

New Director of Area for Greater Merseyside

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The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) has appointed Helen France as Director of Area for Greater Merseyside. Helen has extensive experience in the education arena ranging from various positions at Exeter College of Further Education and Bicton Agricultural College to her last role as National Manager for UK Education at Edexcel.

Helen began her career in 1982 at Exeter College of Further Education and moved to Bicton College of Agriculture in 1990 where she progressed from senior lecturer to manager for curriculum and quality. In January 2000 Helen was invited to join Edexcel as Regional Development Manager responsible for Further Education Colleges in the South West peninsula. Following internal re-organisation Helen was promoted to Regional Manager for the Western Territories where she supported all schools, colleges and universities from Cumbria to Lands End before becoming Edexcel's National Manager for UK Education.

Now bringing these skills to Greater Merseyside she is very clear about her vision for the area's learning.

"I am committed to the value qualifications and skills hold and believe that by raising standards and making learning provision more responsive to the needs of individuals and employers, the LSC can improve the further education and training sector in Greater Merseyside."

With an annual budget of just under £275 million, the LSC in Greater Merseyside has a responsibility for planning and funding high quality vocational education and training and on average works with just over 112,000 learners in Greater Merseyside every year.

Roger Hoyle, Chair of the LSC North West Regional Management Board, has welcomed Helen's appointment:

"I'm delighted that Helen is joining us at such an important time. She is bringing a wealth of experience to the LSC from her time spent in Further Education and at Edexcel which will be of huge benefit to the Greater Merseyside area. I am confident that under her leadership the Greater Merseyside team will successfully deliver the LSC's key priorities."

Ends

Learning and Skills Council:

The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for ensuring the availability of high-quality 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 young people and adults in England have knowledge and skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce. We work nationally, regionally and locally to deliver this ambition on behalf of learners and employers.

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