

Learning and Skills Council
Local Area Statement of Need

Coventry and
Warwickshire

2008/09

December 2007

Of interest to everyone involved in improving skills and
learning opportunities across the West Midlands

Introduction

This document should be read in conjunction with the West Midlands Regional Commissioning plan 2008-09 –

<https://www.lsc.gov.uk/regions/WestMidlands/Aboutus/Annualplans/>

The Coventry and Warwickshire sub region is made up of Coventry – a metropolitan authority of the West Midlands and Warwickshire, a 2 tier County with Warwickshire County Council and 5 Districts/Boroughs – North Warwickshire, Nuneaton and Bedworth, Rugby, Stratford and Warwick.

Coventry and Warwickshire is a mixture of Urban and Rural areas, with a working age population of 504,616. It has relatively high skills levels with 70% of the working age population having at least a level 2 qualification compared with regional and national averages of 64 and 67% respectively.¹ Employers report that 3% of their vacancies are caused by skills shortages, compared to a regional average of 4%²

Despite these figures there is a real divide between the north and the south of the sub region with large, measurable variations in almost every indicator.

The quality of the learning offer in Coventry and Warwickshire continues to improve with OfSTED once again reporting improvement in overall quality of provision, while success rates continue to rise in LSC priority provision. At the end of period 13 of 2006/07 Coventry and Warwickshire LLSC had the second highest Apprenticeship completion rate in England.

Employment projections show that between 2004 and 2014 it is expected there will be steady employment growth in the sub region with a net result of 22,000 additional jobs, an increase of 5.5% -exceeding the regional and national averages.

To ensure we continue to understand the economic drivers for our sub-region we must maintain our strong record of partnership working with other agencies and authorities and we must strengthen our work with partners in the economic development arms of our seven local authorities.

¹ APS 2006

² NESS

Challenges, key actions and measures of success for Coventry and Warwickshire LSC

Our challenges and actions are based on our regional *Strategic Analysis*; a robust strategic analysis of supply, demand and need; as well as ongoing dialogue with key partner organisations. The analysis can be accessed at <http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/WestMidlands/wmr-regionalstrategicanalysis-dec07.pdf>

National Priority 1: CREATE DEMAND FOR LEARNING AND SKILLS	
Challenge –The proportion of 16-18 year olds not in Employment, Education or Training (NEETs) varies by more than 5% across all the Local Authority Areas within the sub-region.	
<p>Action: To target key NEET hot spots within the sub – region to ensure that young people are engaged in education, employment and/or training. (Particularly those wards in Coventry, Nuneaton and Bedworth and North Warwickshire with high levels of NEETs).</p> <p>To target the drop out rates at 17</p> <p>14-19 Local Authority Partnership plans with NEET as a priority</p> <p>To ensure NEETs are included as an Indicator in the new Local Area Agreements coming into place in 2008.</p>	<p>Measure of Success: Reduce the NEETs against cohort to: Coventry:8.1% Warwickshire: 5.6% North Warwickshire Borough Council: 6.5% Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council: 7.8% Rugby Borough Council: 6.3% Stratford District Council: 2.8% Warwick District Council: 4.8%</p> <p>NEETs prioritised within the 14-19 plans.</p> <p>Indicator N117included in both Local Area Agreements</p>
Challenge –Long term continuation and development of the 14-19 Partnership and Federation co-ordinators	
<p>Action: To secure funding to continue to support the area 14-19 co-ordinators across Coventry and Warwickshire</p> <p>To work with both Local Authorities in the production of a 14-19 education plan that incorporates the 14-19 performance framework</p>	<p>Measure of Success: Funding secured</p> <p>14-19 Educational Plans in place</p>

National Priority 1: CREATE DEMAND FOR LEARNING AND SKILLS Cont.	
Challenge – Take up of Train to Gain across the sub-region is not consistent and some sectors are not engaging.	
<p>Action: Work with Local Employer groups and Forums to stimulate demand for the Train to Gain Organisational Needs Analysis and the Skills Pledge as well as working with the Brokerage service to ensure a strong understanding of the local economies and needs.</p> <p>Work with public service employers to implement the Public Service Skill Pledge Challenge</p>	<p>Measure of Success: Coventry and Warwickshire has a target of 1850 Employers engaged.</p> <p>Local public services signed up to the Skills Pledge</p>
Challenge - 12.8% of the working age population of Coventry and Warwickshire do not have any qualifications and in some Boroughs this figure is significantly higher.	
<p>Action: Deliver high quality Skills for Life provision through our providers and Train to Gain.</p> <p>Implementation of the Foundation Learning Tier</p> <p>Stronger partnerships with 3rd sector to encourage formal qualifications</p> <p>Working with partners make use the Local Area Agreements and Local Strategic Partnerships to intergrate employment and skills.</p>	<p>Measure of Success: Reduced % of population with no qualifications, especially in North Warwickshire, Coventry and Nuneaton and Bedworth that stand at 19.5%, 15.7% and 14.1% respectively. (Source:APS.2006)</p>

