

Reference: Skills 360 Board Meeting
Date: Wednesday 30 March 2022
Report Title: Skills 360 Board Activity Update
Report by: Kirsten Trussell and Lisa Mobbs
Part: A

Recommendation:

The Board is asked to:

- Note the progress made on the various skills projects overseen by the Skills 360 Board.

1. Context

This report provides Skills 360 Board members with a quarterly update on activities undertaken on skills projects since the last Board meeting in January 2022.

Additional information is provided as annexes where appropriate.

2. Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Statement

We will be offering ED&I training for Board members once we have recruited to the vacant roles. This will be led by Tim Walder, the ED&I Champion, supported by Coast to Capital colleagues.

The Careers and Enterprise Company plan to issue a diversity survey later in the year for Enterprise Advisers to complete using census categories which will help us to better understand the diversity of our volunteer network. Coast to Capital is using a new mnAI platform to help identify ethnic minority and female-led businesses in the region. This will be useful for the Enterprise Coordinator team to coordinate a targeted recruitment drive for new Enterprise Adviser volunteers and engage with local BAME organisations.

3. Local Skills Report

An updated [Chair's Foreword](#) and refreshed [Annex A \(Core Indicators\)](#) were published at the end of January in line with the DfE requirements. Due to crossover

with the Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP), we were not required to do a full refresh of the document on this occasion.

4. Sussex Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) Trailblazer

We have continued to work closely with the Sussex Chamber of Commerce in support of the development of the LSIP, conducting research and analysis of the skills and labor market and co-writing the LSIP document. We have done this in a consultancy capacity. Much of our focus since January has been on supporting the development of the LSIP which stands us in good stead to understand what role the Skills 360 Board might play in its delivery.

The Sussex Chamber of Commerce is due to send the final LSIP to the DfE by end of March. It should be noted that this is one of several LSIP trailblazers around the country and DfE will be taking learning from each of them to inform the roll-out of the national LSIP programme.

An update on the Sussex LSIP is on the agenda for this meeting.

5. Enterprise Adviser Network (EAN) and Careers Hub Programme

Enterprise Adviser Network (EAN) and Careers Hub Programme

Growth plans

A clear plan for the growth of the Careers Hub is in place, taking us to full coverage of the Coast to Capital area by September 2022, but this is on hold until we have clarification from the Government on the funding that will be available to LEPs and the level of financial support from our partners. Coast to Capital is required to provide 50% match funding for each Enterprise Coordinator. The Careers and Enterprise Company is fully aware of the challenge we face and is supporting us to raise the profile and reinforce the importance of the Careers Hub with our local authority partners.

Achievements this term

The Enterprise Coordinator team have delivered the following two events during Spring Term:

1. Open Doors 2022, a series of virtual talks with apprentices from a range of large businesses, was developed to raise the awareness and myth bust negative perceptions around Apprenticeships during National Apprenticeship Week in February. This programme of activity was well received by the twelve participating schools in the Careers Hub.
2. The team delivered Hello Future 2022 during National Apprenticeship Week in March. Aimed at all students aged 11 – 24, a series of recorded

conversations over six different themed sessions with industry experts about the world of work.

The Careers Hub team supported #Changemakers21, a week-long collaborative careers event delivered by three colleges groups including Orbital South Colleges.

We have launched two new pilot programmes following our successful bid for funding from The Careers & Enterprise Company to support inclusion activities. The activities will help to remove barriers for young people in special schools and alternative provision centres. We have since been allocated further funding which will allow us to develop a website setting out accessible labour market information for students with special educational needs and disabilities. The website will launch on September 22.

We have created new resources to support Careers Leaders (in schools and colleges) to achieve Gatsby Benchmark 1 (the foundation of a stable careers programme) – these resources are accompanied by an on-demand pre-recorded webinar facilitated by one of our Enterprise Coordinators.

Progress against targets

Schools and colleges are now 'living with Covid' and face-to-face careers activities are being delivered once again to include large-scale careers fairs. However, institutions are reporting rising numbers in Covid cases with high levels of staff and student absence.

Schools and colleges are asked to self-evaluate their progress in the Gatsby Benchmarks at the end of each term. We will be analysing our data and progress against KPIs during the Spring term in April where we expect to see significant change. Please see Annex A for an interim dashboard for March setting out progress to date.

Strategy for the year

The Careers Hub is making steady progress in delivering the Careers Hub Strategy for 2021/22. The strategy incorporates seven coordinated actions to focus on the priorities of The Careers & Enterprise Company with alignment to LEP priorities. The strategy has been shared with partners and stakeholders.

Actions for next term include engaging with Head Teachers to help elevate the status of Careers Leaders and working towards the expansion of our Careers Hub and Enterprise Coordinator provision.

We will further support our networked institutions to further progress the Gatsby Benchmarks, offering targeted support to Careers Leaders.

The agenda includes a spotlight on the Enterprise Adviser Network and Careers Hub.

6. Legal Statement

There are no legal implications for consideration regarding the recommendations set out in this paper.

7. Finance Statement

There are no financial implications for consideration regarding the recommendations set out in this paper.

Annexes:

- Annex A – Careers Hub & EAN Dashboard