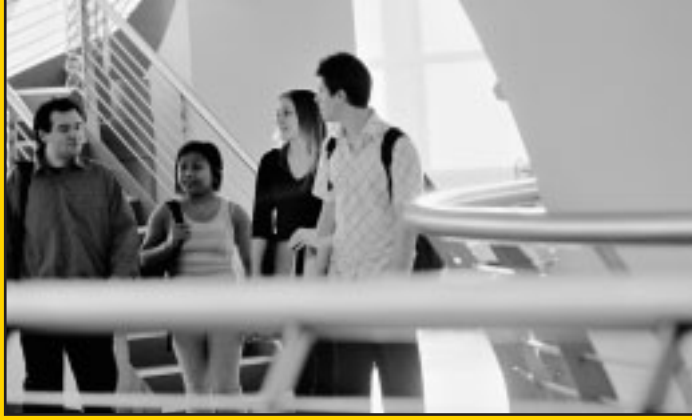


LSC South East
Regional
Commissioning Plan
Summary
Document

July 2008



Regional Commissioning Plan in the South East

In the South East the numbers of young people in education or training is at the highest level ever and participation rates are above the national average, matched by the lowest proportion of 16-18 year old not in education, employment or training (NEET). None the less, those leaving education early at aged 17 is high and those in the NEET group are often amongst the most vulnerable and hardest to engage. We have the highest proportion of 19 year olds achieving a level 2 and level 3.

The South East has the highest economic activity and employment rates of all English regions and 73% of adults have achieved a full level 2 qualification. Nevertheless, 1.25 million of the workforce does not have a first level 2 and there are dispersed hotspots of deprivation, including many parts of the coastal strip, Brighton, Portsmouth, Southampton, Medway and Reading, which will need differentiated approaches and flexible solutions.

In developing this plan we have worked with regional stakeholders including SEEDA to ensure that our commissioning ambitions are set in the context of the Regional Economic Strategy. We will work closely with the Regional Skills for Productivity Alliance and other regional and local stakeholders responsible for providing employment and skills services to ensure our respective activities are aligned. This will maximise the opportunities to target public investment where it can really make a difference.

Our Objectives

As part of the Comprehensive Spending Review, the Government has set out four new strategic priorities for the period 2008/09 – 2010/11:

- **Sustainable growth and prosperity**
- **Fairness and opportunity for all**
- **Stronger communities and a better quality of life**
- **A more secure, fair and environmentally sustainable world**

Our New Targets

Under each of the priorities is a set of PSA targets as outlined in the LSC's Statement of Priorities.

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Our South East Priorities 2008-09

In the South East, the LSC will deliver the national priorities through our 'Action for' programmes.

Action for Young People

In the South East, our **Action for Young People** programme will focus on working with Local Authorities and providers to engage and inspire young people to continue to participate in learning and achieve their potential. We aim to provide an increasingly flexible, personalised and engaging curriculum offer which will motivate young people, increase their aspirations, improve their success and help them to progress to a productive and fulfilling adult life.

In order to create demand for learning and skills in the South East we will work with our partners and providers to:

- Continue to improve achievement for all young people and in particular, narrowing the gap in educational achievement between children from low income and disadvantaged backgrounds and their peers.
- Work closely with our partners to deliver the September Guarantee to enable more young people aged 16 and 17 to progress into, remain in, or re-engage with learning.
- Work with Local Authorities and Children's Trusts to embed our priorities within Children and Young People's Plans and Local Area Agreements.
- Commission additional Apprenticeships and strengthen the Pre-Apprenticeship and Programme-led routes.

- Increase young people's participation and reduce those not in education, employment and training (NEET), focussing on geographical hotspots.
- Improve progression and achievement for all young people by working with providers to increase the opportunities available locally for learners who have not achieved a full Level 2.
- Expand progression pathways including Level 1 provision, Foundation Learning Tier (FLT), and extended Entry to Employment (E2E) programmes.
- Increase young people's participation and achievement in Apprenticeships in order to meet the ambitions set out in the Leitch Report.
- Maintain a focus on continuous improvement and achievement of targets during a period of major change for all partners and providers and to **build a robust infrastructure, through 14 – 19 Partnerships and consortia, to deliver the full entitlement and meet the needs of all learners.**



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Action for Skills

In the South East our **Action for Skills** programme will focus on improving the responsiveness of learning and skills provision to meet the needs of employers. The programme will develop skills of those in the workforce using Train to Gain, brokerage and provider responsiveness

