

Alliance Employment and Skills Board

Wednesday 6th December 2006 - Dunston Innovation Centre, Chesterfield

Attendees

Frank Lord (FL), Chair
 Don Hayes (DH), Enable
 Linda Pearson (LP), East Midlands Business Ltd
 Keith Burn (KB), Job Centre Plus Derbyshire
 Ian Murray (IM), Chesterfield College/CHEA Partnership
 Geoff George (GG), Nottinghamshire County Council
 Peter Brammall (PB), LSC Derbyshire
 Christine Wood (CWd), TUC
 Ann Jones (AJ), Government Office for the East Midlands
 Carolyn White (CW), King's Mill Hospital
 Jean Pardoe (JP), Connexions Notts
 Nigel Jackson (NJ), LSC Nottinghamshire
 Sonia Coleman (SC), Bolsover District Council
 Andrew Street (AS), Alliance SSP
 Carla Burton (CB), Alliance Skills Board
 Stef Stubbs (SS), Alliance SSP
 Heather Downey (HD), Alliance Skills Board
 Jan Stanley (JS), Federation of Small Business

Apologies

Freda Tallantyre, CHEA Partnership
 Sarah Bentley, ESP
 Nawaz Khan, Derbyshire County Council
 Wes Lumley, Bolsover District Council
 Richard Gill, East Midlands Business Ltd

Guest Speaker

Martin Gawith (MG), Greater Nottingham Partnership

Topic	Information	Actions	Lead Partners	Timescale
Welcome, Introductions and apologies	<p>Frank Lord FL welcomed all present to the first meeting of the Skills Board and apologies were noted. FL stated that the objective of the meeting was to set the strategy and structure of the Skills Board and to agree the terms of reference.</p>			

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1. Employment and Skills Challenges in the Alliance Area - Presentation	<p>Andrew Street AS presentation attached. This included:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Raising Productivity</i> – Looking strategically at skills required, including business to business services. • <i>Employment and Skills Challenge</i> – Main focus is not only on graduates • <i>Demand for Higher Skills</i> –Need to look at ways to tackle initial problems. • <i>Increasing the Demand</i> – Resources limited; try and work with companies that are innovative; get businesses to locate to the area by raising its attractiveness. • <i>Supply of Higher Level Skills</i> - Priority sectors – not exclusive. Look at wider sub-regional observatory. <p>Discussion covered the fact that it may be necessary to focus initially on one or two areas such as Business Development (including public sector development), Organisational Development and the Individual. KB raised a concern that the emphasis also needs to be on the social inclusion agenda. PB questioned how the Skills Board is going to make a difference. It was agreed that partner strategies need to be analysed to identify where the gaps are. FL concluded that all partners needs to work towards common goals, with the Skills Board agreeing what is achievable and what difference can be made, particularly not losing sight of the social impact.</p>			
2. Alliance Skills Board Terms of Reference	<p>Nigel Jackson - Paper 011206</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key purpose is to ensure that partners work together as encouraged by the Leitch review. • Need to ensure that the Skills Board remit means that we are able to make a difference collectively to achieve agreed goals. • Need to provide people from N Derbys and N Notts with the appropriate skills • Add in an objective about social coherence/tackling deprivation • Questionable as to whether the group should focus on the 14-19 agenda given other partnership structures 			

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it add value by following the remit and action plans? <p>JP highlighted that a strategy group for 14 -19 agenda already exists in Notts. She suggested that it would be a good idea to have this strategic group working with the Skills Board through sharing reports, etc and this was agreed. JP to feed this back to the 14 -19 strategy group.</p> <p>IM raised the potential danger of making a false distinction of pre and post 19. PB suggested that the agenda is not just about pre or post 19 - need to focus on hotspots for employment and skills development. Suggested that the board bring together their own intelligence.</p> <p>IM suggested that a focus solely on sector specific skills must be avoided as there is a need to develop business to business and other 'horizontal' skills.</p> <p>DH stated that in many cases Level 2's for adults are too stretching a starting point and that they need to be engaged through first steps learning.</p> <p>KB suggested that the Board be titled an Employment and Skills Board. Also that the objectives should include quantified employment rates.</p> <p>FL suggested that esp Priorities 5 and 6 be retained.</p>	<p>JP agreed to feed back to the Notts 14 – 19 strategy group</p> <p>HD to update Terms of Reference as per comments.</p>		<p>Jan 07</p>
<p>3. Membership and Representation</p>	<p>Frank Lord – Paper 021206</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Important that the Skills Board deals with matters objectively The Board needs to be empowered to make decisions and delegate Need to ensure the correct balance and the weight of the board Need to set the values and philosophy Agree codes of practice; responsibilities of the board = public interest Membership and appropriate level representation is important to move forward. <p>PB asked the group to respect individual organisation governance structures and the need of members to consult such structures.</p> <p>FL suggested that it would be beneficial if Work Based Learning networks be represented. CWd supported this suggestion and commented that trade union representation picked up both employee and provision of work place learning representation. It was agreed to seek representation from either</p>	<p>HD to contact Notts and Derbys Training Networks for an agreed representative.</p>		<p>Dec 06</p>

