

Apprenticeships East Sussex

20th March 2018, 11:00 – 13:00, Eastbourne Town Hall

Present: Caroline Bragg (CB) ESCC; Paul Mitchell (PM), SCTP; Christina Ewbank (CE), ACES; Councillor Jim Murray (CJM), Eastbourne and Lewes Councils; Mel Parr (MP), The MY Trust; Stephen Burkes (SB), Sussex Skills Solutions; Viki Faulkner (VF), University of Brighton.
Apologies: Nick Ludford, Ana Christie, Colin, Angela, Victoria Conheady.

Items	Discussion Points	Action
Minutes and actions from last meeting	<p>PM to include MP on SCTP agenda – done CB to draft a briefing for councillors and AES members on impact of apprenticeship reforms and share it with the group – done Information about National Apprenticeship Week events shared via social media– done Share letter to Anne Milton – done Link to the Hastings Opportunity Area was embedded in the minutes Colin to provide an update for the enhancing apprenticeships contract – update sent (below) CB to talk to task groups about reporting on progress re addressing gender imbalance – done NL to link with CB about Industry Champions – ongoing Outstanding action: Case studies or good news stories that can be used for FSB or ACES newsletters – CB to provide CE with press release for apprenticeships roadshow events, SB to send any cases studies to CE</p>	<p>CB SB</p>
<p>National Apprenticeship Week updates</p> <p>Apprenticeship roadshows</p> <p>Graduation ceremony</p> <p>Partner updates</p>	<p>Very successful roadshow event in Eastbourne (15th) with over 650 attending. 150 have registered for Hastings event (21st), although venue is smaller.</p> <p>Discussion re graduation events for apprentices. The meeting agreed there should be an East Sussex event, defined by where people work. The event will need funding, as the roadshows have been funded by CXK’s National Careers Service Inspiration agenda (funding for under 18s). Question whether providers would consider pooling their graduation ceremonies to fund a central East Sussex ceremony, as opposed to running their own annual graduations? The colleges may be able to provide the catering. VF suggested to look for a sponsored, free venue. CJM suggested Eastbourne’s new conference centre will be open in March next year. CE suggested that Eastbourne College may provide the Birley Centre free of charge as part of their charitable status. Agreed National Apprenticeships Week is the best time for a graduation event due to others happening at the same time in other areas. CE could have a brochure printed for free at the back of the ACES magazine. All agreed that employers should be integral to the event, acknowledged in the brochure and speaking about their experience of apprenticeships.</p> <p>Actions PM to talk to Jo Bridger, chair of SCTP and confirm whether CB to take forward with Richard Freeman for SCTP to draft a proposal for funding and delivery. PM to speak to the ESFA rep re the BHCC event to see if ESFA intend to fund in future. CB to report back to the next meeting re proposal and feedback.</p> <p>University of Brighton publicised five short films during NAW, with apprentices and employers discussing the importance of apprenticeships. These are on the website and available to be tweeted and shared online. CB updated that any films to be promoted to schools can be sent to ESCC for their termly newsletter for career leads in schools. MP updated that apprentices at MYT have also created some videos.</p> <p>CJM noted concern about continuing status of apprenticeships and whether schools are promoting. CB updated that recent CPD for school staff have focused on apprenticeships, and parents at roadshows said they found out about it from their schools.</p>	<p>PM CB</p>

<p>Apprenticeship Reforms</p> <p>Non Levy procurement partner updates</p> <p>Opportunities to respond/lobby</p> <p>Business Admin Level 2 trailblazer update</p>	<p>Plumpton are in discussions re subcontracting to take them through to March 2019 and very much business as usual.</p> <p>PM gave updated on non-levy procurement. Reflection on Q1 starts decreased by 25% in the county (32% in Eastbourne, 39% in Hastings). Too simplistic at this stage to say that this is solely because of the levy. Issues identified – businesses now pay 10% towards training; contracting issues, with providers allocated 50% of the funding applied for; often the new standards are not there. Levy-payers can transfer 10% of their training budget to SMEs, but specification that this can only be to one employer. Important to lobby in the future for increased flexibility.</p> <p>The group agreed that it would be helpful for employer representative organisations to send Anne Milton a lobbying letter, stating their disappointment at the lack of response to the most recent letter from TES and SES. SB suggests using core data and numbers from providers in the letter to make the situation clear.</p> <p>Action: CB will re-send the briefing and letter to and from Anne Milton to all. CE to send a letter from ACES, PM to provide some context on the complexity of the system for employers.</p> <p>There is currently a framework for Level 2 Business Admin, but Level 2 is not being adopted as a standard. The previous trailblazer group were unable to differentiate enough between level 2 and 3, and provide enough guided learning hours for the level 2 over 12 months. A number of local authorities and NHS trusts are interested in joining a new trailblazer, but it will need some private sector involvement too. A number agree that BAL2 is an important stepping stone qualification in to the world of work, with softer skills development before can move on to L3. The group will need to look at how to deliver this through 20% off the job training for 1 year. First meeting should be in May, and the date will be sent through SCTP to engage further employers and training providers. MP is interested in MYT joining the trailblazer.</p> <p>Action: CB to send MP dates for the trailblazer meeting, and information for PM to disseminate to SCTP members.</p> <p>VF gave an update on the Construction trailblazer apprenticeship, which has been in development for past three years, chaired by Balfour Beatty. Issues with the funding allocated to the higher apprenticeship and employers have now walked away from the table. CITB have been asked to create a consortium to drive it forward, but there is little confidence from employers.</p>	<p>CB CE PM</p> <p>CB</p>
<p>16-24 Enhancing Apprenticeships</p>	<p>The contract has now been extended until March 2019, STUK are due to meet with the ESFA regarding growth cases and re-profiling this April.</p>	
<p>Partner updates</p>	<p>SB updated that the colleges are due to officially merge on 29th March. The new legal name will be the East Sussex College Group, both colleges will maintain their brand identities for 2018/19 intake. A restructure of the whole organisation is underway.</p>	
<p>AOB</p>	<p>CB to add SB to the AES distribution list CE to also contact Maria Caulfield about apprenticeship levy issues.</p>	<p>CB CE</p>
<p>Next meetings</p>	<p>21st June 11.30-1.30, followed by SES at 2.00-4.00. Venue TBC. 27th September 12.30-2.30, followed by SES 10.00-12.00. Venue TBC. 6th December 11.30-1.30, followed by SES at 2.00-4.00. Venue TBC.</p>	