

## Heart of the South West Skills Advisory Panel

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023, 10:00 – 11:00**

### Attendees:

- Vince Flower (Chair)
- Hannah Keyte (Minutes)
- Bill Blythe
- Gabrielle Climie
- Connor Conneely
- Eifion Jones
- Tony George
- Jo Atkey
- John Laramy
- John Revill
- Julie Hawker
- Khristine Norton
- Laurence Frewin
- Melanie Roberts
- Sarah Newham
- Nicholas Child
- Mary Payne
- Rod Davis
- Sharron Robbie
- Stuart Elford
- Lee Tozer
- Victoria Hatfield

### Apologies:

- Andy Dean
- Carl Wyard
- Chris Evans
- Claire Gibson
- David Ralph
- Debbie Stafford
- Helen Hart
- Jackie Grubb
- Jamie Evans
- Keri Denton
- Lisa Tuck
- Mark Shepherd
- Mike Green
- Mike Matthews
- Nora Corkery
- Paul Blackmore
- Paul Turner
- Phill Adams
- Sean Mackney
- Suzanne Bond
- Tina Brinkworth
- Tony Skeel

### 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 actions are either in progress or complete. A full LSIP update will be provided at the December Meeting.

### Careers Hub – Jo Skeel

- Jo Skeel provided an update on the Careers Hub outlining benchmarking performance, key priorities for 2023-24, how these will be achieved and Cornerstone Employers / working groups.
- If there are any opportunities the Careers Hub can build on, please do contact Jo Skeel.
- John Laramy shared a good news story - record apprentice numbers this year for 16-19 cohort and never had a higher level of matched apprenticeship to employer.
- Sarah Newham advised that DWP are linked in with school advisors in terms of teacher encounters. DWP do a lot of work helping those that are unable to get into work experience. Jo Skeel is creating stakeholder groups for work experience so will link in with Sarah Newham/DWP.  
**Action: Hannah Keyte** to schedule an item on the March SAP Agenda.
- Following the LEP announcement, Eifion Jones highlighted the funding the LEP have provided to the Careers Hub, as this will need to be considered for next year.
- Laurence Frewin raised as part of the longer-term, are there plans to work with the larger regional projects i.e., offshore winds, Gravity re EV chargers etc. Jo Skeel confirmed currently working on LMI to ensure young people are aware of these sectors but need to expand cornerstone employers. If there are any helpful contacts, please send them through to Jo Skeel.

### **Social Mobility – Anne-Marie Sim**

- Anne-Marie Sim, Lead on South West Social Mobility Commission at Exeter University attended the meeting. The data presented shows there is a high proportion of young adults in unskilled work and we have the fewest young people from any background going onto higher level (L4+) education or training.
- In terms of Social Mobility, primary school outcomes have worsened significantly since Covid and the South West is further behind the England average. For disadvantaged pupils, only 37% reached expected standard in reading, writing and maths when they left Primary School last year.
- Region-specific challenges include disconnected areas, low wage economy and lack of impetus for change. The Commission has been established to set the ambitions and push forward change.
- Goals have been set and are centred around what we want to achieve for children and young people at every life stage from 0-25. There are three core functions which are advocacy, best practice sharing and strategic planning.
- Goals are both long term and broken down into interim goals, tracking these and keeping South West Social Mobility on the regional agenda. As part of overall approach, will be engaging with specific projects.
- Mary Payne advised we are 7 years into pipeline activity so able to share some good practice.  
**ACTION: Anne-Marie Sim and Mary Payne** to discuss further.
- Julie Hawker suggested engaging with Tech South West on the Tech Skills element.
- Anne-Marie Sim advised she has been in contact with DWP SW Regional Strategic Manager, Sarah Carhart and will make contact again to continue discussions.
- **ACTION: Anne-Marie Sim and Rod Davis** to follow up after the meeting to discuss the work in Somerset around supported internship/ apprenticeship provision.
- **ACTION: Anne-Marie Sim** to have a conversation with Laurence Frewin regarding the 2-22 approach.

### **Roundtable of Members**

- Lee Tozer advised there are a number of new programmes taking place and will provide a briefing for attendees following the meeting.
- Jo Atkey – following unsuccessful bids for UKSPF funding, this has meant that 2 projects (Empowering Enterprise and Experience Works) will be coming to an end thus leaving gaps. Devon Communities are a member of ACRE Network and an application for funding around Rural Housing Enabling is being pulled together for DEFRA.

### **Close**

- The next SAP Board meeting is scheduled for Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023, 10:00 – 12:00