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Learning and  
Skills Council  
Suffolk  
Annual Plan  
2007-08

March 2007

Of interest to National, Regional and  
Local Learning and Skills Colleagues

## **Local Annual Plan 2007/08**

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) is the national organisation with responsibility for the planning, funding and quality assurance of post-16 education outside the university sector, in England. The LSC is organised into nine regional teams, each of which produces an annual commissioning plan identifying the priorities for the Learning and Skills sector in its region for the forthcoming year. This is the plan for Suffolk for 2007/08.

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## **1. Foreword**

Suffolk is an exciting place to live and work. The economy is expanding rapidly with an increasing population settling along the A14 corridor, and many new businesses being attracted into the County. Although Suffolk is a traditionally a relatively sparsely populated rural county with few large towns dependency on the landbased sector is reducing and new technological and service industries are increasingly important. Food tourism and renewable energies are two examples of emerging sectors.

The county's full economic potential can only be achieved if businesses have access to sufficient skilled workers. This is a significant challenge for Suffolk which currently has a level of qualification in its adult population below both the national and East of England averages. Suffolk Chamber of Commerce reports that businesses across all sectors cite workforce skills as one of the two most significant barriers they face in expanding their businesses – the other being transport infrastructure. The proposed ports' expansion, the development of the Ipswich Waterfront and education quarter, SnOasis and the 2012 Olympics will provide significant additional demands for higher level skills in the workforce. We believe that the LSC Suffolk Team can make an important contribution in supporting this need.

Our vision is for all young people to have access to the education and training they need to achieve a secure future for themselves and their families. We will work with all providers and other partners, taking a lead role in planning post-16 education and training and investing in the best, to ensure that all young people can participate in high quality learning relevant to their needs.. Our work with the Suffolk 14-19 Strategic Partnership will be central to achieving this ambition.

We believe that Suffolk is well placed to develop a vibrant and competitive economy based on its own natural assets and advantages. We recognise our role in supporting businesses and individuals to develop the appropriate skills to contribute to key and emerging sectors. Through the Local Area Agreement we will work with our partners to support economic development across Suffolk, leading on the skills agenda.

Our new area and partnership teams will enhance our working relationship with the Learning and Skills sector (schools, colleges, work-based learning providers and adult and community learning organisations). Together we will start to overcome the deep-seated problems in some of our urban, rural and coastal areas which could potentially undermine Suffolk's vision for the future.

Our plan for 2007/08 shows how we will tackle some of the challenges identified in our local strategic analysis in response to Suffolk's particular learning and skills needs, as well as to our national and Regional priorities and the linked priorities of the EESCP. We hope you will find this document ambitious, informative and clear.

**Judith Mobbs**  
**Area Director**

**Johanna Finn**  
**Acting Local Council Chair**

## **2. Local Context**

The plan for Suffolk takes each of the LSC East of England Regional Commissioning Plan's four priorities and sets these in a local context. This builds upon those elements of the Regional Strategic Analysis which relate to Suffolk.

### **Suffolk in Profile**

Suffolk is a largely rural county with a population of approximately 670,000. It is the second least densely populated area in the East of England, however the population is projected to increase to 740,000 by 2016, mainly through inward migration. The draft Regional Spatial Strategy published by the East of England Regional Assembly suggests that an additional 58,600 dwellings could be built in Suffolk by 2021, equivalent to around 3,000 dwellings each year.

About 42% of people in Suffolk live in rural communities. Approximately 86% of the county's parishes have a population smaller than 1,000; over a quarter have populations smaller than 100. Lack of poor public transport is a significant barrier to accessing education, employment and training. There is a relatively small black and minority ethnic population in Suffolk, with 94% of people identifying themselves as White British, however there is a rapidly expanding community of eastern European migrant workers attracted into Suffolk.

No single industry sector is dominant in the county, but there is a relatively high dependence on primary production and manufacturing – particularly food and drink manufacture. The most significant factor in employment over the next few years is likely to be the number of major construction projects planned for Suffolk including SnOasis, Felixstowe docks expansion, Ipswich Waterfront, Suffolk New College, West Suffolk College, University Campus Suffolk, new school building projects and the decommissioning of Sizewell A power station, as well as the significant house building programme mentioned previously.

Suffolk is generally perceived as a prosperous county, but there are some urban and rural areas which include wards with some of the highest levels of deprivation in the East of England, particularly in Ipswich, Lowestoft and north Suffolk. Learning is not always highly valued and does not feature strongly in some communities. The working population has relatively low skill levels and employers are not always able to recruit staff with the necessary skills to meet their business needs.

