

DORSET LEP SKILLS ADVISORY PANEL & BOARD
10 May 2021, 10am – 12noon

Virtual meeting via Teams

AGENDA

#		Item	Lead	Purpose	Annex
1		Welcome, introductions and apologies	Emma Hunt Chair	ACTION Welcome, introduce attendees and note apologies	
2		Approval of minutes of last meeting – Mar 2021	Emma Hunt Chair	ACTION To agree minutes as read and action updates	1
3	Recovery	Current Skills Activities	Rebecca Davies	ACTION Paper to note, for onward circulation to DLEP Board including: SAP Board Local Market Information (LMI) update Dorset Careers Hub Other skills initiatives	2
			Steph Stimpson, DWP	DWP update	
			Rod Davies, DSTN	Apprenticeship Update	
4	Place	Skills Accelerator opportunities – Trailblazer and Strategic Development Funding	Nicola Newman & Rebecca Davies	ACTION Presentation and discussion	
5	Future	Skills Commission	Emma Hunt	ACTION Verbal update	
6	AOB		All		

DORSET LEP BOARD MEETING COVER SHEET

Meeting Date	10.5.2021	Item Number	
Security Level:	Confidential <input type="checkbox"/>	Commercially Sensitive <input type="checkbox"/>	Unclassified <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Paper Title	Dorset LEP Programmes Skills Advisory Panel and Board Update		
Recommendation	For Information		
Papers are provided for:	Decision <input type="checkbox"/>	Discussion <input type="checkbox"/>	Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1. PURPOSE

This paper provides an update from the Dorset Skills Advisory Panel and Board (SAPB), together with operational updates from Dorset LEP skills team in Dorset between March and May 2021.

2. SUMMARY

- **Local Skills Report**

The [Dorset Local Skills Report](#)- Dorset's go-to evidence base for local skills insights- has been published at the end of March. Part of a joint initiative led and funded by the [Department for Education](#) across 36 LEP areas, the report builds on the [Skills Advisory Panels' evidence base](#) and ensures skills information is reported in a consistent way across all areas, while providing source of local intelligence to central government and the national Skills and Productivity Board. The [main report](#) is accompanied by a comprehensive [Annex of Indicators](#) summarising the research evidence, as well as a two-year programme of [Skills Activities](#). The report offers an interim assessment of Dorset's [Skills Advisory Panel and Board](#) progress on areas of interest and celebrates the many success stories, investments and projects currently underway across delivery partners in Dorset. The report has been widely shared and presented to key stakeholders and a programme of themed monthly spotlight events and materials will be discussed with the SAPB.

3. Skills team operational update

Dorset LEP have been working to ensure Dorset residents have opportunities to participate in recovery initiatives, as they become available.

- **Skills Boot Camps** – wave 1 boot camps are now completing and there has been a push for employers to engage with participants who are now seeking roles. Wave 2 digital and technical are full, with the exception of Engineering Construction.
- **Mid-life MOT** – DLEP successfully delivered the Mid-life MOT project, running a week of webinars alongside toolkit provision for employers to promote to employees. We worked with around 10 businesses of varying size and will be reporting back to DWP on the lessons learnt in creating and delivering support for mid-life employees aged 50+. The funding was aimed to support older workers remain in relevant employment, giving greater quality of health and prosperity in retirement.
- **LMI training and awareness** – we have continued to deliver training and awareness sessions for the job centres in Dorset, and the 100 Dorset work coaches employed to

support those who are looking for work. In addition we have shared the data and analysis with apprenticeship providers and businesses as part of the mid-life MOT.

- **Restart Programme** – Seetec have been successful in their bid to deliver the Restart programme in the South West. DWP are investing £2.9bn in the Restart programme to help those who have been out of work for 1yr+ get back into work. We will be working with Seetec as they roll out the operation from July to ensure the strategic needs of Dorset are embedded with the provision, and the provider is able to deliver relevant support to Dorset residents.
- **Bidding support** – Universities Hospital Dorset have reached the final part of the process for Innovation funding from the Health Foundation. DLEP team have also been bidding with partners for funding in response to various opportunities currently available. This includes additional support for apprenticeships; support for young people who are vulnerable to find positive outcomes following transition to post16 education or work; post-16 skills accelerator funding and strategic development funds.
- **Apprenticeship myth busting** – we have kicked off our apprenticeship project with delivery of a specific apprenticeship finder tool (<https://www.dorsetlep.co.uk/labour-market-and-skills-research>). This tool was designed with DSTPN and is based on live data and makes it easier for apprenticeship hunters to find roles available.

4. Dorset LEP Careers Hub Update

The Dorset Careers Hub is entering the summer term and all major projects are now in the delivery phase. The Hub has worked with 25 Dorset employers from a range of priority industries to secure around 1,250 virtual work experience places for Year 10 students. The Hub is also leading the delivery of the Online Careers and Apprenticeship Show, with over 60 exhibitors (50 employers, 6 universities, 7 FE colleges), 14 keynote speakers, and a range of live vacancies promoted to young people on the day. In addition, 32 schools have been provided with grants to kickstart their careers delivery, the Dorset Careers Live webinar series has three more dates booked for the remainder of the academic year, and work to support SEND young people with careers progression is underway.

