

Education and Skills Funding Agency – Quarterly LEP Report	
Date of issue	24 th July 2019
Audience	Sheffield City Region LEP
Security classification	Official Sensitive

Purpose

The purpose of this quarterly narrative is to update the Sheffield City Region LEP with an overview of contract delivery within the LEP area.

Contracts Summary and Quarterly Update on Delivery

The agreed LEP Quarterly Delivery Pack is attached and this includes the LEP Individual Contract Report which details the contract delivery based on data up to and including June 2019 (R11).

Performance Narrative

All contracts commenced in April 2019 and this report is based on the first three months of delivery. ESF Management and Delivery Advisers continue to work with providers to monitor performance and contract compliance and any issues identified in these early stages of delivery have been reported to Delivery Managers. The first formal performance management point will be based on October 2019 delivery.

Project	Delivery Provider	Individual Project Update
SSU	The Growth Company Ltd	<p>The provider has not submitted any data to date, the provider has cited several reason for this, primarily the following, some of which were presented at the Skills Project Board held in June.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data issues – there have been issues around postcodes that have affected data input, these have now been rectified and all outstanding data will be submitted at the next data point. • Issues with staffing the contract team – for example, people have been offered jobs and then pulled out, or have decided the role was not for them after starting. • Teething issues with compliance checking – the compliance team have been very strict about the learners they have put through on to the system and are ensuring they have full evidence as required before learners are claimed. This is good practice as far as audit is concerned but has had the effect of delaying the claim to the ESFA from the provider. • Supply chain not performing as well as expected and have been placed on Performance Improvement Plans by the provider already. An Expressions of Interest is now going out to on board more local providers in the area. The LEPs assistance with this is being sought. • Flat profiling submitted as part of the bid – provider did not take into account the 25%/75% split with regard to learning and did not consider the lead in time at the beginning of the contract.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been a higher than anticipated fail to attend rate across all areas. <p>The provider is working on building relationships within the region and has now got the provision signposted for advisers at JCP which should see an increase in referrals from JCP. A launch event was also held in the Sheffield branch and had over 40 attendees from various organisations and stakeholders – feedback at the event was positive and the provider is confident this will also result in an increase of referrals on to the contract.</p> <p>Drop in sessions are being held each Monday for customers who are interested in the programme to attend. These sessions have had a positive effect on attendance rates and appear to be more successful than the individual 1-1 appointments which were held previously.</p> <p>The Provider has attended local integration meetings within each Local Authority and has dedicated staff within each LA to promote the contract and build relationships.</p> <p>A large provider meeting took place with The Growth Company on 11 July – this was attended by senior management from both the ESFA and The Growth Company. The provider were challenged about the performance to date on both SSU and SSW and assurances and projections were provided at that meeting that indicated that performance would improve over the coming months.</p>
SSW	The Growth Company Ltd	<p>The performance position and reasons for the delayed start mirror the SSU contract. The provider feels that good working relationships have been developed with the Sheffield City Region LEP and the Growth Hub. There are referrals coming through the SSW website and the Gateway. With regard to recruitment to the direct staffing job roles for the contract, this has been looked at further and salary levels have been revised to attract potential candidates – the plan is to overstaff where possible to maximise performance going forward.</p> <p>Some of the team from The Growth Company are co-locating with the SCR Growth Hub which should establish stronger working relationships and meetings have taken place with local colleges and training providers to establish FE/HE/App offers to support progression outcomes.</p> <p>Sector leaflets have now been signed off and sent to print and marketing via social media is due to go live in July. The provider is working to a Marketing and Comms Plan and assurances were given to the Agency at the large provider meeting that performance would improve in the coming months.</p>

Author
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Sarah Haigh
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1



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