

# Learning and Skills Council Local Area Statement of Need

## Tyne and Wear

### 2008 -09

### January 2008

Of interest to everyone involved in improving skills and learning opportunities  
across Tyne and Wear and the North East Region

# Introduction

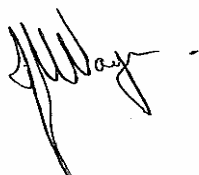
This statement sets out the key challenges, responses and partnership issues for the LSC in Tyne and Wear. It complements the LSC's Regional Commissioning Plan setting out the distinctive characteristics and needs of Tyne and Wear. The responses outlined below to the particular challenges facing the area will help the region move towards the vision for the North East we share with our partners.

Our key priorities for this year include; taking forward the next stages of 14-19 reforms; raising participation in learning; expanding the Train to Gain service and significantly increasing Apprenticeships. We will continue to work with partners to drive forward change so that more employers and adults invest in learning.

The LSC will support the 14-19 reforms and encourage collaboration across the system to meet demand from all young people in the area. More funding will be routed through the Demand Led system so that it is more responsive to learners and employers.

The continuing challenge is to increase demand and improve qualifications and skills, driving economic competitiveness and making a real difference to the people who live and work in Tyne and Wear.

We can only achieve this ambition through strong collaboration with our partners and providers and we look forward to building on our collective achievements during the year ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Wayman', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

John Wayman  
Area Director, Northumberland and Tyne and Wear

# Challenges, key actions and measures of success for Tyne and Wear

<b>National Priority 1: creating demand for skills</b>	
<b>Challenge 1: to reduce the number of young people who are NEET.</b>	
<p><b>Responses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement NEET action plans using ESF and focusing on key local issues in each of the 5 Boroughs.</li> <li>• Target the decline in participation up to age 19 and particularly at age 17 managing transition at 17 or where learners are at high risk of dropping out.</li> <li>• Work with YOT teams to ensure young offenders have access to education or training.</li> <li>• Deliver the September guarantee, working with each of the 5 local Authorities and local Connexions services, ensuring that provision is in place to ensure a suitable offer at year 11 and work towards an offer for 17 year olds.</li> <li>• Increase the flexibility of provision to enable learners to start in January.</li> <li>• Encourage further collaboration between Connexions and JobCentre Plus to ensure continuity of support to age 19.</li> <li>• Ensure the range of support recognises the needs of young parents.</li> <li>• Work with partners to promote progression from the community based youth offer to formal provision.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Measures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduction in overall NEET Group</li> <li>• Reduction in not known group</li> <li>• Increase in % of 17 year olds in education, employment and/or training</li> <li>• September Guarantee met</li> </ul>
<b>Challenge 2: Strengthen 14-19 collaboration to enhance the offer to young people.</b>	
<p><b>Responses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support delivery of the 5 local Children &amp; Young People's plans</li> <li>• Play an active role in the 5 local 14-19 partnerships to deliver 14-19 reforms and increase personalised learning.</li> <li>• Work collaboratively to plan local action for raising the compulsory participation age.</li> <li>• Support local action to prepare for and implement</li> </ul>	<p><b>Measures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in numbers enrolled on full Level 2 and Level 3 programmes</li> <li>• Increase in % of cohort achieving Level 2 at 19</li> <li>• Increase % of cohort achieving Level 3 at 19</li> <li>• Effective local preparation for and</li> </ul>

