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Leading learning and skills

The LSC East Midlands Achievements Challenges and Actions 2006/08

Of interest to everyone involved in improving skills
and learning opportunities in the East Midlands

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Our Achievements, Challenges and Actions 2006/08

The job of the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) is to make England's economy more skilled and more competitive.

Working with young people, adults and employers, our goal is to create the skilled workforce that business needs to compete and flourish in the 21st Century.

To achieve our aims we invest in high-quality education and training to meet the specific requirements of employers and the community.

Our actions are driving a transformation in Further Education with a commitment to improve learning opportunities that benefit the community and employers alike.

Our vision is that by 2010, young people, adults and employers will have the knowledge and skills they need to sharpen their competitive edge in a rapidly changing world economy.

In everything we do we are driven by four key values - trust, expertise, ambition and urgency. Together these values will ensure that the LSC continues to provide leadership, direction and innovation at a time of great change.

The LSC was established in 2001 and operates nationally, regionally and locally.

In the East Midlands we have five area offices serving Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Northamptonshire and Lincolnshire/Rutland.

Our regional centre is located at the Leicestershire office and we employ around 260 staff across the region.

In the East Midlands...

Our Achievements 2006/07

- A record number of young people engaged in education or post-16 training in the East Midlands.
- The country's biggest increase in young people achieving Levels 2 and 3 qualifications.
- The biggest improvement in Apprenticeship completions in the country.
- The best overall performance across the country for leads and engagements on Train to Gain, with a 92% success rate among hard to reach, small and medium sized enterprises.
- The lowest level of unsatisfactory training and education provision in the country, with no unsatisfactory colleges of Further Education.
- A capital investment record of £127 million.

Our Challenges 2007/08

Looking ahead, we still face some significant challenges...

- Nearly 30% of adults in our region are without a Level 2 qualification or equivalent, despite increasing participation and achievement.
- Encouraging people to train for higher level skills.
- Nearly one third of young people aged 16 - 18 are not in employment, education or training.
- One in three of our college buildings needs 'modernisation'.
- Individuals in our region pay less towards their learning and training than anywhere else in the country.

Our Actions 2007/08

To tackle the challenges ahead we will...

- Increase our investment and target this at areas of greatest need.
- Review the learning and skills 'offer' to ensure it is tailored to the needs of future learners and employers.
- Create partnerships with other agencies to achieve effective solutions to local needs.
- Prioritise our work on local economic development by stimulating demand for learning.
- Design a strategy for adult funding by maximising the use of pooled resources.
- Deliver a capital funding strategy to renew and complete our investment in further education estates by 2015.



Our five Regional Priorities 2007-08

Priority 1: Helping young people

To improve the quality and choice of learning opportunities so that all young people aged 14 -19 have the skills for work, for further or higher education and for social and community engagement.

We aim to...

- Increase the participation and attainment of young people in learning and training in line with the Government's public service agreement targets.
- Reduce the number of young people who are not in education, training or employment or who are working but not participating in recognised training.
- Fully implement the 14 -19 phase of learning.

As a minimum we will...

- Create partnerships and focus our funding and provision to address training, education and employment needs.
- Communicate effectively with young people, schools, parents and other stakeholders and publish a prospectus for all 14 -19 year olds in each of the five LSC areas that form the East Midlands.
- Support the introduction of the Foundation Tier ensuring clear links with and progression routes to different learning opportunities.

Priority 2: Improving Adult Skills

To raise the skills of adults across our region, giving individuals and employers the skills they need to improve productivity, employability and social cohesion.

We aim to...

- Raise levels of attainment at Level 2 in line with targets laid down in the Government's national public service agreement.
- Reduce the number of adults with poor literacy and numeracy skills.
- Improve higher level skills among employees, especially in the key sectors of construction, engineering, manufacturing and health and social care.

As a minimum we will...

- Develop and implement a strategy for adult provision and funding at all levels, including specialist provision.
- Communicate with employers, stakeholders, employees and those without work in order to emphasise the importance of investing in skills.
- Deliver the 'Train to Gain' service and target the key sectors of construction, engineering, manufacturing and health and social care.
- Review the provision of services for individuals with learning difficulties or disabilities.
- Work with partners, such as Jobcentre Plus, to support people without work.

Priority 3: Striving for Excellence

To create world-class systems by providing a more responsive service with wider choice that is valued as excellent by our customers.

We aim to...

- Ensure that all LSC funded provision is rated at least 'satisfactory' by 2008.
- Raise levels attainment and success in all our funded learning to at least the national benchmark.
- Ensure all young people and adults are able to access their learner entitlements and core learning offer in every area of our region.

As a minimum we will...

- Create a vision for further education to meet the demands of the East Midlands economy.
- Implement our capital strategy by investing in infrastructure and buildings.
- Centres of vocational excellence and skills academies in the key sectors.
- Define a 'core learner' offer across the region and monitor the quality of provision through the 'Framework for Excellence'.

Priority 4: Stimulating the Economy

To improve the regeneration of the East Midlands economy by working closely with local and regional partners.

We aim to...

- Develop higher levels of skills among young people and adults in support of partnership plans for economic regeneration.

As a minimum we will...

- Develop a strategy and action plan with our regional partners to raise skills and productivity with the aim of becoming a 'top 20' European region.
- Ensure that funds from the European Social Fund Objective 2 programme are targeted at our local and regional priorities.
- Create capacity within our organisation to address the impact of regional issues, such as the development of East Midlands Airport.

Priority 5: Improving our Effectiveness

To improve the performance and effectiveness of the LSC in the East Midlands.

As a minimum we will...

- Revise our governance system including the recruitment of regional board members by September 2007.
- Achieve official accreditation as an Investor in People by July 2007.
- Develop key skills and knowledge in all our teams.
- Establish clear and ambitious targets for performance in LSC programmes.
- Build effective planning and performance systems.
- Develop effective communications with employers, learners and stakeholders.

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