

**DORSET SKILLS BOARD – MEETING MINUTES**
**MONDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> MARCH – 14:00 – 16:00**
**VIRTUAL MEETING HELD ON TEAMS**
**Attendees:**

Nicola Newman, Chair (NN)  
 Adrian Gunner, SWRAC (AG)  
 Adrian Trevett, BCP Council (AT)  
 David Matthews, Upton Beach (DM)  
 Jim Andrews, Bournemouth University (JA)  
 Jon Bird, Dorset Council (JB)  
 Karen Taylor, DWP (KT)  
 Kelly Bush, Weymouth College (KB)  
 Lesley Haig, AECC (LH)  
 Lesley Spain, Head of Skills and Learning, BCP Council (LS)  
 Penny Syddall, Dorset Council (PS)  
 Antony Carr, Bournemouth and Poole College (AC)  
 Rod Davis, Dorset and Somerset Training Provider Network (RD)  
 Vinita Nawathe, Dorset LEP (VN)  
 Rebecca Davies, Dorset LEP (RD (LEP))  
 Clare Fleming, Dorset LEP (CF)  
 Ellie Parson, NHS Dorset (EP)

Item	Notes and Decisions	Action
1.	<p><b>Welcome</b> from the Chair.</p> <p><b>Apologies</b> were received from:            Luke Rake, Phil Sayles, Julia Howe</p> <p>Rebecca Davis noted that only one response was received in relation to the post of Deputy Chair and on that basis invited Rod Davis to join as Deputy Chair.</p> <p>Brief introductions from each member.</p>	
2.	<p>Chair welcome Eleanor Parson, Deputy Director of People at NHS Dorset</p> <p>Ellie thanked the board for the opportunity to join and share what they are working on to support the people of Dorset.</p> <p>Slide presentation *attached*</p> <p>Thanks from the Chair and a recognition of the amount of work being done.</p> <p>LH question about when they will have visibility over their forward budget, given how dependent their plans are on funds. EP noted that they do not yet know the 24/25 position. They are mindful of the need to share and learn in partnership, avoiding duplication and are holding an event w/c 18<sup>th</sup> March to bring partners together.</p> <p>AG would like to find out more about the supported internship programme.</p> <p>LS noted that she would like to pick up with EP around the UK Shared Prosperity Fund People and Skills piece as they support people to move into different careers and focus on removing barriers.</p>	<p>EP to share the details of the event 20.03.24 @ BU with the group.</p> <p>EP</p> <p>LS / EP</p>

	<p>DM acknowledged the great work going on and asked EP for more understanding of the scale of the dilemma. EP noted that it is different in different parts of the NHS (e.g. social care has much higher rates of turnover). There is a lot of scrutiny on productivity at present. She can provide specific statistics.</p> <p>PS asked about digital skills upskilling. EP noted that this is more of a focus for the digital team within the NHS.</p> <p>Chair noted that it the work being done to look at the whole recruitment process is important.</p> <p>NN handed over to RD to Chair the next section.</p>	EP
3.	<p>RD noted that this group is also the steering group for the DfE's Local Schools Improvement Plan and extended thanks to NN.</p> <p>NN noted the role of the Skills Board – to provide advice, guidance and support to the Chamber and the team to make sure they are doing what is needed for the local skills system.</p> <p>Slide presentation *attached* - NN drew out highlights.</p> <p>NN noted that the LSIP Provider Group meets in between the Skills Board meetings. There is also a LSIP Strategic Communications Group looking at how to clarify, simplify and amplify messages to employers and communicate with learners.</p> <p>The Dorset Skills Day was a success and there was positive and helpful feedback. It is planned to repeat it next year if viable.</p> <p>NN noted that the Board will sign off the next report (expected in late May ) – Partners will need to provide an update on their activity that is related to LSIP findings. A template will be shared with new Priorities. She is meeting with the DfE on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> to discuss the format of the report.</p> <p>RD summarised that they are keen for the Board to support with the content and provide steers for the direction of travel.</p> <p>NN noted that the DfE LSIP team is the same as the LSIF team.</p> <p>LH question about ensuring input is heard and whether there needs to be a more systemetised way of doing so – rather than relying on events and meetings. NN suggested that the curriculum group is the key place for this, but is open to ideas of how they can do things differently.</p> <p>RD thanked NN for the update, emphasised the need to keep information circulated and handed back to NN as Chair.</p>	
4.	<p>Chair welcomed Vinita Nawathe, Executive Director, Dorset LEP.</p> <p>VN introduced the Homes &amp; the Economy Conference held by the LEP in Bournemouth on 27<sup>th</sup> February – an event she has wanted to do for some time as every other conversation in Dorset leads back to housing.</p>	