In addition to project work, the Hub has scored well in the most recent Compass assessments (in March). These place Dorset Careers Hub in the top third of Hubs nationally.

We expect The Careers & Enterprise Company to share details of the 21/22 contract in the coming weeks. We have recently welcomed the Southwest Regional Assessment Centre (SWRAC) to become the 76th school in the Hub, and this means we will qualify for additional staffing budget in 21/22, which will allow us to expand the impact of the Hub.

5. The Labour Market Information update

The [latest labour market and skills insight report and dashboards](#) have been published, reflecting on a first quarter of highs and lows. Employment rates declined, unemployment increased and there was a rise in furloughed employments, but also a noted increase in vacancies. The pandemic also had noted impact on inequalities, skills gaps and future projections for the world of work nationally and in Dorset.

Please check www.dorsetlep.co.uk/labour-market-and-skills-research for all figures and analysis and [read the full Q1 report](#). Key findings include:

- **Unemployment, furlough, out-of-work benefits increased**

[The ONS subnational employment statistics for 2020 have been released](#), showing employment rate in Dorset fell by almost 2 percentage points and unemployment increased at a similar rate over the past year. While employment remained higher in Dorset than the national average (76.7% Dorset; 75.4% UK), the decline was more pronounced (1.9 ppt vs 0.4 ppt UK average). This represents an estimated 8,400 fewer people in employment at the last quarter of 2020 compared to 2019 and 3,600 fewer than the previous quarter. In fact, the BCP area has seen a more significant 4 ppt decline in employment rate with 11,000 fewer people in employment, while surprisingly Dorset Council marked an increase of .7ppt and 2,700 more people in employment compared to 2019.

There were 24,910 people claiming job or income support in March in Dorset, which continues to be almost 2.5 times higher than the same time last year, accounting for 5.5% of residents (6.5% UK reference) and 7.7% of those aged 18-24 (9.1% UK).

56,000 people in Dorset were furloughed at the end of February – 17% of the eligible employments, over twice as high as November last year and higher than the 15% UK average. Almost half (26,000) of furloughed employments were in Tourism, Hospitality, Retail.

26,600 self-employed received Self Employment Income Support - increase of 4,000 on the previous month, 62% take-up (65% in UK).

[The Centre for Economic Performance analysis](#) shows movements from self-employment to employment were at their highest levels for 20 years. Also in January, 57% of self-employed workers were reporting incomes of less than £1,000 per month, up from 31% in January 2020. [Visit Dorset LEP's Employment in Dorset Dashboard](#).

- **Recruitment activity picking up**

There were better news on the recruitment front. Over 16,300 vacancies were advertised in Dorset in the first quarter - 95% of 2020 and 97% of 2019 levels. Throughout March and April, vacancies overtook both their 2020 and 2019 levels with over 6000 vacancies advertised each month. This marks a positive development after a turbulent 2020 and a wobbly start of 2021 - in January alone vacancies were down by a fifth on last year.

Sectors with increased employment demand were:

ICT, property, public administration and defence, construction, financial and other services as well as health and social care. Demand also grew for a number of occupations:

Agriculture, Horticulture and the Outdoors | Construction, Building, Architecture | Marketing, Media, PR, IT, HR, Finance, Planning and Analysis

[Visit Dorset LEP's Vacancies and Opportunities in Dorset Dashboard](#).

- **Chart spotlight: Apprenticeship finder**

The Dorset Apprenticeship Finder dashboard was developed in collaboration with the Dorset and Somerset Training Providers Network and allows direct access to latest apprenticeship vacancies and statistics. Apprenticeship opportunities were on the rise with 88 vacancies in Dorset in March 2021 – 20% higher than the same time last year.

[Visit Dorset LEP's Apprenticeship Finder Dashboard](#).

- **Key reports related to Dorset's skills strategy**



Place

Place: COVID 19 effects on inequalities

[OfS report](#) shows notable disparities in Higher Education (HE) participation across areas. There were parts of Dorset where a 100% of young people participated in HE, while in other parts participation was as low as 13%.



Recovery

Recovery: Skills bridges to support career change

[New research](#) reveals that while a third of Britons want to change careers, only 16% understand how their skills are useful in another career. Skills bridges could be the key. Read [our report](#) to find how skills bridges link to our priorities for recovery.



Futures: The digital skills gap

The demand for digital skills is soaring, but those taking IT subjects as GCSEs have dropped by 40% since 2015. Upskilling today's young people in digital technology is vital as well as providing the knowledge about the range of job opportunities available. Read [our report](#) to find the digital skills most in demand in Dorset.