

# Learning and Skills Council Local Area Statement of Need

## Staffordshire

### 2008/09

#### December 2007

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

# Introduction

In the main the Staffordshire LSC area reflects the position detailed by the Regional Strategic Analysis. This document should be read in conjunction with the West Midlands Regional Commissioning plan 2008-09. We welcome, however, the opportunity to detail Staffordshire specific priorities. <https://www.lsc.gov.uk/regions/WestMidlands/Aboutus/Annualplans/>

Our Local Intelligence Sheet identifies the key issues with regard to Staffordshire; this can be found as an Annex to the Regional Strategic Analysis  
<http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/WestMidlands/wmr-regionalstrategicanalysis-dec07.pdf>

There is significant provision at level 1 but the progression to higher levels of learning or employment with training could still be improved. The achievement of Level 2 at 19 in the Staffordshire LSC area is lower than that of the region and nation; with Stoke-on-Trent (61%), Cannock Chase (63%) and Tamworth (60%) having significantly lower rates. The achievement of Level 3 at 19 figures paint a similar picture with the same areas having lower than average rates.

The proportion of our adult FE provision delivered at Full Level 2 and 3 has increased year on year, however, not all providers are converting this rise in participation into achievement.

Across the LSC area the largest increase in employment is expected to be in Health and Social Care, Wholesale and Retail and Transport sectors. In addition the county of Staffordshire is expected to have its highest increase in employment in the Business and Professional Services sector. Construction is predicted to grow at above trend levels due to the physical regeneration developments planned for the area.

The main themes of our Annual Plan in 2007/08 reflected the National Priorities for the year and our challenges for 2008/09 remain in the same broad areas. Progress has, however, been made. We have been pleased to see an overall growth in young people's participation of 2% in 2006/07 and a reduction in the number of young people not in education, employment or training to 8.1%. Staffordshire's Train to Gain participation has also been amongst the highest in the region. A number of capital projects are also in train to improve the FE infrastructure across the sub region.

I cannot stress enough the importance of collaborative and partnership working in enabling us to address the challenges faced in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent. The progress detailed above has, in the main, been the outcome of collaborative working and would not have been possible without the continued commitment of partners to work together to find innovative and sustainable solutions.

You will find on the following pages the Challenges, Actions and Measures of Success we have identified that will, in most cases, be in addition to those identified in the Regional Commissioning Plan.



Christine Doubleday  
Area Director

# Challenges, key actions and measures of success for Staffordshire

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>

<b>National Priority 1: Creating demand for skills</b>	
<b>Challenge – To ensure appropriate provision available to reduce levels of NEET young people</b>	
<b>Action:</b> Target groups of LLDD, teenage pregnancies specifically served through commissioned work.  Support development of wrap around services to prevent NEET.	<b>Measure of Success:</b> Reduction in NEET levels and concurrent reduction in number of not known's. NEET in Staffordshire 2008/09 to 5.6%. Reduction in percentage of those who had a statement who are NEET in Staffordshire to 11% in 2008/09 (LAA targets). NEET in Stoke-on-Trent 2008/09 to 12.4% (LAA target).
<b>Action:</b> Negotiated commissioning of practical E2E provision particularly in East and South Staffordshire.	<b>Measure of Success:</b> Increase in E2E starts.
<b>Action:</b> Negotiated commissioning to reflect any unmet demand highlighted by September Guarantee, and the need of provision with a January start	<b>Measure of Success:</b> Reduction in those without an offer in September Guarantee.
<b>Challenge – To support the transition from Level 1 to 2 in Stoke on Trent</b>	
<b>Action:</b> Encourage inclusion of entry and level 1 provision into Foundation Learning Tier Framework.	<b>Measure of Success:</b> Curriculum offer is explicit as part of progression pathways.
<b>Challenge – To ensure that 14-19 curriculum better prepares young people for life and work</b>	
<b>Action:</b> Through 14-19 Strategic Partnerships finalise the 14-19 Strategic Plans, paying particular attention to A level achievement, NEETs, LLDD provision and transition arrangements, the planned vocational offer and the provision configuration and infrastructure in Stoke-on-Trent. Focus given to any other priorities identified through progress checks and Annual Performance Assessments.	<b>Measure of Success:</b> Curriculum offer agreed with LA Quality Improvement indicators agreed with LA Tendered provision to replace poor quality or gaps approved and contracted. Building schools for the Future and LSC Capital strategies coordinated. Improved RAG rating for those priorities identified as Red/Amber in Progress Checks.
<b>National Priority 2 : Transforming FE</b>	
<b>Challenge – To ensure that infrastructure is appropriate to deliver the changing curriculum</b>	
<b>Action</b> Jointly develop capital and curriculum proposals for vocational centres in areas of identified need.	<b>Measure of Success</b> Rugeley Centre developed and approved Burslem Centre developed and approved. Newcastle under Lyme regeneration development approved. Joint BSF / LSC capital strategy with Local Authorities.