National Priority 2: TRANSFORMING THE FE SYSTEM TO MEET DEMAND	
Challenge – That FE plays its part in the deployment of Diplomas and Building Schools for the Future	
<p>Action: Map current provision against future diploma lines and demand in both Local Authority areas, ensuring integration with college capital plans and Building Schools for the Future in Coventry</p>	<p>Measure of Success: All provision is mapped and gaps in provision identified</p>
Challenge – Ensure FE system can be responsive to future demand for skills	
<p>Action: Skills needs assessed against inward investment and future development projects.</p>	<p>Measure of Success: No shortfall of skills Project used to target worklessness to increase employment levels.</p>

National Priority 2: TRANSFORMING THE FE SYSTEM TO MEET DEMAND cont.	
Challenge – Getting partnerships working together to deliver the Engineering Diploma line in Coventry.	
Action: Highlighting and re-emphasising the need to collaborate in order to make use of all partners skills and expertise.	Measure of Success: Successful delivery of the Diploma
Challenge – Building new and existing collaborative working to produce high quality Gateway 3 Diploma Bids.	
Action: Support the Partnerships and Federations in the bid submission process	Measure of Success: Quality Bids Submitted.

National Priority 3: BETTER SKILLS, BETTER JOBS, BETTER LIVES	
Challenge – Developing the Joint Working arrangements with Job Centre Plus	
Action: Increase and strengthen working arrangements with Job Centre Plus Continue to develop the Joint Working Plan at both operational and strategic level.	Measure of Success: The multiple targets detailed within the Joint Delivery Plan are met.
Challenge – Ensuring we have an effective partnership to deliver the targets from the City Strategy in the 6 wards from Coventry and then to learn from this and roll the model out across the sub-region.	
Action: City Strategy Local Management board to include all key partners -City Council, JCP, PCT, Connexions, Chamber of Commerce, Whitefriars Housing Association, LSC and the 3 rd Sector. Warwickshire County Council also invited to learn from the model with a view to rolling the model out in Warwickshire.	Measure of Success: Worklessness benefit claimants in the 6 City Strategy wards of Coventry reduced by 939 by March 2009. Integrated Employment & Skills model embedded across the sub region.
Challenge –Being able to provide a timely response that meets the needs of any demand generated by the Local Employment Partnerships	
Action: Work closely with Job Centre Plus and our provision base to ensure a suitable response can be delivered. To explore possibility of this provision being available through mainstream funding provision and where it can't to commission and procure ESF activity under the skills for jobs remit.	Measure of Success: All Local Employment Partnerships have their training needs met and sign the Skills Pledge.

Partnership Working

We cannot deliver our challenging agenda and create a new learning culture on our own. We have formed strong links with others who share our passion for transforming learning.

We have built strong relationships with Jobcentre Plus and Local Authorities. These are helping to develop high-quality learning which meets the demands of employers and individuals. This strong partnership working extends beyond government bodies and, includes employers, the voluntary sector, and trade unions. These play a critical role in ensuring success.

Our wider partnerships extend well beyond direct campaigns to promote learning. All our partnerships create opportunities to promote a new life long learning culture that will be pivotal in a rapidly changing economy .

Coventry and Warwickshire LSC is developing clear strategic and operating relationships with a number of key groups, namely:

Coventry Council
Warwickshire County Council
5 District & Borough Councils
Chamber of Commerce
Connexions
Coventry Solihull Warwickshire Partnership
Councils for Voluntary Service's
Job Centre Plus
Royal Agriculture Society for England

Coventry and Warwickshire LSC are also target owning partners of both the Children and Young People Plan and Local Area Agreements across both Coventry and the Warwickshire as well as having the lead for targets within the Coventry Employment Strategy and the 5 Local Community Plans of the Local Strategic Partnerships within Warwickshire.

We have a joint delivery plan with Job Centre Plus (JCP) that encompasses all our joint working plans and targets, The plan is managed by an operational leads group that meets regularly and reports to a strategic steering group of senior management from the LSC, JCP and the Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber.