

DORSET SKILLS BOARD – MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY 15TH AUGUST – 14:00 – 16:00 - VIRTUAL MEETING HELD ON TEAMS
Attendees:

Nicola Newman, Chair (NN)
 Adrian Gunner, SWRAC (AG)
 Amy Walton, BCP Council (AW)
 Andrea Murphy, Seetec Plus (AM)
 David Matthews, Upton Beach (DM)
 Eleanor Parson, NHS Dorset (EP)
 Helen Stevenson, Dorset LEP
 Hugh Joseph, Engineering Sector (HJ)
 Karen Taylor, DWP (KT)
 Kate Wills, Weymouth & Kingston Maurwood College (KW)
 Lesley Haig, AECC (LH)
 Lesley Spain, Head of Skills and Learning, BCP Council (LS)
 Penny Syddall, Dorset Council (PSy)
 Phil Sayles, Bournemouth and Poole College (PS)
 Rod Davis, Dorset and Somerset Training Provider Network (RD)
 Rosie Knapper, LSIP
 Rebecca Davies, Dorset LEP (RD (LEP))
 Clare Fleming, Dorset LEP (CF)

Apologies:

Jon Bird, Dorset Council
 Joanna Gale, Seetec Plus
 Jim Andrews, BU

Item	Notes and Decisions	Action
1.	<p>Welcome from the Chair.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apologies were received from Jim Andrews, Jon Bird and Joanna Gale • Introductions from all attendees for Kate Wills. • No declarations of interest were received. • Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed 	<p>NN to give final sign off DSB June minutes</p>
2.	<p>Skills England Nicola Newman</p> <p>RD: Attended a small provider group in Westminster on 11th July. Reported a positive buzz and high expectations from senior civil service officials for the opportunity for development.</p> <p>NN: In their policy team meetings there is enthusiasm about change. Latest meeting provided confirmation they can publish the LSIP Report (after 19th August) and that future meetings will be with both Melanie Cossey from DFE and a policy representative. The LSIP team will help promote the LSIP report, pulling out different pieces for different audiences. NN recognised the report is not as employer focused as she would have hoped for – but does reflect what DFE wanted.</p> <p>NN shared slides of the most recent DFE / LSIP webinars where there was input from someone from Skills England. And outline of previous webinars.</p> <p>Lack of clarity remains about how the local skills piece will mesh with the regional / national agenda. There are ongoing discussions about the application of the Apprenticeship Levy in future.</p>	

	<p>There has been a public announcement about Skills England but this will probably not come into effect until Q3 '25. LSIP funding ends in March '25 with reporting until June '25. Slides outlined the partnerships for Skills England – focussed on devolved authorities.</p> <p>PS: Recognised the important part the devolution conversation will play. Attended a well subscribed AELP webinar yesterday. PS recognises how complex the issues are around apprenticeships and the levy.</p> <p>RD: Acknowledged that the systems and processes have complexity. Some decisions could both clear a path and build a barrier. There will be another AELP webinar on 9th September.</p> <p>AW: Reflected on what will happen in the gap before Skills England is up and running. RD: It has to be a business as usual approach until things are clearer. There are many changes which could have an impact – we have to adopt a 'mind the gap' approach so we don't lose provision.</p> <p>PS: Recognised the challenge and concern and also the importance of the careers piece.</p> <p>LS: Has met with DWP officers and two themes emerged: UKSPF looks like it might extend by 6 – 8 months. Universal Support may be renamed. This may provide some continuity.</p> <p>KT: Universal Support was going to plug the gap for the Work & Health programme, but that looks like it might be extended. Otherwise there could be a big gap for more vulnerable people.</p> <p>RD(LEP): The CEC are strongly promoting their engagement with government. We have a contract until the end of August 2025 – but CEC are already talking about this being a long piece of work.</p> <p>Discussion about ensuring the importance of skills is recognised in the devolution discussions (recognising the deadline for the expression of interest from local authorities is September), acknowledging that there are some conversations ongoing.</p> <p>Discussion about how learning can be taken from others who have been through the journey. RD asked members to share useful links / information.</p> <p>AW: Key Cities Networking Group – could ask them to present to the Board. KT: Barnsley Pathways to Work – possible direction of travel.</p>	<p>DSB to make representation to the LEP Board</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Data update Rosie Knapper</p> <p>RK presented LSIP data update outlining progress to June 2024.</p> <p>AW: Noted an upcoming event at Poole Lighthouse about the Building Safety Act with the Poole Property Club.</p> <p>PS: Showed appreciation for the rich data gathering and contextualisation. It demonstrates there is plenty of work to be done and we have some great people who are doing it.</p>	<p>RK to share slides with updated apprenticeship numbers</p>

