



Skills 360 Board Meeting 15

Wednesday 30 March 2022 - 4.00pm – 6.00pm

Virtual Meeting held via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Board Members:

Frances Rutter (FR) - Chair; Alison Addy (AA); Anthony Middleton (AM); Dawn Redpath (DR); Liane Richardson (LR); Ruth Whittaker (RW); Simon Bland (SB); Steve Benwell (SBW); Tim Walder (TW)

Officers:

Kirsten Trussell (KT) – Coast to Capital; Kelly Parkhouse (KP) – Coast to Capital; Penny Daly (PD) - Coast to Capital.

Guests:

Nicholas Darwin (ND) – Coast to Capital

1. Introduction

a) Welcome, apologies and introductions

FR introduced the fifteenth meeting of the Skills 360 Board.

Apologies were noted from:

- Kevin Delf
- Mark Power
- Ana Christie
- Louise Punter
- Nick Hibberd

FR noted that the meeting was to be recorded for the purpose of taking minutes with the recording deleted after those minutes have been produced.

b) Minutes from last meeting and Matters Arising

No outstanding actions or matters were arising from the last meeting.

The minutes of the 12th January 2022 Skills Board meeting were approved.

c) Conflict of interest

FR read out the standard Conflicts of Interest statement.

There were no conflicts arising from agenda items.

2. Inclusion Moment

TW presented an Inclusion moment to the Board. The focus of the presentation was privilege in the workforce and how it affects people's socio-economic status. TW stressed that an understanding of privilege, so we can better understand others around us, is key to forming better relationships.

The Board noted the presentation and thanked TW for highlighting an important topic.

3. Leveling Up and the Coast to Capital Value Proposition

AM stated that Coast to Capital is awaiting the confirmation letter from Government for the LEP mandate, which is expected shortly. AM highlighted certain areas that are likely to be a part of this mandate, such as legacy monitoring and regional economic strategy development. AM noted continued funding from the Department for Education for skills and labour market data research and analysis and the cut in funding from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy for the Growth Hub. AM also noted that Coast to Capital will be expected to support devolution deals for Upper Tier authorities in our area. AM closed by outlining the ask to Local Authorities for funding this current year.

4. Enterprise Adviser Network (EAN) and Careers Hub Spotlight

PD presented an overview of the Enterprise Adviser Network (EAN). LM outlined the EAN goals and highlighted the work with schools in the Coast to Capital area. TW and LR noted their work as Enterprise Advisers and the positive role it has on the schools they have been working with.

KP then updated the Board on the work of the Careers Hub. KP noted the extensive work from the Careers Hub in supporting schools to connect with local employers and engage young people on their working futures. KP illustrated the projects which the Careers Hub has delivered and the engagement from students at these events. KP closed by noting to the Board the priorities of the Careers Hub to build on the current work and plan for growth.

FR praised the work of the Enterprise Adviser Network and the Careers Hub, noting how

this is a beneficial program for Coast to Capital to be providing. The Board agreed the EAN is an excellent means to engage to engage young people in the world of work and SB highlighted how this can help young people with barriers to employment. KP advised that Ofsted targets are requiring schools to focus on young people's career and work prospects. The Board noted the presentation and thanked the EAN and Careers Hub team for their hard work.

5. Break

6. Sussex Local Skills Improvement Plan

KT gave an update on the Sussex Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP). KT updated the Board on the development of the LSIP, Sussex being a trailblazer area, and how the plan falls within the Department for Education's skills accelerator initiative. KT noted how Coast to Capital input into this plan, working alongside the Sussex Chamber of Commerce as a part of a consultancy commission. KT highlighted the process of workshops, stakeholder engagement, and analysis to formulate the LSIP and how Coast to Capital provided support in these areas. KT closed by noting that the document is in the final draft and is to be submitted to the DfE. The plan provides an overview of the skills needs and labour market in Sussex, identifies key areas for development and sets out an implementation plan.

TW praised the work of Coast to Capital in assisting this project. RW reinforced the importance of higher education providers in the LSIP.

7. Board member updates

SB shared a presentation with the Board (see attached).

SB gave an update on DWP activities since the last meeting. DWP is focussing on the Way to Work initiative, to help half a million people into work.

SB highlighted how the Kickstart program was now concluding and highlighted the 5,000 young people in placements from this scheme and an additional 3,000 placements in Sector Based Work Academies.

SB noted how real time analysis of online job adverts is a useful tool in identifying job vacancies in the area and highlighting key employment areas. KT noted how Coast to Capital uses a similar approach but that this has its weaknesses and it can miss certain industries that don't advertise online. SB closed by noting key figures in claimant rates, with a 45% increase in youth unemployment, 30.5% of claimants being unemployed for over two years, and then 69% higher claims than pre-pandemic, albeit with a trend downwards.

FR then outlined developments within NESOT to the Board. FR noted their Kickstart

program had 13 applicants with 11 of those in permanent roles and 2 in apprenticeships. FR illustrated the work on the Beacon project and the aim of getting young people to work in the Horse Racing industry. The Board noted the success of the Institute of Technology bid. Finally FR advised that Julie Kapsalis, Coast to Capital Chair, has recently joined the NESLOT leadership team.

8. Close

a) Papers to Note

The Board noted the Skills 360 Board Activity Update.

The Board noted the Economy Overview.

b) AOB

There were no other items of business discussed by the Board

c) Future meetings

The next meeting of the Board is to be held on the 21st June 2022.