

Learning and Skills Council
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Transforming the learning and skills sector in the North East

An introduction to the roles and structure of the Learning and Skills Council in the region

October 2006

Of interest to anyone involved in learning and skills in the North East

Agenda for Change - a vision for the future

“A transformed learning and skills system which has at its heart the needs of learners and employers - and is seen as valued, proud, responsive, confident and trusted. Colleges and other delivery partners will be famous for delivering cost-effective, high quality learning that benefits learners, encourages regeneration, meets the long-term needs of employers and secures the economic future of the country.”

Mark Haysom, Chief Executive,
Learning and Skills Council

Together with our partners, we will deliver this vision. We will lead schools, colleges and other training providers on this journey to reform the system to benefit employers, young people and adults.

Agenda for Change is the LSC's transformation programme which will radically transform the post-16 education and training sector to meet the huge challenge of developing the workforce skills and learning for individuals required to meet the aims of greater social mobility and increased economic competitiveness.

Six key themes underpin the programme including Skills for Employers, Quality, Funding, Data, Business Excellence and Reputation. These are shown in more detail on the following page.

Transformation takes time; we have already made great progress and the LSC will continue to change and develop and take every opportunity to simplify and reduce bureaucracy and administration costs so that every possible penny goes to the front line.

Our model for the future LSC is based on providing strong leadership to transform the system and running a streamlined organisation to enable us to work in partnership locally.

In the North East, as in other parts of the country, the LSC has been implementing the process of transforming itself and from summer 2006 now operates with a new structure, as shown on the fold out diagram.

Currently the LSC has four local Councils - Northumberland, Tyne and Wear, County Durham and Tees Valley - and is working up proposals to form a Regional Board.

Agenda for Change - key themes

Skills for Employers

We will develop a new national quality mark for colleges and providers that will recognise excellence in the delivery of workforce development and make them first choice for employers seeking solutions to skills needs.

Quality

We will develop a culture of self-improvement where colleges and providers work together and learn from each other to improve the quality of education and training they deliver.

Funding

We will simplify funding mechanisms to provide greater certainty for colleges and a common approach across all post-16 education and training providers.

Data

We will radically streamline the way in which information is used in the sector by only collecting the data which providers need to manage their own business.

Business Excellence

We will develop a model to define how a college can achieve excellence and provide value for money, accelerate capital expenditure to improve recruitment, retention and learner achievement and encourage collective procurement.

Reputation

We will market and promote best practice across the sector and undertake regular research to track changing perceptions.

Learning and Skills Council North East - Structure Chart, Roles and Responsibilities

Regional Director

The Regional Director's role is to champion and lead the transformation of the learning and skills sector in the region, securing maximum investment in the learning and skills infrastructure and ensuring the delivery of the LSC's strategic objectives, priorities and targets.

Through the leadership and direction of two Area Teams and five Regional Teams, the Regional Director will secure the provision of innovative high-quality learning that meets the current and future skills needs of young people, adults, employers and the wider economy within the North East.



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• Financial support

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• Health and safety
• Equality and diversity

Planning and Performance Director
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• Policy interpretation
• Performance reporting and monitoring
• Planning and analysis
• Regional commissioning plan and local delivery plans

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• Specialised diplomas
• Review of work-related learning
• Connexions partnerships transition
• On-line prospectus
• Aimhigher
• Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)

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Skills Development Director - Sectors
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• Sector Skills Agreements
• New provider standard for employer engagement
• Reassessment of COVES
• National Skills Academies
• Sector input to the development of 14-19 Diplomas

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• Offender Learning and Skills Service (OLASS)
• Information Advice and Guidance (IAG)
• Welfare to Workforce Development
• Leisure / first steps learning
• Skills for Life
• Adult Level 2 PSA
• Adult Learning Grant
• Union Learning

Skills Development Director - Train to Gain
Michael Mitchell
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• Train To Gain (brokerage and training provision, Management and Leadership, Investors in People)
• Integration of Train to Gain with Information, Diagnostic and Brokerage Service / Business Support
• Enterprise

Head of Marketing and Communications
Julie Calvert
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Marketing and Communications
Leads on the the marketing of LSC products, ensuring that all activity supports the achievement of national, regional and local targets. It also promotes and communicates to LSC partners, stakeholders, non-executives and staff, the work of the LSC and the sector, its successes and the contribution that the LSC is making towards government priorities.

Regional Office Manager
Ken Coulson
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Office Support
Provides business and administrative support to the Regional Director and coordinates governance arrangements of the Regional Board and the four Local Councils across the region.

Area Teams

The two Area Teams - Area North and Area South - provide the front line operational focus for the LSC in the region. They are experts and advocates in their area - understanding and championing the varied needs of learners, employers and communities. Each Area Team is made up of a number of small, flexible Partnership Teams and an Economic Development Team.

Partnerships Teams

Manage the direct relationships with delivery partners and focus on collectively transforming the range and quality of learning available to achieve the annual plan for the area. They cover the same geographical boundaries as local authorities, ensuring close direct working to inform Local Area Agreements.

Economic Development Teams

Work locally alongside the Partnership Teams to place learning and skills at the heart of economic development and regeneration. They have a strong influencing role with the Regional Development Agency, developers, local authorities, regeneration partnerships and with employers emphasising the importance of skills to economic competitiveness and social inclusion.

Finance and Resources

Manages the financial resources of the LSC in a way that supports the achievement of LSC strategic objectives. Manages strategic interventions in the provider network, which improve financial performance and support capital investments. Provides an effective contract management, audit and accounting service to ensure the Regional Director is able to deliver assurance through the Statement of Internal Control to the Chief Executive on the proper use of LSC funds.

Learning, Planning and Performance

Leads on work to enable the Regional Director and Area Teams to plan, prioritise and strategically purchase high-quality learning that meets national, regional and local needs. This team also leads on 14-19 learning, quality assurance, provision for learners with learning difficulties, equality and diversity, health and safety and lifelong learning.

Skills

Leads on work with the Regional Skills Partnership to support the delivery of the Regional Economic Strategy. The team will lead on work to raise employer demand for skills and transform supply side responsiveness. Provides the bridge between LSC funded provision and employers, in part through Sector Skills Agreements making 'demand-led' a reality, and also by the implementation of Train To Gain. Also leads on Offender Learning and Skills and on the regional Skills for Life strategy.

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