	<p>RD: Noted there have been some positive and energetic discussions about Skills Bootcamps over the summer and there is definitely more movement.</p> <p>NN: A shout out for the curriculum groups – they need to be built on. And the DSTPN Skills Sorted directory of employers.</p> <p>NN: Asked that anyone who wanted to be part of the Dorset Skills Communication Group should let her know.</p>	
4.	<p>Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) Leslie Haig</p> <p>LH represents the HE sector in the ICP.</p> <p>LH outlined the function and aims of the ICP – a joint committee bringing health, population health and social care together and create a joined up approach. ICP Terms of Reference</p> <p>The aim is to be as strategic and upstream as possible. There is a need to use data to understand pockets of need and be targetted. Priorities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cardio vascular disease • Respiratory disease • Falls and frailty <p>Whilst these sound very health based, the wider determinants are looked at.</p> <p>Looking to establish Intergrated Neighbourhood Teams – with about 40 hubs across Dorset with a phased approach to community focused population interventions.</p> <p>Noted that this is about using funding that already exists in the system - doing it ourselves and horizon scanning where the opportunities are.</p> <p>NN: Has spoken to the ICP from a skills perspective and this needs to be kept live. There had been a question about whether there is careers education in schools – we need to promote that we have one of the best careers hubs in the country.</p> <p>HS: Noted that they have been invited into the Integrated Care Strategy widening participation community of practice group in connection with their early careers planning.</p>	
5.	<p>Dorset Careers Hub Helen Severson</p> <p>HS talked through her slides reviewing the past academic year and setting out the strategic priorities for 24/25.</p> <p>Noted that DCH would like to join up on any sector events.</p> <p>Noted that Workplace Experiences is now rebranded as equallex – a progressive programme that needs to target younger learners too – there is a formal pilot ongoing in Manchester. HS is keen for input on how the DCH works with local employers to raise awareness.</p> <p>EP: Knows HS has been working closely with Jackie Hoyle and Steve Aldwyn and are valuing the insight and perspective of the Careers Hub. They are developing a more strategic approach to widening participation and the opportunities they have in terms of the size and scale of their workforce.</p>	

	<p>LH: Recognised the brilliant work. Noted their commitment to widening participation plans. There is opportunity to be more joined up with other universities to have a more streamlined approach.</p> <p>HS: Noted the work going into the Gatsby Benchmark 7 (progression pathways) which started as a mapping exercise across Dorset and needs to bring in FE colleges.</p> <p>NN and RD noted the Ask project which is focused on apprenticeships.</p> <p>RD: Flagged the sector based Skills Elevator piece of work from DSTPN.</p>	
6.	<p>Member updates</p> <p>EP: Reiterated the widening participation piece that is part of the ICS, aligned to the NHS long term workforce plan. Would welcome the voice of partners around the table in that strategic group.</p> <p>AW: Flagged the Dorset Chamber event in February. BCP is still driving forward Skills Bootcamps including looking at veterans skills and working with BU.</p> <p>LH: Health Sciences University now officially named and have acquired the University College of Osteopathy in London. NN: Welcomed the connections with London.</p> <p>LS: They are into the last half year of the Multiply funding (UKSPF). Recognised the emerging gap in BCP in alternative provision for excluded children.</p> <p>AM: Talk of an extension to the Work & Health Pioneer programme (due to finish in September) to fill the gap before a new programme in April / May next year.</p> <p>PS: Significant building and refurbishment work across both campuses, including T level Health and Engineering facilities.</p> <p>RD: Thanks to the Skills Dorset team for support with Skills Bootcamps. Discussions are in place about Wave 6. Strategic work ongoing e.g. national discussions about the EPA element of apprenticeships and with ESFA around finance and compliance – simplifying the system so providers can spend more time on delivery.</p> <p>KT: No policy changes through yet. Noted early prison releases and looking to divert people into the right type of skills support.</p> <p>PSy: Flagged the recent Reconnect event in BCP run by Women in Tech. The Digital Leadership programme is now up and running with Cosmic. The Digital Champion programme is now embedded. They are planning an MP briefing in the autumn around the digital skills gap. They will be producing regular reports of their work as part of the Digital Skills Partnership.</p> <p>KW: Recognised this impressive, multi professional, multi agency, talented group of people who really care. She is currently navigating the operational side of her role before focussing on strategic priorities.</p> <p>DM: Recognised exam results day and thanked Helen and Jan for all their work at the Careers Hub to help children identify their future pathways.</p> <p>AW: Noted the 50+ roadshows that DWP are running (leaflet attached).</p>	<p>AW to connect EP and Caroline Sharp @ Dorset Chamber</p>

	<p>NN: Encouraged all to come to the Dorset show - A good opportunity to see rural businesses.</p> <p>RD(LEP): Flagged a morning event on 16th October – part of Dorset Business Festival and run by the Homewards Foundation work with the CEO of Cook. Also noted the Boscombe Wellbeing Hub is almost complete on the ground floor of BCHA. Expressed her pride in the work of the Digital Skills Hub and Dorset Careers Hub.</p> <p>Jim Andrews is leaving his post and the Board shortly. NN expressed the Board's thanks and best wishes to Jim for his future.</p>	
7.	<p>AOB</p> <p>None</p>	

Next Meeting: Monday 14th October 2024 14:00 – 16:00