing the outcome of Adult Education Budget Procurement round in mid-to-late June.
- Connor Conneely – 10 out of 14 UKSPF interventions are now underway. Challenge around spend now being permitted on people and skills theme as do not have budget for this. Multiply Year 2 Programme has begun and is continuing as previously, with partnership approach.
- Sharron Robbie – DCTPN continues to deliver on ASK Programme which ends on 31st July and been advised of funding for another year. ASK only funds year groups 10 and upwards and unlikely to be extended down to younger groups.

Close

- The next SAP Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday 7th September 2023, 10:00 – 12:00