



Welcome to the second newsletter from the South East Wales Learning, Skills and Innovation Partnership (LSkIP). Our newsletters will tell you about the work of the LSkIP, progress to date, and how partnership will be adding value to the skills, learning and employment sector within the South East Region.

The Second Stakeholder Event featured a keynote speech from Prof Ewart Keep, SKOPE (Oxford University) around the issues facing the region

At the well-attended stakeholder event held on 24 June 2015 in Cardiff University, Professor Ewart Keep from Oxford University (SKOPE) presented 'Skills Policy, Economic Development and the Labour Market – Future Issues and Challenges for Wales' following a 'South East Wales Employment and Skills Report Summary' by Richard Staniforth, LSkIP Senior Researcher.

Ten stand-out themes were identified from the breakout sessions:

- The 3 Rs: Rights, Roles and Responsibilities of Employers, Providers and Government
- Benchmarking skills expectations at employee levels across industry
- Collaboration to identify core cross-sector skills
- Importance of essential skills – key and functional
- Social justice and social enterprise – avoid exclusion by age and unemployment
- Employer engagement to overcome low investment
- Collaboration and networking by industry cluster and across education and industry
- Future planning for future jobs with future skills – anchors, SME and supply chain

The Demand and Supply Assessment will help to inform prioritisation of College and work based learning skills delivery from September 2016 as a first step in ensuring that skills delivery meets regional priorities. It is due for delivery on 30 September 2015

Welsh Government (WG) consider this first Assessment Plan as a pilot and will evaluate the plan and success or otherwise of the level of influence/impact achieved by the work. WG is keen to see the Supply-Demand Return Template, a framework to summarise our priorities in a standard form which will help us to measure and compare our work with the other two Regional Skills Partnerships, as an output to influence WBL and FE; we will look across all six of our key regional priorities and align them with sector demand and supply side delivery elements.

LSkIP research will continue throughout the year, allowing it to reflect significant change particularly around infrastructure investment which will be reported separately as it comes on line and through Employment and Skills annual reports and assessments for the region and the LSkIP website linked to the South East Wales Observatory (SEWSO). In this first year the Demand and Supply Assessments will be focussed on influencing Work Based Learning (WBL) Allocations – Apprenticeships 2016-17 and Further Education Deployment of Funds 2016-17 (Post-16). A draft assessment will be presented to the Board in early September 2015 which will be focussed on the assessment and the Supply-Demand Return priorities.

The South East Wales Employment and Skills Report is the first for the region and the precursor for the Demand Supply Assessment Plan due in September 2015.

The report focusses on six key areas:

- Growth and Opportunities (including Infrastructure investment and Enterprise Zones and the Foundational Economy)
- Adult skills development
- Entrepreneurship - SMEs and spinout companies
- Skills utilisation and under-utilisation
- STEAM (Science Technology Engineering, Arts and Mathematics)
- Employer Engagement

Both opportunities and threats are identified

- home to around 50% of population, workforce and businesses in Wales
- access to the north is by the A465 currently being upgraded to dual carriageway
- the south is linked by the M4 and the Great Western Railway both being upgraded
- there are widely diverse levels of employment, income, qualifications and growth
- demonstrating an environment to attract new businesses, outside Cardiff, is challenging

Key sectors in STEAM are identified including those prioritised by Welsh Government and those in the Foundational Economy which employs over 50% of the workforce.

Significant themes running through the report is around replacement jobs; there are forecast to be eight jobs needed to replace existing jobs for every new job created through investment growth and the need to improve qualifications to meet the increasing demands of 21st century businesses.

Welsh Government infrastructure investment plans will offer opportunities for South East Wales businesses to engage with billions of pounds of investment from public and private sources. A skills plan is needed to sit alongside an economic development plan for the region to ensure a robust demand led skills development pipeline can be put in place.

Keeping in Touch with stakeholders is a priority for the Partnership and will be effected through the newsletter and the new dedicated LSKIP website. The South East Wales Skills Observatory (SEWSO) is dedicated to data management and bringing together intelligence for the region.

Launch of the LSKIP Website

The LSKIP website is now live. The website contains details of the background, vision and mission of the Partnership, details of our stakeholder events and associated documentation. A copy of Prof Keep's presentation from the second stakeholder event is available on the site. We intend the website to be the hub for keeping up-to-date with Partnership activity.

<http://www.lskip.wales/default.aspx> and <http://www.lskip.cymru/>

Launch of the South East Wales Skills Observatory

The South East Wales Skills Observatory (SEWSO) has been developed by the Learning, Skills & Innovation Partnership to assist in the production and analysis of labour market information, regional skills plans and reviews of regional skills provision. The Observatory provides the most recent data relating to the economy, education, skills, training and the workforce for South East Wales, as well as dynamic reports detailing this data at the regional and individual local authority level.

<http://sewso.infobasecymru.net/IAS/>

LSKIP is now on Twitter! Follow us at [@LSKIP_SEW](https://twitter.com/LSKIP_SEW)

News from the South East Wales Employment & Skills Board

**Thank
you and
goodbye!**

Employment & Skills Board

Maggi Dawson MBE, Chief Executive Officer of WEA Cymru, retired from her post at the end of July 2015. Maggi represented the Third Sector and part-time adult learning in the community and workplace on the Employment & Skills Board. The board wishes to thank Maggi for her contribution to its work.

Jim Bennett has retired as Principal at Coleg Gwent. Jim represented Colegau Cymru on the Employment & Skills Board. The Board thanks Jim for his contribution to its work.

Core Working Group

Margaret Edwards, Local Business Lead—Skills Wales for A4e has stepped down from the Core Working Group. Margaret had been a member of the CWG since its inception in 2014 and represented the National Training Federation for Wales / Work Based Learning Providers. The Group thanks Margaret for her dedication in moving the work of the CWG forward.

Employment & Skills Board

The Board welcomes **Mike James** who will take over representation of Further Education sector and Colegau Cymru. Mike is the Principal and Chief Executive of Cardiff and Vale College for the last three years. An engineer with over 20 years of FE experience, Mike will be representing the FE sector and Colegau Cymru on the Board.

The Board also welcomes **Mark Isherwood**, Chief Executive of WEA YMCA CC Cymru, a new body created in August 2015 seeking to strengthen the position of adult learning in Wales. Mark will represent the Third Sector

The Board welcomes **Ian Price**, Assistant Director - Wales and South West at the CBI who has just joined the Board. He runs the Enterprise Forum in Wales and is responsible for member recruitment and retention for Wales and the South West. Ian will be representing the CBI.

Core Working Group

Grant Santos, Managing Director of Educ8 Ltd, has taken Margaret's place as the representative for National Training Federation for Wales / Work Based Learning Providers on the CWG. The CWG welcomes Grant and looks forward to working with him.

Welcome!

Diary Markers

- The third LSKIP Stakeholder Event will be taking place on Thursday 8 October in Cardiff to share outcomes from the recent demand/supply assessment completed in September 2015 and engage stakeholders in workshops to explore key themes for inclusion in a future employment and skills action plan for the region. The event will, through keynote presentations and workshop sessions, seek to stimulate discussion and debate amongst stakeholders around the key issues impacting the region and the opportunities for action, including those presented by the City Deal.
- The next meeting of the LSKIP ESF Priority Support Groups is expected to take place in the Autumn. A co-ordinated presentation session will cover co-investment, the Skills Gateway and state aid and GBER followed by individual Priority Support Group meetings.

Key Summaries and What's Coming Up

- The Demand Supply Assessment Plan is due in September 2015.
- Individual workshops for the three ESF priority themes are currently being organised.
- Board meetings are held on a bi-monthly basis from April 2015. Core Working Group meetings will continue monthly or as required to support the work programme. Members of both groups will share information with partners.
- The next edition of the LSKIP Newsletter will be published in January 2016.

For further information, please contact Karen Higgins (Karen.higgins@wlga.gov.uk) or lskip@wlga.gov.uk

Introducing the South East Wales Employment & Skills Board

Mike Bampfield is a member of the Central Cardiff Enterprise Zone Board, a 140 acre (56.656 hectare) new business district to be developed in the heart of the city, which he represents on the LSkIP Employment and Skills Board.

Neil Blockley is currently the Development Manager for the Federation of Small Businesses in South Wales. On the LSkIP Employment and Skills Board he represents the views of small businesses working in all sectors. This viewpoint is provided by the 10,000 FSB members based in Wales.

Siân Cartwright is the Head of Learning Services at Wales TUC representing trades unions on the LSkIP Employment and Skills Board.

Dr Francis Cowe is currently Director Strategic Alliance and Partnerships at the University of South Wales and is Board representative for Higher Education in South East Wales.

Richard Crook is Director of Environment and Regeneration at Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council and represents the South East Wales local authorities on the LSkIP Employment and Skills Board, which he currently chairs.

Sarah John is a Director (Learning Division) at Acorn recruitment and a Training / Board member of the National Training Federation for Wales (NTfW), a membership organisation of over 100 organisations involved in the delivery of learning in the workplace with links to 35,000 employers in Wales. She represents the NTfW on the LSkIP Employment and Skills Board.

Leigh Hughes, Business Development Director at Bouygues UK, was elected Vice-Chair of the Board in June 2015 and represents the construction sector.

Lynette Jones is Corporate Director of Education at Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, currently responsible for providing the strategic direction for Education Services in Blaenau Gwent. She represents the South East Wales and the Central South Wales Consortium of Directors of Education comprising all ten counties.

Mark Langshaw is Managing Director of Continental Teves UK Ltd, an industry representative on the Board representing Ebbw Vale Enterprise Zone.

Steve Lawley is General Manager for Ethernet Provision at BT Openreach and is an industry representative for the Wales Employment & Skills Board (WESB) on the Board.

Prof Brian Morgan is currently Professor of Entrepreneurship at Cardiff Metropolitan University and is Director of its Creative Leadership and Enterprise Centre (CLEC). He currently advises the Welsh Government and recently produced the *Business Rates Wales Review*. He represents Cardiff Capital Region Board.

Dr Mark Picton is Commercial Operations Manager for RWE nPower Aberthaw Power Station and is on the Board as the representative for Industry (Energy and Environment sector) and as a member of Cardiff & St Athan Enterprise Zone Board.

The Employment & Skills Board seek to establish connections with all stakeholders, who are invited to contact them to arrange introductory meetings. Contact the Board at LSkIP@wlg.gov.uk