In order to create demand for learning and skills in the South East we will work with our partners and providers to:

- Raise awareness amongst employers of the value in investing in the skills of their workforce.
 - Build significantly on the first year of Train to Gain in the South East and respond to the additional flexibilities outlined in the Plan for Growth.
 - Develop an effective brokerage system which will create a more consistent approach to engaging and referring employers through regional employment and skills agencies, brokers and their provider networks.
 - Focus on improving the responsiveness of learning and skills provision to meet the needs of employers.
 - Expand the Leadership and Management programme to support the development of SME's and stimulate demand for full Level 2 and 3, Apprenticeships and Skills for Life.
 - Develop our Apprenticeship offer so that it is more readily accessible and meets employers' needs.
- Work with Sector Skills Councils and other employer representative groups to establish specialist provider networks for all major employing industries in the South East.
 - Engage with major public sector services, in particular Local Authorities and the National Health Service to upskill their workforce.



Regional Commissioning Plan in the South East

Action for Excellence

In the South East our **Action for Excellence** programme will focus on the transformation of the FE system to respond to the changing landscape, raise performance and improve the quality of provision. We will use the Framework for Excellence as a tool to develop a self-critical, self regulating provider network with a focus on quality improvement. We will work with providers to help them to respond to the changing landscape and will invest in the improvement of the FE estate.

To transform the Further Education (FE) system to meet demand we will work with our partners and providers to:

- Encourage providers to engage with the Machinery of Government changes and explore new business models to respond to the changing landscape.
 - Encourage providers to specialise in areas of provision that they are strong in delivering and work with emerging and established National Skills Academies.
 - Support and encourage providers to attain the Training Quality Standard.
 - Encourage providers to increase the range of full cost and part subsidised provision for those who can pay, targeting public funding on priority groups.
 - Encourage professional development within the FE System.
 - Drive the roll out of the Framework for Excellence to further develop a self-critical provider network with a focus on quality improvement.
- Challenge all providers to improve success rates with a particular focus on External Institutions and Adult Level 2.
 - Work alongside Local Authorities, and School Improvement Partners to identify the priorities for improving outcomes and quality in school sixth forms.
 - Focus capital investment on the renewal and upgrading of the college estate and to contribute to the regeneration of local neighbourhoods and local communities.
 - Link LSC capital investment to the infrastructure developments and investments of other parties and to support the Regional Economic Strategy Education-led Regeneration Transformational Action.



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Action for Communities

In the South East our **Action for Communities** programme will provide our focus for vulnerable individuals and vulnerable communities to reduce social and economic disadvantage. Through better integration of employment and skills we will help to increase economic activity and productivity and support the regeneration and growth of communities.

To deliver better skills, better jobs and better lives we will work with our partners and providers to:

- Deliver Skills for Life provision to improve functional literacy, numeracy and pre-employment skills of adults to better equip them for learning and employment.
 - Trial aspects of the Foundation Learning Tier (FLT) in parts of the region to provide new progression pathways.
 - Implement a programme of Skills for Jobs initiatives and employability skills to help those who are workless to gain sustainable employment with training.
 - Safeguard personal and community development learning.
 - Increase the engagement of vulnerable adults, such as those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, care leavers, adults in contact with secondary mental health services and those in receipt of benefits.
 - Raise the level of adult skills to improve productivity through work with employers, Local Authorities, SEEDA and other partnerships.
- Enable non-English speakers to access learning and to help migrant workers and employers to get the functional skills required to operate in the workplace through English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) provision.
 - Refocus learning services to help prepare offenders in custody or in the community for employment. Also improve the accessibility of mainstream learning for those offenders in the community.
 - Seek to inspire young people, employers/employees and communities to advance their learning and skills through the opportunities and legacies of World Skills 2011 and the Olympic and Paralympic Games in London 2012.



Regional Commissioning Plan in the South East

For further information about the Learning and Skills Council's regional priorities and background information, please access the 'Learning and Skills Council South East Regional Commissioning Plan 2008-09', which is available from the LSC's website at: www.lsc.gov.uk/southeast

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. It works nationally, regionally and locally to deliver this ambition on behalf of learners and employers.

The LSC South East comprises five local LSC Offices (Hampshire and Isle of Wight, Kent and Medway, Surrey, Sussex and Thames Valley) and 20 partnership teams. Working together we aim to develop a responsive system of learning and skills provision that will meet the needs of learners, businesses and communities throughout the South East and support the long term prosperity of our region.



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