

Learning and Skills Council Local Area Statement of Need Tees Valley

2008-09

January 2008

Of interest to everyone involved in improving skills and learning opportunities
across the Tees Valley

Introduction

We are pleased to present the Local Statement of need for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) Tees Valley. This outlines the local priorities for the Tees Valley in response to The North East Regional Commissioning Plan 2008 - 2009.

In 2008-2009 we will continue to build on the significant progress already made in transforming learning in the Tees Valley. A key challenge for the coming year will be the implementation of a new funding system for young people and adults which will be demand led and employer responsive.

Through improved collaborative working, a more co-ordinated use of funding and resources and an improved youth offer, we will continue to support those young people who are not engaged in education, employment or training (NEET) or at risk of becoming NEET, to progress into learning and employment with learning. We will work closely with partners to maximise the progression and achievement of all young people. This will also support the implementation of the 14-19 agenda and encourage collaboration across the infrastructure to meet demand from all young people in the area.

We will continue to focus resources on priority provision that is responsive and successful in delivering to the needs of young people, adults and employers. Using Minimum Levels of Performance and Commissioning processes we will work hard to support colleges and providers to ensure the mix and balance of provision in the area is in line with priorities set out in our Regional Commissioning Plan.

Train to Gain will be established as a service for employers and to significantly increase Apprenticeship opportunities for young people and adults.

The continuing challenge is to improve the qualifications and skills levels of the local population, driving economic competitiveness and making a real difference to the people who live and work in Tees Valley. We will continue to work with partners to drive forward a culture that will see more employers and adults invest in learning for their own success and well being.



Tom Crompton
Area South Director
LSC County Durham and Tees Valley

Challenges, key actions and measures of success for Tees Valley

The following challenges and actions are based on our Regional Commissioning Plan 2008-09, as well as ongoing dialogue with key partner organisations.

National priority 1: Creating Demand for Skills	
Challenge 1.1: To increase the proportion of young people aged 16-18 participating in education and training.	
Action	Measure
Work with Connexions to continue to reduce the overall proportion of young people pre 16 and up to 19 who are NEET/at risk of becoming NEET, and the proportion whose situation is not Known	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduction in overall NEET Group - Reduction in not known group - Increase in % of 17 year olds in education, employment or training
Work with key partners to maximise commissioning opportunities to address gaps in the market for NEET activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduction in number of NEET group who are Looked After Children, Young Offenders, Teenage Parents, Learners with a Learning Difficulty and/or Disability - Increased progression from ESF provision to further training and/or work
Work with the 14-19 Strategic Partnerships to deliver an enhanced September guarantee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Early offer of a place to all young people for September 2008
Work with the 14-19 Strategic Partnerships to enhance the curriculum offer including increased vocational and work experience opportunities pre 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased progression into FE/training at 16
Further develop the E2E programme to make it more responsive to the NEET group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase in progressions from E2E to further learning or employment with training.
Challenge 1.2: raise retention and achievement of young people and adults on full level 2 and full level 3 programmes.	
Action	Measure
Ensure broad range of high quality provision is available for young people in Tees Valley, in the context of local 14-19 Education Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase in numbers enrolled on full level 2 and 3 programmes - Increase in % of cohort achieving Level 2 at 19 - Increase % of cohort achieving level 3 at 19
Support the development and implementation of Diplomas through the local 14-19 Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of Tees Valley proposals accepted via gateway 2 - Successful implementation of Diplomas through Gateway 1 for September 2008
Respond to the nine regional priority sectors for the delivery of Apprenticeships in Tees Valley focusing on chemicals and pharmaceuticals, energy (in particular renewables), knowledge intensive business services,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase in the uptake and achievement of level 2 Apprenticeships - Increase in the uptake and achievement of level 3 Apprenticeships