### **Priority 1: Learning Opportunities for Young People**

The proportion of young people who continue their education and training beyond the age of 16 years is too low and has been static in recent years. In 2005 there was a 1% increase in participation rates for 16-18 year olds to 71%. In 2006 participation stabilised at 71.1%, remaining significantly below the national average of just over 76%. Participation of 16 year old school leavers did show a more positive improvement with a rise of 1.7% to 84.4%, with rises as great as 10% in some local areas. This is thought to be as a result of the impact of new 14-16 programmes developed through the Suffolk 14-19 Strategy. The number of

young people with learning difficulties and disabilities participating in learning also rose significantly from 75.2% in 2005 to 79.9% in 2006. This rise is in part attributable to the Improving Choices project. However participation and retention of young people aged 17 years declined slightly and represents a particular challenge.

Two thirds of young people in post 16 education and training in Suffolk attend either Local Authority (LA) school sixth forms or General Further Education (FE) colleges. The number of 16 year old school leavers progressing to school sixth forms remained steady at 48% in 2006. There was a 1.8% increase in progression to FE (31%) but the number progressing to WBL/E2E continued to decline.

The number of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) remains a significant challenge for Suffolk. In November 2006 the proportion of young people in the NEET group was 8.3% compared with 8.4% in 2005. This represents 1700 young people aged 16-18 years who are not in learning or employment in Suffolk. A further 3,300 young people aged 16-18 years are in jobs without training. These are often low-paid, low-skilled jobs with few career prospects, making this group particularly vulnerable to the risk of becoming NEET.

Achievement at 16 years in Suffolk is good with 59.2% of school leavers achieving 5 A\*-C grades at GCSE level (Level 2) or equivalent qualifications compared with the national average of 58.5%. However there are still over 3,000 16 year olds who do not have a Level 2 qualification at the end of their compulsory school education, and over half of 16 year olds leave school without either English or mathematics achievement at Level 2. This is a major challenge in terms of young peoples' employability. There remain significant variations in young peoples' achievements between different geographical locations and between different socio-economic groups. Youth and Connexions Service data and local research indicates a strong correlation between low attainment at 16 and subsequent risk of being NEET.

There are good Level 2 achievements in the FE and Workbased learning sectors and the proportion of young people attaining a full level 2 qualification by age 19 is 68% which is higher than the national average.

Achievement at advanced level study (Level 3) in school sixth forms is below the national average in terms of attainment (measured by average GCE points per entry and per candidate) and progress made by students (value added). In 2005 average GCE points per candidate rose above the national average to 281 UCAS points, but despite a small increase to 285 UCAS points in 2006 it fell behind the national average again. Points per entry fell in 2006 and remains below the national average at 77.4 compared with 80.2. There is considerable variability in advanced level achievement across Suffolk. Success rates in FE colleges have improved considerably in the last two years with three of the four colleges having overall success rates at least 5% above national benchmarks. However at Level 3 performance generally is less strong. Over the last two years the improved outcomes for students in FE were not matched by commensurate rises in literacy and numeracy success rates in all colleges.

Outcomes for those in Workbased learning remain above the East of England average at 54.4% for Suffolk compared with 52.5% for the region. Positive outcomes for those on Entry to Employment (e2e) programmes remain too low at 38% of leavers in 2005/06, this poor performance undoubtedly contributes to the static NEET rate.

## **Priority 2: Raising Skills and Adult Learning**

There are nearly 400,000 adults of working age(19-64) in Suffolk. The level of qualifications among economically active adults (people of working age who are either in employment or unemployed) is below the regional and national average. Over a third of economically active people (39%) in Suffolk do not have a qualification at level 2 and over one quarter (30%) do not have any qualifications at all. This is a significantly higher level of underachievement than the regional and national average. The low skill levels of adults are a major barrier to social and economic development.

Levels of skills, participation and achievement are not evenly distributed across the county. The wide variance and concentration of deprivation and underachievement in some areas suggests that investment should be targeted in areas of greatest need. These include Forest Heath, Haverhill, Lowestoft and Ipswich. The evidence also points to a strong correlation between the “hot spots” identified for the adult workforce and those that emerge for young people, in terms of patterns of pre- and post-16 attainment, participation in education and training and local NEET rates.

The proportion of adults funded by the LSC in Suffolk continues to be proportionally higher than that for the region as a whole reflecting this particular priority for the County, with over 38, 000 adult learners funded in 2005/06. This is despite the overall reduction in LSC funding for non-priority, adult provision to redirect funding to meet growth in 16-18 participation. Investment in adult skills in Suffolk, particularly at and below level 2, continues to be an important priority.

The voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations in Suffolk make an important contribution to this work. The LSC in Suffolk will seek to develop the role of the VCS further over the coming year through the development of a VCS consortium to support small VCS providers in working with the LSC. This will increase our local capacity to provide appropriate skills and training opportunities, especially for hard to reach groups.