<p>Diplomas leading to the full entitlement in 2013.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase informed demand from young people by enhancing the 5 local 14-19 prospectuses.</li> <li>• Work with the local 14-19 partners to ensure young people can follow progression routes to FE, HE and employment.</li> <li>• Work with partners to build common understanding of the offer and progression routes to ensure that referral arrangements work effectively in the interest of the learner.</li> <li>• Ensure 14-19 partnerships develop in light of changes to the provider infrastructure e.g. the arrival of new providers through OCT.</li> <li>• Secure a smooth transition of responsibility for work related learning from TWEBLO by working with 14-19 partnerships.</li> <li>• Secure an effective link between the local 14-19 partnerships and the Regional 14-19 Commission.</li> </ul>	<p>delivery of all components of the 14-19 reform agenda.</p>
<p><b>Challenge 3: Ensure high-quality learning opportunities are available locally for LLDD learners</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand high quality local provision to reduce the need for out of area provision.</li> <li>• Support partnership work in each of the 5 local areas to share expertise, strengthen quality and develop progression routes.</li> <li>• Play an active role in the 5 local strategy implementation groups to ensure priorities in the Learning For Living and Work Strategy are implemented.</li> <li>• Ensure the LLDD sector and agenda is appropriately represented in 14-19 partnerships.</li> <li>• Encourage mainstream providers to support LLDD learners.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Measures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduction in the number of learners needing to travel to provision out of the area.</li> <li>• Effective local delivery of the objectives of the Learning For Living and Work strategy.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Challenge 3: Enhance the work-based offer.</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the take-up of adult and 16-18 apprenticeships.</li> <li>• Support the development of local partnership strategies to increase employer engagement.</li> <li>• Raise awareness of work-based opportunities among schools, parents and learners.</li> <li>• Promote WBL as a route to HE through the use of case studies.</li> <li>• Continue to raise the profile of WBL by encouraging participation in regional and local celebratory events.</li> <li>• Enhance vocational progression routes e.g. from Entry to Employment and pre-apprenticeships.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Measures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in the uptake and achievement of Level 2 Apprenticeships</li> <li>• Increase in the uptake and achievement of Level 3 Apprenticeships</li> <li>• Increase in progressions from E2E to further learning or employment with training.</li> </ul>

**Challenge 4: Increase demand and ensure employers have access to responsive provision.**

- Continuously improve the performance of the Train to Gain service by challenging and supporting local providers.
- Raise understanding among providers of Train to Gain i.e. as a service for employers.
- Work with local providers to implement the regional Train to Gain growth plan and introduce the new employer offer including at level 3.
- Implement the employer responsive funding model.
- Use local intelligence to inform OCT specifications.
- Share sector intelligence with local providers and partners to influence the curriculum, pattern of provision, development of specialisms and to inform the local response to employer needs.
- Encourage local providers and partners to respond to the skills needs of key sectors in the Regional Economic Strategy.
- Support local providers to build understanding of sector needs and use this understanding to inform local responses.
- Raise awareness and encourage providers and partners locally to champion the Skills Pledge.

**Measures**

- Increased Train to Gain budget effectively allocated to high performing providers.
- Broader range of provision in place.
- Providers reach or exceed all targets for Train to Gain including achievements at level 2
- Increase in the number of employers involved in Train to Gain
- Increase in overall Train to Gain achievements
- Local provision is better meeting sector needs and the skills agenda.

**Challenge 5: Accelerate progress in meeting PSA targets and priorities**

- Drive up participation and success rates across all provision
- Improve learner choice
- Narrow gaps in achievement across learning pathways and between all groups of young people
- Increase attainment at Level 2 and 3
- Increase Apprenticeship completion rates
- Improve literacy and numeracy skills of adults
- Increase skills of adults at level 2, 3 and 4.

**Measures**

- Increase in numbers enrolled on full Level 2 and Level 3 programmes
- Increase in % of cohort achieving Level 2 at 19
- Increase % of cohort achieving Level 3 at 19
- Progress towards the adult literacy and numeracy qualifications targets.

<b>National Priority 2: Transform the FE sector</b>	
<b>Challenge 1: Introduce demand-led funding</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce 16-18, adult and employer responsive funding models with local FE and WBL providers and schools with sixth forms.</li> <li>• Work with providers to model the financial effects.</li> <li>• Identify and manage risks associated with the transition to the new funding models.</li> <li>• Agree levels of fee income to be generated by each college.</li> <li>• Communicate LSC fees policy to local providers to ensure all are clear about employer and individual entitlement and where contributions are expected.</li> </ul>	<b>Measures</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New funding models introduced, risks identified and managed.</li> <li>• Increase in fee income.</li> </ul>
<b>Challenge 2: Develop the local learning infrastructure to create excellent facilities for learners and employers</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver the LSC's Accommodation Strategy in each of the 5 Boroughs.</li> <li>• Support implementation of the colleges' capital strategies.</li> <li>• Support providers to develop specialisms and work collaboratively to deliver world class facilities.</li> </ul>	<b>Measures</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objectives of Regional Capital strategy implemented in Tyne and Wear</li> </ul>
<b>Challenge 3: Support implementation of local economic, regeneration and community strategies</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Play an active role in Local Strategic Partnerships.</li> <li>• Support implementation of Local Community Strategies.</li> <li>• Influence development of Local Area Agreements to ensure learning and skills issues are addressed.</li> <li>• Work with partners to align the learning and skills agenda with local economic and regeneration plans and activities</li> </ul>	<b>Measures</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevant LSC priorities reflected in Local Area Agreements, work of LSPs and Community Strategies.</li> </ul>
<b>Challenge 4: Maintain focus on priorities through informed dialogue with providers and intelligent commissioning; commission provision to address local needs</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss the balance and mix of provision of each provider in the context of needs of local</li> </ul>	<b>Measures</b>