<p>tourism and hospitality and commercial creative (in particular digital media).</p> <p>Work with providers and partners to increase the demand for adult level 2 (priority on <i>first</i> level 2) and level 3 provision</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase in participation and achievement of level 2 and level 3 qualifications - Increase in first level 2 achievements
Challenge 1.3: Establish Train to Gain as a service for employers	
Action	Measure
Implement the Train to Gain “Plan for Growth” in Tees Valley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ramping up the core Train to Gain budget and broadening the range of provision it will support - Providers reach or exceed targets for Train to Gain achievements at level 2 - increase the number of employers involved in Train to Gain
Commission a range of complementary provision for employers/employees using ESF funding which will be delivered as part of the overall Train to Gain service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase in overall Train to Gain achievements - Implementation of an effective contracting process.
Improve the intermediate and higher level skills of the workforce (level 2 – 4) through the development and delivery of qualifications at the appropriate level to meet the priority sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase in number of learners on level 2 programmes in priority sectors - Increase in number of learners on level 3 programmes in priority sectors - Increase in number of learners on level 4 programmes in priority sectors
National Priority 2: Transforming FE	
Challenge 2.1: to ensure sector can respond to employer needs and skills agenda and adapt to new Demand Led Funding system	
Action	Measure
Continue to develop and implement the capital investment strategy to improve the quality and capacity of the learning infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Completion of planned projects - Increase in the amount of provision which is ‘fit for purpose’ in terms of fixtures, fittings and sector responsiveness
Work with local colleges/training providers to ensure the balance and mix of provision meets the needs of learners and employers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commissioning of provision through Open and Competitive Tendering (OCT) and contracting processes - Collaborative planning of provision through the 14-19 Strategic Partnerships
Through Train to Gain work with training providers and colleges to develop their responsiveness to employers and local skills needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase in the number of employers engaged in Train to Gain activity - Increase in the number of employees engaged in Train to Gain activity
Priority 3: Better Skills, Better Jobs, Better Lives	
Challenge 3.1: Continue to improve skills levels of adults who have low or no qualifications	
Action	Measure
Enable those who are excluded from the labour market to access learning and sustainable employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improvement in the delivery of mainstream IAG services to adults without a level 2

Respond to changing national 'Skills for Life' policy and targets Work closely with JobCentre plus to focus on areas where there are high concentrations of economically inactive people	- Increase in Skills for Life provision (new functional literacy and numeracy) which counts towards the national targets - Increase in number of individuals on benefits to be in training in preparation for going back to work
Work with colleges and training providers to ensure the appropriateness of level 1 provision and that progression routes are in place.	- Increase in level 1 provision which provides clear progression routes - Reduction in level 1 provision with no or inappropriate progression routes - Increase in learners who progress from level 1 to level 2
Challenge 3.2: To secure sustainable employment for workless people	
Action	Measure
To engage more effectively and more consistently the capacity and expertise of FE Colleges and other FE providers in the region to support the "employability agenda" under the banner of "Skills For Jobs"	- Engaging and supporting and increase in adults who are not in work, back into the labour market - Continued support for those entering the labour market through Train to Gain
Continue to embed 'Skills for Jobs' activity to address economically inactive issues of people in Tees Valley	- NLDC funding supports 'Skills for Jobs' activity - Principles of the Regional Employability Framework are incorporated in the strategies and activity of all providers from the third sector
Build the capacity of the Third Sector (voluntary and Community Sector) in the Tees Valley	- Involvement in gathering information on the design of services - Tendering process accessible to new providers from the third sector
Challenge 3.3: To deliver the integrated skills and employment system	
Action	Measure
Support providers to recognise and respond to opportunities arising from key regeneration activities in the Tees Valley	- Responsive provision and employees to meet demand of major projects within City Region plans
Work with key partners to ensure the shared targets within Local Area Agreements (LAA) are aligned within Multi Area Agreements (MAA)	- Clear priorities identified to support LAA and MAA - Key partners are engaged in the delivery of LAAs and MAAs
Ensure that rural areas such as East Cleveland can take advantage of local economic development opportunities	- Rural areas become less marginalised - Increase in opportunities for rural population – tourism, leisure, renewables

Partnership Working

The LSC Tees Valley has a strong record of effective partnership working at regional, sub-regional and local level. We are proud of the success this has brought in helping us to drive forward the learning and skills agenda locally.

In the past year the five local Partnership Teams in the Tees Valley (Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Stockton and Redcar and Cleveland) have strengthened our interface with partners at all levels. We will continue to work collaboratively with these key partners to meet the challenges set out in this document. This will include:

Strategic partners such as the local 14-19 Partnerships to implement the 14-19 agenda, supporting a more collaborative approach to the ownership, implementation and resourcing of local strategies such as NEET and 14-19 Implementation Plans.

Local Strategic Partnerships to support economic regeneration and strengthening the links between learning, community development and neighbourhood renewal. We will continue to align priorities and actions through a focus on Local Area Agreements and the development of Multi Area Agreements.

Jobcentre Plus partnerships to support local employability issues and develop links between skills and employment. Through the Regional Skills Partnership and implementation of the Regional Skills Action Plan we will work with One NorthEast and other partners to maintain a co-ordinated and structured approach to strategic planning to help unemployed people access training opportunities and employment.

Tees Valley Unlimited to develop the Tees Valley City Region which will contribute to the development of employment and skills opportunities and help inform the collaborative work of regional and sub-regional partners.

Regional skills team and other skills partners to enhance our interface with Sector Skills Councils in order to understand and respond to the needs of prominent sectors within the region.

The strength of collaboration between partners is demonstrated in the progress made over the last few years. We will continue to build on these opportunities and engage new partners giving them the opportunity to contribute to the economic prosperity of the area and the success of individuals and employers.