<b>Action</b> Ensure that curriculum offer across southern Staffordshire is jointly planned and delivered in accordance with the needs of learners and employers.	<b>Measure of Success</b> Proposal for federation / merger evidenced to illustrate how learner needs will be best met.
<b>Action</b> Lead education led regeneration by developing and building the university Quarter	<b>Measure of success</b> Stoke College, 6 <sup>th</sup> Form College and Shared Facilities capital plans approved by capital committee January 2008.
<b>Challenge – To increase the achievement of Level 2</b>	
<b>Action</b> Support the mainstreaming of successful actions piloted through the 14-19 Fund to increase achievement.	<b>Measure of Success</b> Increase in Level 2 at 19 rate. Increase in Staffordshire Level 2 at 19 rate to 76% in 2008/09 (LAA target). Increase in FE 16-18 Level 2 Success Rates.
<b>Action</b> Encourage FE providers to access QIA support or join peer review groups to aid an increase in Adult Level 2 achievement.	<b>Measure of Success</b> Increase in FE 19+ Level 2 Success Rates Increase percentage of working age population in Stoke-on-Trent having qualifications at Level 2 and above to 60% in 2008/09 (LAA Target). Increase the percentage of working age population in Staffordshire having qualifications at Level 2 and above to 65.6% in 2008/09 (LAA Target).
<b>Challenge - To support an improvement in achievement levels particularly in School Sixth Forms</b>	
<b>Action</b> Implement agreed strategy for L3 improvement with Local authorities, particularly working with School Improvement Partners and specific schools. Strategy for Staffordshire	<b>Measure of Success</b> Increase in Average point score per entry  Increase in Level 3 at 19 rate in Staffordshire to 49% in 2008/09 (LAA target)
<b>National Priority 3: Better Skills, Better Jobs, Better Lives</b>	
<b>Challenge – To ensure that the single client and employer offer is promoted and taken up across the area</b>	
<b>Action:</b> Develop employment and skills boards for Stoke on Trent and Staffordshire	<b>Measure of Success:</b> Integrated employment and skills strategy developed for both areas.
<b>Action:</b> Ensure mainstream provision is linked to Employment and Skills Board commissions, planned in the first instance in North Staffordshire	<b>Measure of Success:</b> Reduce the percentage of working age adults that are economically inactive in Stoke-on-Trent to 23.5% in 2008/09 (LAA Target). Increase the employment rate in Staffordshire to 78.3% in 2008/09 (LAA Target). Increase the employment rate for the disabled community in Staffordshire to 59% (LAA Target). Number of employers signed up to Skills Pledge Increase in take up and achievements of Train to gain service.
<b>Challenge – To ensure mix of provision is suited to the needs of the area</b>	
<b>Action:</b> Negotiated commissioning to address the need for specific qualifications identified by the Sector Skills Council's and Skills Balance Sheets	<b>Measure of Success:</b> Increase in % of priority provision delivered
<b>Action:</b> Support providers to work collaboratively to ensure that they collectively meet sector needs with regard to curriculum.	<b>Measure of Success:</b> Increase in % of priority provision delivered Increase in Train to Gain participation and achievement.

# 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. We also have strong patterns of partnership outside of government, including employers, the voluntary sector, and trade unions.

Our wider partnerships extend well beyond direct campaigns to promote learning. All our partnerships create opportunities to promote a new learning culture.

Staffordshire LSC is developing clear operating relationships with a number of key groups, namely:

- Government Office West Midlands and Advantage West Midlands
- Staffordshire Jobcentre Plus
- Staffordshire County Council and Stoke-on-Trent City Council
- Connexions
- North Staffordshire Chamber of Commerce and Southern Staffordshire Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Employment and Skills Boards
- OFSTED
- Qualifications and Curriculum Authority and awarding bodies
- Voluntary and community organisations, and those representing equal opportunities issues
- Staffordshire Provider Association
- Association of Staffordshire Principals