Suffolk is making good progress towards raising the basic levels of numeracy and literacy within the County and towards the national Skills for Life target, but there is still a good deal to do. An estimated quarter of the population of Suffolk has a problem with literacy skills and a slightly higher proportion (27%) has difficulty with numeracy.

Suffolk has a heavy dependency on small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs). There are around 28,000 businesses in Suffolk of which about 20,000 have less than 5 employees and around 2000 have more than 50 employees. This pattern varies between districts, with Babergh and Mid Suffolk having a greater proportion

of smaller businesses. The industry mix is similar to that of the whole region with distribution, hotels and restaurants and banking, finance and insurance industries being prominent sectors alongside the food manufacturing and primary production base. Over half of all lower-end jobs (process, plant and machine operating, and elementary occupations) are in manufacturing, and hotels and distribution.

Based on current contribution to the local economy and projected future skills demands and growth potential LSC Suffolk's six priority sectors for skills development are:

- Food and drink manufacturing
- Engineering (including automotive and renewable energy)
- Construction
- Hospitality (including tourism)
- Health and social care
- Logistics and transport

Further information about each of these sectors within Suffolk is available in our skills strategy document covering each of the six key sectors. Working with employers in these sectors and local business organisations is an important priority for LSC Suffolk. The 2004 National Employer Skills Survey indicates that there is a pattern of under-investment by employers in training in Suffolk compared to the regional and national average.

### **Priority 3: Economic Development**

Suffolk is entering a period of high and sustained economic growth and will make an important contribution to the economic development of the East of England Region. The Suffolk Development Agency (SDA) leads on economic development across the county. Haven Gateway, focused on south Suffolk and north Essex, presents exciting new opportunities for local people, businesses and communities. A key challenge is ensuring local people and firms have the aspirations, skills and capacity to benefit fully from these developments. The regeneration of the Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth area led by 1st East is also an important opportunity for Suffolk. We will continue to prioritise work which invests in skills to support regional gateways, growth points/areas and empowers local people and communities to access flexible learning opportunities in support of economic development.

#### **Suffolk Development Agency**

The Suffolk Development Agency has worked with its partners to agree an economic strategy for Suffolk, 'Expanding Suffolk's Horizons'. The strategy states the vision that by 2020, Suffolk will be a buoyant, competitive and entrepreneurial economy, providing opportunities and sustaining a high quality of life in both urban and rural areas for the benefit of all who live and work in the county.' Linked to this vision are four main priorities:

- Diversification, modernisation and building the knowledge economy
- Increase Entrepreneurship
- Capitalise on Suffolk's high quality environment
- Improve Connections

## **Haven Gateway New Growth Point**

This covers part of Essex and Suffolk and is one of the fastest growing areas of the UK. Its scope extends beyond the logistics sector and includes a wide number of related industries including financial services, technology, print and publishing, food and research.

Ambitions for the Gateway include:

- an additional 23,000 jobs and 22,850 homes by 2016 with an aspirational target of 40% being affordable homes;
- new container terminal facilities at the ports of Harwich and Felixstowe handling over 3.6m containers per annum;
- an international visual arts centre at Colchester;
- the redevelopment of the Ipswich waterfront including the provision of a new University Campus for Suffolk;
- maintaining the Gateway's high environmental values and quality of life;
- the regeneration of Jaywick;
- maximizing the role of the sub region as an international gateway to the UK;
- projects to enhance the sub region's role as an area of creativity and innovation.

## **1st East**

1st East is the Urban Regeneration Company for Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth. Working with public and private partners 1st East aims to generate economic growth and create jobs by coordinating public and private sector development in the brown field and waterfront areas of Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth.

Developing the education and skills opportunities in Lowestoft will be a key part of enabling the 1<sup>st</sup> East vision to be achieved.

The Vision for 1<sup>st</sup> East is encapsulated in the following Goals:

- Employment led regeneration
- Broaden the base of economic activity
- Re-use of brown field land
- Reconnect town and waterfronts
- Identify catalyst projects & infrastructure needs

New growth points for Thetford and Norwich and the Thames Gateway, M11 corridor economic growth areas and the 2012 Olympics/Paralympics will also influence the availability of skilled people for Suffolk employers.

## **Priority 4: Raising the Performance of the System**

The FE colleges have made good progress in raising their standards of performance in recent years and three out of the four colleges have overall success rates of more than 5% above national benchmarks for the sector. Work-based training providers are also performing above the East of England average on apprenticeship programmes. However this overall good performance masks some very weak provision which must be improved in the interests of our learners.

West Suffolk College and The British Racing School both achieved the designation of Beacon Providers following outstanding inspections in 2006. We will seek to build on this excellent achievement through our annual plan.

In summary the current inspection performance of our providers is:

- One FE college graded as outstanding, one graded good and two graded as satisfactory.
- One WBL provider graded as outstanding, 41% good and 53% satisfactory.
- Fourteen of our thirty School Sixth Forms have been assessed under the new Ofsted four-point grading system. Two have received a grading of 'outstanding', five 'good', and seven 'satisfactory' for post 16 provision.