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	<p>Notts or Derbys Training Networks.</p> <p>It should also be considered if further community representation is appropriate.</p> <p>Re public sector employer, it was confirmed that this was currently being picked up by CW, although it was noted that there are changes in organisational structures and responsibilities taking place locally in the NHS.</p> <p>Re FE/HE representation, it was confirmed that this was addressed through the CHEA Partnership membership. It was agreed that details on the structures and remit of the CHEA Partnership would be helpful.</p> <p>Re private sector employer representation, HD commented that she was currently discussing this with the CBI and there could be other scope through the Derbyshire Employer's Coalition. PB requested that members be kept informed of developments.</p>	<p>SS to circulate CHEA information.</p> <p>HD to circulate member contact details.</p>		<p>Dec 06</p> <p>Jan 07</p>
<p>4. Greater Nottingham Skills Board</p>	<p>Martin Gawith, Greater Nottingham Partnership – Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All about getting people into work - better linkages • GNSB a vehicle for sharing and commissioning initiatives and aligning funding across partners • Has helped when targeting inward investors • Has helped with initiatives to reach “hard to reach groups”. Looking at geographical/neighbourhood issues. • Employer involvement • Has helped to identify how partner targets benefit one another <p>A copy of the presentation along with information on successful projects was made available.</p>	<p>HD to circulate presentation electronically</p>		

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5. Linkages to Other Partnership Structures.	<p>Andrew Street - Paper 031206</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue of developing an enterprise culture across those in education and training • Ensure that strategies translate into activity <p>PB highlighted the need to be clear on emerging embryonic structures such as the Derbys Skills, Enterprise and Employment Sub Group of the Local Area Agreement Sustainable and Stronger Communities Block. HD suggested that she had met with Derbys CC officers to discuss and that it had been suggested that a note go to the Derbyshire Partnership Forum on the establishment of the Alliance Employment and Skills Board. PB to discuss this with Derbys County Council. KB commented that he wished to see similar agendas being covered by both groups. GG commented that Notts County Council was supportive of the establishment of an Alliance Employment and Skills Board.</p>			
6. Work plan and Future Agenda Items	<p>Heather Downey – Paper 041206</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future work will focus on mapping partners strategic funding commitments, identifying gaps and pulling together a sub-regional Employment, Learning and Skills and Productivity Delivery Plan as a focus for work by March. • Future agenda item suggestions were put forward including for January:- Sarah Bentley, esp Director to provide an update on the esp, changes to priorities and mechanisms; LSC to provide a paper on plans for safeguarding adult learning. <p>NJ stressed that agenda items, particularly presentations, are not just to take notes on but are there for action to be taken. AS suggested that the Employment and Skills Board should look to agree specific areas of work/project outcomes so that it was making a difference. JS requested that an update on changes to business support would be helpful. LP suggested that this would be more appropriate in March.</p>	<p>HD to progress mapping and Delivery Plan</p> <p>HD to prepare January agenda including esp and LSC paper. March agenda to include EMB update</p>		<p>March 07</p>

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7.Communications	<p>Heather Downey Paper 051206</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes to be circulated to members • Minutes to be placed on the Alliance web site • Brief e-mail bulletin to be cascaded to partners and education and training providers to ensure that organisations are aware of the role of the Skills Board and to offer them the opportunity to engage in work at subsequent levels. <p>JP suggested that all members pass action notes on related activity through to HD for circulation.</p>	<p>HD to progress</p> <p>All – relevant action notes to be passed through to HD</p>		
Any other business	<p>JS indicated difficulties in attending three of the proposed future dates for the Skills Board meetings.</p> <p>Declarations of interests form to be circulated to board members and returned to HD.</p>	<p>HD to review March date</p> <p>HD to circulate to members</p>		Dec 06

Next Meeting: Wednesday 17th January 2007 3.30pm – 5.30pm in the Stewart Room at the Derbyshire Chamber and Business Link, Commerce Centre, Canal Wharf, Chesterfield, S41 7NA