



Employer and Skills Business Plan for Lancashire WBL Executive Forum for the Financial Year 2015 to 2016

Business Plan
2015/2016
August 15

QUALITY GROWTH INFLUENCE

Vision

The Lancashire Work Based Learning Executive Forum is committed to **supporting** its members to provide the **highest quality** of Work Based Learning opportunities to **young people and adults** within the workforce to the benefit of **employers** and the **wider society** in Lancashire. Our vision is that Apprenticeships are seen as a **valid and recognised route** of choice into Higher Education (HE) or career progression.

Mission

- **To provide our members with information** to enable understanding of existing and emerging policies through the establishment of high level strategic partnerships with existing, new and emerging Government agencies/departments and other relevant bodies.
- To gather and represent the views of our members, in order to **influence** the development of policy and strategy at both Regional and National level.
- To **support members** in developing excellence in practice through establishing the provision of CPD activities and arranging good practice networks both locally and regionally.
- **To raise the profile** of Work Based Learning through the celebration of individual and collective successes and through the promotion of the Apprenticeship brand.
- To work collaboratively and in partnership with members to **secure additional funding** to support activities that will help deliver the Forum mission.
- **Extend our influence and recognition** to ensure that the needs of Lancashire are recognised in Regional and Local Strategic groups.

Introduction

Our Business Plan for the financial year 2015-16 describes how we will deliver our key objectives.

Government skills priorities have remained broadly the same since 2010, signalling that government sees its role as setting strategic priorities, with the SFA focussed on delivery. We must support our members to be flexible enough to respond to future publicly-funded skills priorities.

Our members face considerable challenges in the year ahead, with reducing budgets, pressures to increase outputs and changes to the political landscape.

A major risk that our members have to manage over the coming year/s is the increasing pressure on financial health and we want to ensure that we help members make the best possible use of the funding available.

For the 2015-2016 financial year, apprenticeships, traineeships and English and maths remain the key priorities for the SFA.

At the heart of apprenticeships are employers. We need to assist members to increase the number of employers that offer apprenticeships, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises, while at the same time meeting the challenge of changes brought about by the funding reform.

Apprenticeships will continue to be the key to solving skills shortages and coping resiliently with the country's future skills needs.

We have to achieve our objectives in an environment of increased pressures on the provider network

Key Objectives for the Financial Year 2015 to 2016

The Lancashire WBL Executive Forum has six key objectives.

Objective 1

To continue to drive provider performance by supporting Forum members to deliver high quality programmes

Objective 2

To increase and widen participation in Traineeships and Apprenticeships in line with the Government's ambitions and targets

Objective 3

To increase employer engagement through raising the profile of Work Based Learning

Objective 4

To develop and maintain strong relationships with key partners to maximise opportunities for members and ensure high quality communications for members

Objective 5

To source and bid for additional funding to maximised membership delivery

Objective 6

To support members with the reform of Apprenticeships and changes to the funding system

Objective 2

To increase and widen participation in Traineeships and Apprenticeships in line with the Government's ambitions and targets

Approaches	Actions	Group / Who	
To share good practices and work together with providers to establish effective routes and opportunities	To develop information regarding progression routes and source funding for publication of those opportunities.	Raeleen Duthoit Exec Group Emp and Skills	
Continue to work with Local Authorities and large employers to promote Apprenticeships	Arrange quarterly meetings with Board and Director of Children's services. Invite key note speakers from Local Authority to Exec Group meeting	Raeleen Duthoit Emp and Skills	
More involvement in identifying and developing realistic Higher Level Apprenticeships	Arrange appropriate briefing sessions	Raeleen Duthoit Emp and Skills	
To forge stronger partnerships between providers to increase opportunities for the sector.	Arrange regular forum meeting with networking opportunities	Exec Group All sub groups	
To work with LAs and other agencies to identify the demographics and demand within the area for all provision	Ensure JCP are invited to appropriate meetings to give information about unemployed Ensure LAs are invited to appropriate meetings to give information on NEET and the makeup of the group i.e. gender ethnicity Ensure LAs are invited to appropriate meetings to discuss gaps in provision	Exec Group Emp and Skills	
Support forum members with the implementation of Traineeships	Invite guest speakers to Exec Group meeting. Distribute information through bulletin.	Exec Group Employer & Skills Group	

Objective 3

To increase employer engagement through raising the profile of Work Based Learning

Approaches	Actions	Group / Who	
Develop links with the LEP to promote WBL and its impact on their priorities, to increase employer engagement and achieve growth	Work with the Lancashire LEP and in particular the Skill Hub to understand the outcomes of the Area wide research and associated Sector based research via the resulting action plans to aid provider planning process	Raeleen Duthoit Emp & Skills sub group	