There are nine CoVEs in Suffolk. Each of the CoVEs corresponds to one or more of the LSC's priority skills sectors (management and ICT skills being required across all sectors) and contribute to raising skills levels and eliminating skills gaps in these areas.

Title	Occupational area
Offshore Maintenance Process and Communication Technology	Engineering
FEAST	Food manufacturing
Food Impact	Food manufacturing
Digital and Communications Technologies	ICT
Construction Management and Professional Development	Construction Management
1 <sup>st</sup> in Care	Health and social care Engineering
Skills for Energy ITS	

Suffolk has long been disadvantaged, not only in comparison to other counties in the region, but also most of the rest of the country, by a lack of a local university. The collaboration between the University of Essex, University of East Anglia and FE colleges will lead to the opening of University Campus Suffolk (UCS) from September 2007 which will begin to redress this disadvantage. The curricula being developed for UCS with FE Colleges will have a strong vocational bias, reflecting employers' demands for more students and graduates with practical as well as academic skills. Close proximity, some shared facilities and collaborative working between the university and the colleges, will encourage progression from college to university for young people and adults who previously might not have considered higher education.

Capital projects to be taken forward in 2007/08 include

- Redevelopment of Suffolk College on a new adjacent site
- Redevelopment of West Suffolk College
- New 16-19 Centre serving SW Ipswich and South Suffolk

- Extension to Kesgrave High School Sixth Form
- New Vocational Skills Centres at Halesworth and Sudbury

Other capital projects in the planning phase involving LSC commitment include:

- The development of Learning and Enterprise Access Points (LEAP) as part of the Investing in Communities programme in Suffolk.
- Further Vocational Skills Centres

A review of the supply and demand for construction skills cross-Suffolk, Haven Gateway and First East economic growth areas will inform future infrastructure investment. This will include “cross-border” assessments of need with Essex, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk to support the regional capital strategy.

### **Commissioning Principles**

By ‘commissioning’ we mean all our planning and purchasing activity across the sector, including purchasing through both negotiation and competitive tendering. It applies equally to grant in aid agreements and contracts as we move toward a ‘provider neutral’ approach to tendering for provision.

We are committed to ensuring that our allocated resource is targeted towards provision of the highest quality, contributes to government targets and priorities and is delivered at an appropriate unit cost.

We will work with our existing college and provider base and also open up provision to competition where there is poor quality, significant gaps or new funds available. We will apply a light touch approach where providers are excellent.

We want to introduce more competition to drive up quality and responsiveness. So we will commission provision in two main ways:

- Negotiated commissioning – agreeing plans with colleges and providers that currently deliver LSC funded provision
- Tendered commissioning – competitive tendering for adult and skills provision and 16-19 competitions. This will be open to any new providers wanting to enter the market and to existing colleges or providers wanting to extend their provision or enter new markets or geographical areas.

### **When will we use competition?**

We will use competitions in the following circumstances:

- New investment
- Restructuring of provision or a new deliver model such as Offender Learning and Skills Service in custody and the community
- Significant gaps in provision including 16-19 competitions or where the market is not making provision available to meet the demands of learners and employers
- Poor quality – where colleges, providers or elements of provision are not meeting the minimum levels of performance and or are deemed inadequate by Inspection

### 3. Local Priorities and Key Actions

**Priority 1:** We will fund plans and activities which drive up participation and attainment in education and training for all the 16-18 age group, including those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

Linked EESCP strategic goal 2: Develop a culture of lifelong learning; and strategic goal 3: Create opportunities for disadvantaged groups and communities.

The following actions identify how we will achieve Priority 1:

Action	Success indicators
<p>1. Increase the total number of 16-18 places available and the percentage of young people in learning across all LSC provision with a particular emphasis on reducing drop out at 17 years</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total number of places available increases from 15122 (05/06) to 15860 (+5%) (07/08.)</li> <li>• Participation in structured learning increases by 2008:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• at age 16 from 84.4% to 86%</li> <li>• at age 17 from 75.4% to 77%</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Suffolk Participation Strategy agreed and published in partnership with Local Authority/Connexions and Participation Champion appointed to lead implementation by May 2007.</li> <li>• September Guarantee delivery plan developed and phase 1 implemented, including focused NEET interventions by March 2008.</li> <li>• Bespoke curriculum commissioned for 17 year old students dropping out of sixth form or FE studies – the “17 Safety Net” by March 2008.</li> <li>• Clearer provider accountability established for progression outcomes through LSC contract and performance management by March 2008</li> <li>• Potential for provider reward scheme linked to progression outcomes researched and trialled by March 2008</li> <li>• New programmes established to target those entering employment without training at 16 and 17 years by September 2007.</li> </ul>

