

New Director for Greater Manchester

The Learning and Skills Council has appointed a new Director of Area for Greater Manchester

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The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) has appointed Elaine Bowker as Director of Area for Greater Manchester. Prior to her new appointment Elaine started working for the LSC in 2001 as the Director of Learning Programmes for Greater Merseyside and then in 2004 became Executive Director.

Elaine began her working life in industry, whilst studying part-time, however a passion for education, and for ensuring that every individual is given the opportunity to achieve his or her full potential, led her into a career in Further Education.

As a lecturer, she was able to guide young people, many of whom had missed their first chance at education, into rewarding careers. From being able to influence small groups of twenty or so students, this rose to hundreds and then thousands as she gained promotion in a range of colleges throughout the country. Elaine's final college appointment was as a senior manager at Hugh Baird College in Sefton where she achieved Grade 1 at inspection for her areas of the curriculum.

She is very clear what she feels the LSC should be delivering:

“I want every young person to be given the chance to get into learning – the right type of learning for them that will help them to achieve and progress. I also feel very strongly that employers should have access to demand-led training that will help them to build the skills of their workforce.”

Covering 10 local authority areas and with an annual budget of just under £400 million, LSC Greater Manchester is one of the largest in England. With responsibility for planning and funding high quality vocational education and training, the LSC works with over a quarter of a million learners in Greater Manchester per annum.

Regional Director of the Learning and Skills Council North West, John Korzeniewski has welcomed Elaine's appointment:

"I'm sure Elaine's extensive skills and experience will be of huge benefit to the Greater Manchester area. She already has many achievements with the LSC such as overseeing the establishment of the country's first Health and Social Care Academy, developed in partnership with Cheshire and Merseyside Strategic Health Authority, and supervising the development and implementation of the award-winning SkillWorks programme, which has delivered demand-led training for employers. Elaine's Knowsley team also achieved the country's first overall Grade One for 14-19 year olds."

Elaine grew up locally in North Manchester and despite the challenge of frequent relocations she has found time to continue her own education whilst working full-time and raising a family, gaining an MSc in Education Management.

Ends

Photo: *New Director for Greater Manchester Elaine Bowker*

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Learning and Skills Council Greater Manchester (LSCGM)

The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for planning and funding high-quality vocational education and training for everyone. We have a single

goal: to improve the skills of England's young people and adults to world class standards. Our vision is that by 2010, young people and adults in England have the knowledge and skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce. Established in 2001, we work nationally, regionally and locally from a network of offices across the country.

Top Level Messages

- We plan and invest in high quality education and training for young people and adults that will build a skilled and competitive workforce.
- We help employers to get the training and skills they need for their business.
- We are transforming the further education sector to meet the needs of employers and the local community.
- We are committed to improving learning opportunities for everyone.