

Education Skills and Employment Board

30th October 2020

Renewal Action Plan (RAP): Update on the People Theme

Purpose of Report

This paper seeks Members direction on the scope of activity which could support the People theme of the Renewal Action Plan and the context in which these schemes should be considered.

Thematic Priority

Develop the SCR skills base, labour mobility and education performance.

Freedom of Information and Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972

The paper will be available under the Combined Authority Publication Scheme

Recommendations

Board Members:

- confirm if the actions at para 2.2 reflects the role that Members would like the MCA to engage with in relation to the national programmes
- Note the activity the Board has already supported and the update on ESF para 2.3 and Appendix 1
- Consider the proposal for Gainshare funding paras 2.4 and Appendix 2
- Consider whether to prioritise the programme of activity should funding become available para 2.5 and Appendix 3

1. Introduction

- 1.1** This paper seeks Members direction on the scope of activity which could support the People theme of the Renewal Action Plan (RAP) and the context in which these schemes should be considered.

2 Proposal and Justification

- 2.1** For Members to develop the proposals that deliver on the RAP the wider context of the employment and skills system must be considered. This paper seeks to:

- highlight the importance of working with the national offer (section 2.2) to ensure it works effectively in South Yorkshire.
- remind Members that extending Working Win, expanding Careers Hubs across South Yorkshire, continued delivery of the Skills Bank and the commissioning model for the Adult Education Budget (AEB) have all been approved by the Board. (2.3)
- provide an update on ESF

- Identify a set of deliverable opportunities for further development that deliver on the proposals set out in the RAP

2.2 Influencing the National Offer

The Chancellor's Plan for Jobs announcements in July set out a package of measures to help people adversely affected by the economic impact of the pandemic gain new skills and find work. These include:

- £2.1bn for Kickstart
- £1.6bn for Workstart and Apprenticeships
- £111m for Traineeships
- £17m for Sector based work academies
- £32m for National Careers Service
- £101m for additional year in learning for 18-19 yr olds

It is critical that these programme work locally across South Yorkshire and that individuals and businesses access and benefit from the available opportunities.

There are a range of actions the MCA could take in respect of the national offer:

- Stimulate employer demand, brokerage to help employers understand options and make the right decisions on which programme to support, secure incentive payments to help sustain their businesses
- Examine the progression pathway as a whole – do we have employers offering all the different elements of the package? E.g. traineeships – do we have providers bidding into the current procurement exercise?
- Kickstart has emerged as the most significant opportunity to support young people seeking work. It is critical that the current proposal works for SCR residents.
- Bring together key intermediaries to consider wrap around support for individuals, address employer issues, act as a basis for future co-design with Government on solutions to problems as they arise
- Provide a vehicle for apprenticeships / traineeships – with a focus on getting apprentices to complete through to end point assessment, noting Government flex on those who have completed 75% of their practical learning, and its apprenticeship redundancy scheme.
- consider the role of Employment Hub(s) as trusted gateway(s) providing support for all ages and employment status to help navigate what is increasingly a confusing and fragmented landscape and will be difficult to navigate.
- Continued policy engagement with Government and with other Mayoral Combined Authorities on Skills and Employment policy development e.g. FE Reform White Paper; UK Shared Prosperity Fund and development of the National Skills Fund.

Do these actions reflect the role that Members would like the MCA to engage with the national programme on?

2.3 What should we continue to support?

There are key programmes of activity that are the Board have already agreed to support additional information is included at Appendix 1.

2.4 New opportunities to make a difference in the short term – Gainshare

The proposed approach is to fill identified gaps in provision, working alongside the national offer. The focus will be on stimulating employer demand which links directly to the supply of a skilled workforce. An adult Kickstart South Yorkshire 25+ and an Extended Apprenticeships Training Agency/Brokerage (EATA) have been proposed as highest priority interventions. They are relatively affordable and can be delivered at pace. The Board is

invited to discuss and consider this so that they can be developed further. Additional information is included in Appendix 2.

2.5 New opportunities to make a difference – Require funding

Our ask of Government for the RAP and the CSR has been ambitious, but they are expensive and will require Government funding before they can be delivered. For completeness the key skills and employability asks are attached at Appendix 3. Members are asked to consider this list.

3. Implications

3.1 Financial

This is a draft document for discussion. The MCA will be considering the deployment of Gainshare funding and other sources of funding as they become available. The Boards priorities for skills within the RAP will form part of the picture for consideration by the MCA.

3.2 Legal

There are no legal implications arising from this report

3.3 Risk Management

There are no legal implications arising from this report due to this being a draft document for discussion and no risk analysis has taken place or deemed necessary at this stage.

3.4 Equality, Diversity and Social Inclusion

No requirements associated with the discussion of this paper at this point.

4. Communications

4.1 It is anticipated that at the point funding decisions are made, then appropriate communication activity will need to be undertaken.

5. Appendices/Annexes

- 5.1 Appendix 1 - Programmes being supported
Appendix 2 - Proposal for Gainshare
Appendix 3 - Key asks to support delivery of RAP informed by discussions on the CSR

Report Author	Jacquie Chambers
Post	Consultant
Officer responsible	Dave Smith
Organisation	Sheffield City Region
Email	dave.smith@sheffieldcityregion.org.uk
Telephone	0114 220 3442

Background papers used in the preparation of this report are available for inspection at: 11 Broad Street West, Sheffield S1 2BQ

Other sources and references: N/A