Action		Success indicators
2.	Increase the numbers of young people who achieve a Level 2 qualification by the age of 19 years through raising quality and procuring new learning opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Level 2 achievement at 19 in Suffolk increases from 72% (05/06) to 74% (07/08)</li> <li>• Apprenticeship framework completion (16-18) increases from 57% (05/06) to 60% (07/08)</li> <li>• Provider base/number of places for E2E increased from 581 (05/06) to 600 (07/08) using best national practice when establishing new provision</li> <li>• Positive outcomes for E2E leavers increased from 36.8% (05/06) to 48% (07/08)</li> <li>• Young Apprenticeship programmes extended to cover additional 14-19 target areas by September 2007</li> <li>• Additional post 16 L1/2 progression programmes introduced in school sixth forms remote from FE centres by September 2007</li> <li>• “Pathways to Employment” programme established in partnership with the Suffolk Chamber of Commerce to strengthen and formalise the existing extended work experience options currently available by September 2007</li> <li>• Further lines of learning established in localities and the first Specialised Diploma programmes introduced in September 2008</li> <li>• New routes for 14-16 year olds further developed building on good practice from GOALS project by September 2008.</li> </ul>
3.	Increase the numbers of young people who achieve a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19 years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Level 3 achievement at 19 in Suffolk increases from 45% (05/06) to 48% (07/08)</li> <li>• Advanced Apprenticeship framework completion increases from 51% (05/06) to 55% (07/08)</li> </ul>
4.	Continue to work with the LA and local partners to implement the Suffolk 14-19 Strategy with particular focus on support and challenge for local 14-19 partnerships.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suffolk progress check green ratings increased from 2 to 4 by June 2008</li> <li>• Suffolk 14-19 Strategy work plan for 2007/2008 delivered by August 2008</li> <li>• VCS consortium in Suffolk established and involvement within the Suffolk 14-19 Strategic Partnership extended by March 2008</li> <li>• Curriculum mapping project completed and used</li> </ul>

Action		Success indicators
		<p>to inform priorities for further 14-19 curriculum development projects and commissioning new provision by December 2008</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Successful outcome achieved in the Joint Area Review of Children and Young Peoples' Services by August 2007</li> <li>• The proportion of young people not in education or training (NEET) is reduced from 8.2% (Nov 06) to 7.5% (Nov 08)</li> </ul>
5.	Build further capacity to meet the needs of young people with learning difficulties and disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation rate for young people with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities (LLDD) increased by 1% (Baseline Connexions Activity Survey 2006)</li> <li>• LLDD provision needs analysis and planning project completed to identify priorities for new LLDD provision post-16 and used to inform commissioning by March 2008</li> <li>• Plans progressed to establish a specialist 16-19 LLDD unit as part of the new 16-19 centre serving SW Ipswich and South Suffolk by March 2008</li> </ul>
6.	Improve information and guidance for young people regarding 16-18 options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suffolk 14-19 Information Strategy and Informing Choices Project implemented with full LSC involvement by March 2008</li> <li>• Progression pathways strengthened from new 14-16 programmes and promoted within all information and guidance work by March 2008</li> <li>• Promotion campaign for Apprenticeships completed linked to single application portal by September 2007.</li> <li>• Improved individual learning plan arrangements in place to support young people in making choices by March 2008</li> <li>• Progression compact from applied courses to local higher education provision in place by March 2008</li> <li>• Research into those entering employment without training completed by March 2008</li> </ul>

**Priority 2:** We will strengthen our partnership with employers and continue to encourage the responsiveness of the Learning and Skills sector in order to raise the skills and productivity of the region's workforce.

Linked EESCP strategic goal 1: Strengthen the East of England's business base

The following actions identify how we will achieve Priority 2:

Action	Success indicators
<p>1. Develop and implement an adult learning strategy for Suffolk which increases the numbers of adults in work who have a full Level 2 or 3 qualification.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Percentage of adults without a full Level 2 or above decreases from 39.5% (2005) to 37% (2008)</li> <li>• FE 19+ full Level 2 success rates increase from 64% (04/05) to 68% (07/08)</li> <li>• FE 19+ full Level 3 success rates increase from 46% (04/05) to 50% (07/08)</li> <li>• First three multi agency Learning Enterprise Access Point (LEAP) Centres initiated through IIC by March 2008</li> <li>• Adult Strategy developed and implementation plan in place with specific focus on value for money and progression by December 2007</li> <li>• Single employer information gateway for learning established via existing partners, with focus on priority sectors by December 2007.</li> <li>• leaflet for Suffolk employers regarding information gateway and brokerage produced and disseminated in partnership with employer facing organisations by March 2008</li> </ul>
<p>2. Increase the number of adults in Suffolk who have literacy or numeracy skills.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4900 first Skills for Life achievement at: Entry Level 3, Level 1 and Level 2 by 2008</li> <li>• Work with Skills for Life providers to ensure that at least 70% of Skills for Life Level 1 and Level 2 provision is accredited</li> <li>• PCDL partnership established as a subgroup of the Adult Strategic Partnership to take forward PCDL development by July 2007</li> </ul>
<p>3. Target the skills necessary to support employers in Suffolk, with a particular focus on the six priority sectors and on higher level skills.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employer responsiveness standard achieved by one provider with two providers progressing towards standard by March 2008</li> <li>• Strategy for Employer Engagement developed and implementation begun working in</li> </ul>