<p>learners, communities and employers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agree key delivery volumes and funding with all providers for 2008-09.</li> <li>• Encourage a dynamic response to new challenges in the way provision is structured and organised both for the collaborative 14-19 agenda and the demand led approach for adults.</li> <li>• Support, influence and encourage providers to make appropriate shifts in the balance and mix of provision in line with priorities identified by the network of Sector Skills Councils and to support priorities of the Regional Economic Strategy.</li> <li>• Identify market failure to respond to particular needs</li> <li>• Use local intelligence about needs to inform the commissioning process.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pattern of local provision is meeting needs of learners, employers and communities.</li> <li>• 14-19 partnerships offering collaborative provision with appropriate progression pathways.</li> <li>• Provision is responding to the needs of sectors including priority sectors in the RES</li> </ul>
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**Challenge 5: Eradicate poor quality provision and ensure continuous improvement**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regularly challenge and review the performance of all providers</li> <li>• Use MLP and NTIs to drive improvement and remove under-performing provision.</li> <li>• Encourage all providers to develop robust post-inspection action plans</li> <li>• Broker support of QIA to support quality improvement with providers.</li> <li>• Work with each of the 5 Local Authorities to offer challenge and support to schools with sixth forms.</li> <li>• Raise awareness of Framework For Excellence and the New Standard.</li> <li>• Identify opportunities to share good practice between local providers.</li> <li>• Promote the continuous development of FE staff to build a fully qualified workforce.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Measures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor quality provision eradicated.</li> <li>• All providers continually developing the quality of provision.</li> <li>• Providers understand and are preparing for Framework For Excellence</li> </ul>
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**National Priority 3: Better Skills, better jobs, better lives****Challenge 1: Strengthen social inclusion, address worklessness and support entry to the labour market.**

- Join up skills and employment services by implementing the regional joint delivery plan with JobCentre Plus locally.
- Work with partners to ensure that the adult learning offer meets local needs, including those of disadvantaged communities and people seeking to enter the labour market.
- Raise awareness of local providers of the opportunities presented by the FLT to pave the way for full implementation in 2010.
- Encourage local providers to target LSC investment on priority groups of learners e.g. first level 2 and Skills For Life.
- Improve co-ordination of adult safeguarded and personal and community development learning through active involvement in local PCDL planning groups.
- Work with local providers and partners to create a more seamless link between support available to individuals once in employment and that which exists to support them into a job.
- Use NLDC funding locally for Skills for Jobs activity to ensure sustainable employment for workless people.
- Encourage local providers to produce effective recruitment strategies for targeting workless people.
- Ensure the principles of the Regional Employability Framework are incorporated in the activity of all local providers and partnerships.
- Secure the greatest possible return on investment in supporting adults not in employment and supporting them in work through Train to Gain.
- Increase the engagement of FE colleges and other FE providers to support the employability agenda under the Skills For Jobs banner.

**Measures**

- Objectives of joint delivery plan with Jobcentre Plus are met.
- Principles of the Regional Employability Framework are incorporated in the strategies and activities of local partnerships and third sector providers.
- The needs of priority groups of adult learners are being addressed.
- Increase in the number of adults who are not in work engaged in learning.

**Challenge 2 : Meet diverse community needs**

- Continue to implement the LSC's Single Equality Scheme with providers in each local area.
- Encourage all providers and colleges to implement equality and diversity impact measures
- Maintain ESOL provision
- Work with local providers and partners to understand and respond to the needs of particular

**Measures**

- Provision reflects the diverse needs of local communities
- Appropriate level of ESOL provision is in place.

faith and ethnic groups.