	<p>VN noted how the relationship between homes and the economy is both micro (household level) and macro (business and system).</p> <p><a href="#">Slide presentations</a> and <a href="#">film</a> of the conference available.</p> <p>VN outlined the common themes coming from businesses such as Atlas Elektronik and BAE Systems, the Chief of Police and CBRE.</p> <p>NN noted the issues around MOHs and the tension between needing more homes and the 'Question Time' narrative of no more housebuilding in Dorset.</p> <p>VN noted an ongoing housing round table led by Matt Prosser and the need not to do the thinking in silos.</p> <p>Members noted the interesting work being done in Bridport.  <a href="https://bridportcohousing.org.uk/">https://bridportcohousing.org.uk/</a></p> <p>VN encouraged members to contact her on this issue.</p>	
5.	<p>RD (LEP) shared the latest LMI Report *attached* noting the economic challenges and highlighting changes</p> <p>RD (LEP) noted that Dorset LEP is intending to update the LMI dashboards.</p> <p>RD commented on the drop off of post graduates, curious as to whether this could still be COVID impact. RD (LEP) noted the statistics would only count Dorset residents.</p> <p>NN thanked RD (LEP) for maintaining and updating this important information.</p>	
6.	<p>Partner lightening updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AT: BCP is close to doing the skills part of the UKSPF.</li> <li>• LS: UKSPF people and skills intervention across BCP and Dorset starts on 1<sup>st</sup> April and they have already commissioned 3 delivery partners.</li> <li>• JB: Dorset also working with digital skills and the low carbon teams on finding providers and also have a project with Portland Quarries Trust.</li> <li>• AG: Reminder that the Careers &amp; Enterprise Show is on at the BIC on 14<sup>th</sup> March and the National Supported Internship Day is 27<sup>th</sup> March – we need to be pushing the benefits of widening our employment offer to a more diverse range of people.</li> <li>• RD: Business Directory is coming on well. They are working at director level with the DfE on Apprenticeships. There is significant appetite to simplify the process. They are funded across Somerset LSIF to work as a partnership across both counties on a green curriculum. He will share details.</li> <li>• JA: Outlined the impact of low international student numbers on their budget. HE is facing huge challenges. Offerings are going to be significantly reduced in the sector.</li> <li>• LH: Echoed JA's words but recognised that FE is slightly different. Could not see anything positive in the party manifestos. Acknowledged the interesting piece around students staying more local to home.</li> <li>• Shared the report: <a href="https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/financial-sustainability">Financial sustainability of UK universities: PwC findings (universitiesuk.ac.uk)</a></li> <li>• NN noted the merger of KMC and Weymouth College. KB detailed that they are working to a deadline at the end of the month to submit a plan to the Treasury.</li> </ul>	RD

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AC noted keenness to work with other providers.</li> </ul>	
7.	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For Skills Bootcamps contact RD</li> <li>RD (LEP) outlined a bid for a digital accelerator raising aspirations for people to move into a career in IT, funded by Salesforce.</li> <li>RD (LEP) noted the Towns 2024 Award and the meeting at the House of Lords this week to learn if we have been successful.</li> <li>NN requested ideas and suggestions for the 'employer spot' in the next meeting.</li> </ul>	ALL

**Next meeting: 10 June 2024 (Teams)**