<b>Action</b>	<b>Success indicators</b>
	<p>partnership with Job Centre Plus and local employer organisations by December 2007</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support achievement of Train to Gain targets and effective contract delivery by brokers and providers to achieve targets by March 2008</li> <li>• Partnerships with large local employers in key sectors and key employer groups established to provide improved two way information and inform future commissioning by March 2008</li> <li>• Proportion of fee income recovered from employers increased by 5%</li> <li>• Continued support to partnership developing University Campus Suffolk to enable first intake in September 2007</li> </ul>

**Priority 3:** We will align a proportion of our investment in skills development with the region's Gateways, Growth Areas and initiatives in rural and coastal areas to encourage economic development and growth.

Linked EESCP strategic goals 3 and 4: Invest in sustainable economic growth and create opportunities for disadvantaged groups and communities.

The following actions identify how we will achieve Priority 3:

Action	Success indicators
<p>1. Establish strong partnerships with key agencies to enable the local LSC to have maximum impact across its range of responsibilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality tailored provision is commissioned to equip those not in work with the skills needed to enter, remain and progress in employment by March 2007</li> <li>• LSC and Jobcentre Plus achieve at least the expected outcomes for lower skilled adults in rural and "deprived" areas by March 2008.</li> <li>• Work with Jobcentre Plus to deliver an effective adult strategy for skills development leading to employment in particular to work with local providers to ensure that lone parents on the New Deal for Lone Parents and New Deal for Partners are able to access where available LSC funded provision December 2007.</li> <li>• Partnerships established that can lever in new ESF/EEDA/LIC/Private sector/public sector funding in support of the skills agenda December 2007</li> <li>• Work with key partners to improve access to learning for disadvantaged groups including young offenders and those from ethnic minorities by September 2007.</li> <li>• Work with our partners to implement local and regional Equality and Diversity Impact Measures and ensure that partners are working toward legislative compliance by March 2008.</li> </ul>
<p>2. Work with the Haven Gateway and 1<sup>st</sup> East to support economic development in the Ipswich, Felixstowe and Waveney areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding opportunities maximised with the Haven Gateway and First East Growth Area to ensure the supply of skills matches demand by March 2008</li> <li>• Review of post-16 provision undertaken in Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth by March 2008.</li> <li>• Work is commissioned in partnership with the SDA to establish skills baselines for key sectors</li> </ul>

Action		Success indicators
		and future projected demands in economic development areas to inform Adult Strategy by March 2008.
3.	Work with non-statutory partners to enhance the development of skills and entry to the labour market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A refreshed Working Together Strategy is in place and the contribution of the Voluntary, Community and Social (VCS) sector as partners and providers is increased by March 2008</li> <li>• Effective joint planning arrangements are in place with Trades Union (TU) partnerships and participation in TU Learning Programmes is on an upward trend by December 2007</li> <li>• Improve the quality and range of provision available to offenders in the community and we will work closely with our partners to increase access onto learning by offenders to improve participation and achievement to challenge offending behaviour. Suffolk LSC/Probation Area Partnership NOMS target of 500 probation referrals onto LSC funded provision by end July 2008.</li> </ul>
4.	Ensure good quality Information, Advice and Guidance is available to all offenders and Individual Learning Plans (ILPs) are in place.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offenders have one ILP which identifies the support and skills development required for them to access employment and further training by December 2007.</li> <li>• More offenders have access to a range of education, training and employment opportunities helping to reduce re-offending by March 2008.</li> </ul>
5	Make a key contribution to the development of the Local Area Agreement Block 4 including through the Investing in Communities programme (IIC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skills Implementation group established for LAA Block 4 and IIC led by the LSC by September 2007.</li> <li>• Shared vision for Suffolk skills strategy developed within the Suffolk Community Strategy and new Suffolk economic development strategy working in partnership with Suffolk Development Agency, Suffolk Strategic Partnership, Suffolk County Council, Job Centre Plus and other partners by January 2008</li> </ul>
6	Work with the Suffolk 2012 Partnership to ensure that Suffolk is well prepared to support the delivery of the 2012 Olympics.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Needs analysis undertaken to assess the impact of 2012 in Suffolk on skills needs, with focus on hospitality, tourism and food sectors by March 2008.</li> <li>• Construction needs analysis completed and strategy developed linked to Block 4 LAA to meet the demands for skilled labour in the construction sector December 2007.</li> </ul>

**Priority 4:** We will invest to accelerate improvements in the quality of provision, in order to achieve higher success rates, increases in learner and employer satisfaction and better value for money.