**Challenge 3: Respond to changing national Skills for Life policy and targets**

- Increase numeracy provision to meet level 3 entry targets whilst maintaining levels of literacy provision.
- Deliver new functional literacy and numeracy targets.
- Continue to address the '80/20' balance and mix targets for entry level provision.
- Ensure the local balance and mix between literacy and numeracy provision meets learner demand and regional targets.
- Continue to encourage embedded Skills for Life provision with providers.

**Measures**

- New functional literacy and numeracy targets met.
- Local balance and mix of provision reflects learner demand and supports delivery of targets.

# Partnership Working

## **Tyne and Wear:**

- Comprises of the 5 Metropolitan Boroughs of North Tyneside, Newcastle, Gateshead, South Tyneside and City of Sunderland.
- Is home to 43% of the North East's population, and 48% of the Region's jobs are based in Tyne & Wear.
- Has an overall population which is rising slightly to 2014 but 14-19 population set to reduce by 15 percentage points.
- Contains localities where levels of social deprivation are high. Economic activity is below national average.
- Has an aging population, which, combined with the demographic pattern, places a premium on skilled young people and on up-skilling the adult population.
- The black and minority ethnic population is small but growing; economic migration is changing the population profile. Within different localities there are marked differences in the distribution of the BME population with large communities in the west end of Newcastle.

## **Providers of learning in Tyne and Wear**

- 5 FE Colleges, one in each of the five Local Authority areas.
- 63 secondary schools, around half of which have sixth forms.
- Special collaborative arrangements in some Local Authorities to deliver sixth form provision. For example, in Sunderland there are a number of cluster arrangements with City of Sunderland College involving local schools.
- One City Technology College, Emanuel College (in Gateshead) and an Academy, the Excelsior Academy, opening in Newcastle in September 2008.
- About 52 work-based learning providers with a base in Tyne and Wear. Learners also have access to further WBL provision both through out-of-area training and providers working within the area with regional or national bases.
- Three universities, Newcastle, Northumbria and Sunderland have main locations in Tyne and Wear. The regional centre of the Open University is based in Newcastle.

We enjoy working closely with our partners to deliver the shared agenda. We expect this joint work to continue within developing partnership structures. The agenda will include the following areas of work.

### **Local Area Agreements**

In Tyne & Wear there are five separate Local Area Agreements (LAAs) in development for submission by the June deadline. LSC targets are well represented within the LAAs and consequently stretch has been added. This is particularly true for NEETs.

### **City Region and Multi Area Agreement**

Within Tyne & Wear City Region (which covers all of Tyne & Wear but also the southern districts of Northumberland and the northern districts of Durham) a Multi Area Agreement is being developed with a strong focus on Employment and Skills.

This will focus on embedding the practices of the Tyne & Wear Employment Consortium (one of the City Strategy Pathfinders) within the City Region over a longer period in order to address employability and bring greater coherence to the delivery of higher-level skills, linked to major regeneration initiatives.

### **Tyne & Wear Employment Consortium**

The Tyne & Wear Employment Consortium is beginning to have an impact on delivery of employability interventions at a local level within the City Region and is influencing the use of funding at a local and regional level in order to deliver the Regional Employability Framework within the City Region.

This is not only strengthening joint working between JCP and the LSC but also with Local Authorities and greater linkages are being made across a number of funding streams in order to give a more comprehensive offer with reduced duplication.

### **14-19 Partnerships**

The 5 LSC Partnership Teams will continue to work collaboratively with the local 14-19 Partnerships to implement the 14-19 reforms, supporting a collaborative approach to implementing local 14-19 strategies.

### **Local Strategic Partnerships**

Local Strategic Partnerships play a key role in supporting economic regeneration and strengthening the links between learning, community development and neighbourhood renewal. We will continue to support the implementation of community strategies and align priorities and actions through Local Area Agreements.

### **Jobcentre Plus**

We will work with partnerships to support local employability issues and develop links between skills and employment. Through the Regional Skills Partnership and Action Plan we will work with One NorthEast and other partners to help unemployed people access training opportunities and employment.

### **Sector Skills Councils**

Partnership Teams work closely with the LSC Regional skills team. This enables us to benefit from the dialogue with Sector Skills Councils informing our understanding of sector needs within the region.