

PUTTING EMPLOYERS IN THE DRIVING SEAT

**New Regional Council team to guide policy and progress on skills
Engaging with business and upskilling 250,000 to plug the skills
gap are highest priorities**

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With a mission to raise skill levels for at least a quarter of a million people in the South East, the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) has announced the names of key people from business and education who will guide the LSC's region-wide policy and make sure that the national agenda for education and skills is delivered effectively across the South East.

Dr Norman Boyland, FRSC, DL has been appointed as Chair of the new LSC South East Regional Council. The Regional Council will comprise of the following people

Nadra Ahmed, OBE, DL (Kent) – Chairman, National Care Association

Pamela Charlwood (Hampshire) – Board Member, South East England Development Agency

Sue Child (Sussex) – Headteacher, Oakwood School

Keith Conniford (Sussex) – Director, Lookfantastic Group Ltd

Kathryn Cook (Thames Valley) – HR Director Parker CCL

Rob Douglas, CBE (Surrey) – Board Member, Higher Education Funding Council for England

Dr Graham Jowett (Hampshire) – Director of Education, Treloar Trust

Nigel Lambe (Sussex) – CEO of eCourier.co.uk

David McGahey (Thames Valley) – Managing Director, Eteach UK

Dr Anne Murdoch (Thames Valley) – Principal, Newbury College

Marinos Paphitis – Regional Director LSC South East

Dr Barbara Spittle (Surrey) – Management Consultant

Philip Wood (Hampshire) – Regional Secretary, UNISON

Congratulating the new Regional Council members on their appointments, Norman Boyland, said: “We have a single aim; to improve the skills of everyone in the South East. We have a huge and important job to do working with the Further Education sector to ensure that we can continue to respond effectively to the changing needs of individual learners, employers and wider communities, and to secure the skills we need to remain competitive.

“I am delighted that we have been able to attract such a high calibre of membership to our new Regional Council from a wide range of sectors and backgrounds. The Regional Council will provide challenge, support and leadership to the LSC’s work, and in doing so will help shape a world class education and skills system for the South East region.”

Minister of State for Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education, Bill Rammell, who endorsed the appointments, said:

“Government is committed to delivering the world class education and learning system that we need if we are to compete effectively in a global economy. The new Regional Council will have a vital role to play in ensuring we have the skills needed to strengthen our economic performance and to transform the ambitions and life chances of millions of people.”

Marinos Paphitis, LSC Regional Director for the South East, said: “The new Regional Council will be a powerful force and will play a key role in driving the learning and skills agenda forward here in the South East.

“Our members all have a strong commitment to learning and skills and will play a crucial role in helping thousands of individuals in the region make the most of their potential. A vital role and priority for the Council is to support the LSC in engaging the business community in the skills agenda, by clearly demonstrating the impact skills can have on individuals, local communities and the wider regions. Spelling out the importance of skills for economic growth and sustainability is essential, especially in our current economic climate.”

In the current financial year, the LSC is investing some £1.3billion in the South East operationally in addition to significant capital sums.

Regional Council members bring with them many years experience in different fields, from business, further and higher education, schools, the voluntary sector, local government and trade unions. The new Council will be fully operational by September and will reflect both the local and regional needs of learners and employers.

Notes to Editors

Learning and Skills Council:

The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. It is responsible for ensuring the availability of high-quality education and training for everyone. It has a single goal: to improve the skills of England's young people and adults to world class standards. Its 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. Its works nationally, regionally and locally to deliver this ambition on behalf of learners and employers.

Norman Boyland – LSC South East Chair:

With a background in research, development and operations management in the pharmaceutical industry, Dr Norman Boyland works in the areas of skills, innovation and economic development. He was appointed Chair of the LSC Sussex Council in 2000 and became Chair of the South East Regional Board in 2006. He is a non executive director of Genesis Integrated Systems Ltd, Chairman of West Sussex Economic Partnership, a director of the Innovation Centre at the University of Sussex and Chairman of Trustees of 4SIGHT, a charity for the blind and sight impaired, and a member of the South East Science Engineering and Technology Advisory Council. He also works with STEMNET on the development of skills in science, engineering and mathematics, chairing a regional panel of advisors from business, schools and universities.

Up to the end of 2000 Norman worked for SmithKline Beecham where he held a number of senior management posts in pharmaceutical production and operations management. He spent 8 years in the Far East and as Production Director, Beecham Pharmaceuticals Pte Ltd, had responsibility for in house and licensee manufacture across the region. Shortly after his return to the UK he was appointed Director and Vice President Operations, SmithKline Beecham UK.

He was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws by the University of Brighton in 2000 and is a Deputy Lieutenant of West Sussex.

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