The following actions identify how we will achieve Priority 4:

Action		Success indicators
1.	Implement the East of England Quality Improvement Strategy 2007/10 in Suffolk.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall success rates for Suffolk in line with or exceed 06/07 national benchmarks by March 2008</li> <li>• VCS consortium in place and support work undertaken to enable it to apply for provider status by March 2008</li> <li>• 5% of inspection grades improve from good to excellent, 10% improve from satisfactory to good and all inadequate providers improve to satisfactory or better.</li> <li>• Minimum levels of performance policy implemented across FE and WBL sectors by December 2007</li> <li>• Quality improvement strategy implemented for provision within 10% margin above MLP threshold by December 2007</li> <li>• Review of E2E programmes, structure and curriculum undertaken by December 2007.</li> <li>• Rigorous performance review programme in place for Work-based learning provision by December 2007</li> </ul>
2.	Improve the reputation of the Learning and Skills Sector in Suffolk and in collaboration with partners, invest in improvement projects which will develop quality assurance across Suffolk.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Projects for the sharing of good practice between providers supported, including involvement in peer review projects by March 2008.</li> <li>• West Suffolk College supported in taking a regional leadership role for employer responsiveness, Framework for Excellence and the pilot for Foundation Learning Tier Curriculum by March 2008</li> <li>• Sixth form targeted support plan agreed with Local Authority and implemented by Post-16 improvement team and LA School Improvement Partners (SIPs) by July 2007</li> </ul>
4.	Increase the value for money of our investment in specific	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A three year Level 2 action plan setting out how much each funding stream will contribute towards the 2010 Level 2 PSA targets agreed with local</li> </ul>

Action		Success indicators
	programmes.	<p>partners by March 2008</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Suffolk capital strategy is reviewed to ensure best value for new infrastructure development by March 2008.</li> <li>• No Work-based learning provision with success rates less than 40%</li> <li>• No FE provision with success rates less than 50%</li> </ul>

#### 4. Aggregate Volumes:

Provider Summary Statement of Activity	Year 1	
	16-18 (Learner Volumes)	Adult (Learner Volumes)
<b>LSC Funded Participation</b>		
Number of FE learners (total)	6800	14700
Number of FE learners undertaking Level 4 and above	2	400
Number of FE learners undertaking Level 3	3200	3250
<i>of which:</i> Full Level 3 Learners	2600	1600
<i>of which:</i> First Full Level 3 Learners	2100	1000
Number of Train to Gain learners undertaking Level 3		50
Number of learners undertaking an Advanced Apprenticeship (Average in Learning)	550	600
Number of FE learners undertaking Level 2	4000	6000
<i>of which:</i> Full Level 2 Learners	1900	1800
<i>of which:</i> First Full Level 2 Learners	1200	700
Number of Train to Gain learners undertaking Level 2		3386
Number of learners undertaking an Apprenticeship at Level 2 (Average in Learning)	1800	800
Number of FE learners undertaking Skills for Life qualifications that directly contribute to PSA target	3300	3500
Number of Advanced Apprenticeships and Apprenticeship learners undertaking Skills for Life qualifications that directly contribute to PSA target	1350	750
Number of Train to Gain learners undertaking Skills for Life qualifications that directly contribute to PSA target		557
Number of FE learners undertaking Level 1 and Entry	3500	5300
Number of learners undertaking Entry to Employment (starts)	700	
Number of learners undertaking Safeguarded Adult Learning (Total)		12000
<i>of which:</i> Number of learners undertaking Family learning, literacy and numeracy		1000
<i>of which:</i> Number of learners undertaking Neighbourhood learning in deprived communities		900
<i>of which:</i> Number of learners undertaking Wider Family Learning		600
<i>of which:</i> Number of learners undertaking Personal / Leisure Learning		10000
<b>ESF Funded Participation</b>	<b>16-18 (Learner Volumes)</b>	<b>Adult (Learner Volumes)</b>
Number of ESF Learners undertaking any ESF Activity	1200	1250
Number of ESF Learners <b>not included in LSC Funded Participation table above</b>	1000	950
<i>Of which:</i>		
Level 4 and above	0	14
Full Level 3	0	125
Full Level 2	0	250
Skills for life that directly contributes towards the PSA target	0	200
Level 1 and Entry	160	0
Other ESF activity	800	225

<b>LSC Funded Outcomes</b>	<b>16-18 (Learner achievements)</b>	<b>Adult (Learner achievements)</b>	<b>16-18 Success Rate (%)</b>	<b>Adult Success Rate (%)</b>
Number of FE Learners achieving a Full Level 3 qualification 60% 16 – 18 & 19+	1500	1000		
Number of FE Learners achieving a First Full Level 3 qualification	1300	700		
Number of Train to Gain learners achieving a Full Level 3		25		70%
Number of Learners achieving an Advanced Apprenticeship Framework	250	360	55%	60%
Number of FE Learners achieving a Full Level 2 qualification	1400	1200	74%	68%
Number of FE Learners achieving a First Full Level 2 qualification	900	500	75%	65%
Number of Train to Gain Learners achieving a Full Level 2 qualification		1800		70%
Number of Learners achieving an Apprenticeship Framework (at Level 2)	850	490	60%	65%
Number of FE learners achieving a Skills for Life qualification (s) that directly contribute to PSA target	2200	2500	65%	75%
Number of Advanced Apprenticeship and Apprenticeship learners achieving a Skills for Life qualification(s) that directly contribute to PSA target	910	550	70%	75%
Number of Train to Gain learners achieving a Skills for Life qualification(s) that directly contribute to PSA target		150		70%
Number of learners progressing to a positive destination from Entry to Employment	350		48%	
<b>ESF Funded Outcomes</b>				
Number of ESF Learners <b>not included in LSC Funded Outcomes table above</b> achieving a qualification at:				
Full Level 3	0	30		
Full Level 2	0	120		
Skills for life qualification that directly contributes to the PSA target	0	100		

<b>Funding summary</b>	<b>Funding (£)</b>
FE 16 – 18	27,364,205
FE Adult	12,638,224
FE Additional Learning Support	2,973,121
Train to Gain	
Advanced Apprenticeships and Apprenticeships 16-18	7,195,600
Advanced Apprenticeships and Apprenticeships (Adult)	2,398,539
Entry to Employment	1,908,772
WBL additional learner / learning support	790,000
Safeguarded Adult Learning	2,251,800
ESF	4,900,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>62,420,261</b>

<b>Fee Income and Other Activity Summary</b>	<b>Fee Income (£)</b>	<b>% of LSC funded activity Fee Income</b>	<b>Number of Learners</b>
LSC Funded provision	1,800,000		
Not publicly subsidised / full cost			

## **5. Other Information**

### **Partnership**

We can only achieve our plan by working effectively with our key partners to agree shared objectives and the alignment of resources to create the best possible outcomes for Suffolk people. We will continue to build on the effective partnerships we have developed and identify new partnerships to work with us in taking forward specific areas of this plan. In particular:

- We will seek to make an active contribution to the Suffolk Strategic Partnership as it develops a twenty year vision for Suffolk.
- We are committed to the Suffolk Local Area Agreements, working with its constituted partners and particularly blocks 1 and 4 which aims to increase extend opportunities for young people and develop skills to support economic development.
- We will seek to strengthen our links with the key development agencies, employer organisations and sector representatives

We will continue to work with 14 – 19 partnerships and all post 16 providers to drive forward the learning and skills sector in Suffolk to better meet the needs of learners, employers and local communities.

### **Learner Health and Safety**

The health, safety and welfare of learners are fundamental values of the Learning and Skills Council. All learners are entitled to learning that takes place in a safe, healthy and supportive environment. In addition, we consider health and safety to be an integral part of quality and that safe learning is essential to maximise learners' experience and achievement.

We expect all those we fund to fully meet their legal obligations and will seek assurance that they have suitable and sufficient arrangements for learner health and safety. We will take appropriate actions when standards are not met.

The 'safe learner' concept is central to our policy and we will promote risk education and awareness of health and safety, and positively engage all those that can contribute to preparing young people to be safe and healthy workers.

We will encourage and support the raising of standards and 'best practice' approaches, working in partnership with key stakeholders.

### **Equality and Diversity**

The Council will ensure that planned activities take account of its duty to promote equality of opportunity in relation to race, gender, age and disability and our responsibilities under other equality legislation including the Race Relations Act, the Disability Discrimination Act and European regulations relating to sexual orientation, religion or faith and age. Actions plans for the Race Equality Scheme (RES) and the Disability Equality Scheme are in place. We will also work with our providers to address equality and diversity issues. As an employer we will continue to monitor the staff profile in terms of gender, ethnicity and employment band levels.

**Learners with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities**

Under the Learning and Skills Act 2000 the Council has a specific responsibility to consider the needs of young people and adults with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. There are robust arrangements in place to ensure that this group of learners have access to suitable provision that meets their needs and where appropriate the additional support required. We will work with the region to implement the regional strategy in response to the Learning for Living and Work, the LSC'S national strategy