

## Feedback from Thematic Subgroups: March 2010

Name of Thematic Partnership
<b>Gosport Employment &amp; Skills Partnership</b>
Progress and issues arising since September 2009
<p>Having successfully secured funding from The Gosport Partnership in September 2009 to undertake Skills Research in the Borough, the Employment &amp; Skills Partnership Board commissioned Wessex Partnerships Ltd to help complete this piece of work. Two workshops were held in November and December, to gather data and begin to understand areas of opportunity and concern in respect of employment and skills provision in the Gosport. An employer survey was carried out to identify generic and sector specific skills gaps and needs, and a review of the regional contract and funding arrangements to help inform action planning. The draft report is currently being reviewed by the Board, prior to its next meeting at the end of March which will focus on next steps. This will include agreement on how best to engage and involve businesses in the work of the Partnership.</p> <p>An additional output of the research is the creation of an online Skills Directory (which is being housed on the go-Gosport website). This is nearing completion and is due to go live in early March. The Skills Directory will enable public, private and 3<sup>rd</sup> sector providers, businesses and residents to search for advice, guidance, support and training available in Gosport; covering all aspects of work-related and adult learning. Providers will be able to update or add new events, courses or workshops. A promotional campaign will accompany the launch of the Directory to raise awareness amongst the many potential user groups.</p> <p>Work has also been progressing in support of the delivery of the PUSH Fastforward pilot in Gosport, which has been hugely successful and benefited over 230 individuals since June 2009; many of whom were unemployed. This pilot has been running from the Old Chapel in St Georges's Barracks in partnership with Wheatsheaf Trust. The latter organization has recently secured five-year funding to deliver the JCP's supported contract for those unemployed 6 months or over in the Borough. This is good news for Gosport as previously this provision was delivered in Portsmouth. Discussions are now underway with a view to Wheatsheaf taking on the management of the Old Chapel and continuing to work in partnership with other providers to establish an Employment &amp; Skills Hub in the Town Centre. This will primarily focus on supporting people into employment and/or addressing barriers to work.</p> <p>Partners are also involved in the Hampshire County Council/PUSH consortium delivering 900 new jobs for 18-24 year olds who have been unemployed for 6 months or more. Opportunities exist for not-for-profit organizations to offer a minimum of six months paid employment (25 hours per week) to young people. Each job benefits from a grant of £6,500, with additional support provided by the employing body (in Gosport's case this is Portsmouth City Council).</p> <p>The Employment &amp; Skills Board is represented on the PUSH Skills Taskforce by colleagues from Gosport Borough Council, Business Link and JobCentre Plus. Gosport is also one of a small number of authorities involved in evaluating specifications and bids for JobCentre Plus contracts in the PUSH area. This helps to ensure that the interests of local employment and skills partnerships and issues are properly reflected and help to shape the quality and location of future employment support provision in the Borough.</p>
Main Aims of the Partnership
<p>Work towards delivering its relevant section of Gosport's 2026 Vision in the Sustainable Community Strategy:</p> <p>Gosport's local economy will be thriving and diverse with increased investment. There will be a good choice of jobs on the peninsula and people will have the opportunity to work close to home. The economy will build on its strengths in the tourism and marine sectors whilst maximising its high-tech manufacturing base. Business start-ups will have increased and released Ministry of Defence land will provide opportunity for maximising business</p>

development and growth.

Local people will have improved skills and qualifications. Schools and colleges will, by working with pupils and parents, have increased numbers of children and young people in school and improved qualification levels. There will be more educational opportunities including vocational courses (especially for those aged 16-19 years old) and greater participation in tutored life-long learning. Literacy skills and numeracy skills amongst adults will be improved.

#### Emerging Priorities

How can you make a difference?	1	Increase employment opportunities (SCS Priority Reference 2)
	2	
	3	

#### Links to Hampshire Local Area Agreement Priority Outcomes

LAA Theme:	B	Deliver first class support for businesses, promote skills and workforce development and address barriers to employment
	A	Improve the life chances for children and young people

#### Chairman

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#### Gosport Partnership Board: Representative

Name:	As above
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#### Board Membership

Organisation	Representative
St Vincent College	Steve Wain
Essential Skills Support Unit	Debby Miller
Learning & Skills Council	Claire Froggatt
JobCentrePlus	Sharon Baird/Melanie Rignall
Gosport Borough Council	Lynda Dine
Business Link	Stephen Dixon
Train to Gain (Business Link)	Philip Mirner
Portsmouth University	Lynda Povey
Hampshire CC (Skills)	Carol Holloway
Hampshire CC (Adult/Family Learning)	Angela Gill
Gosport Voluntary Action	Nicky Staveley/David Miles
Extended Schools	Lauren Stevens
Fareport Training	Jane Lamer
Fareham College	Claire Middleton

#### Meetings Held and Arranged

Date:	6 <sup>th</sup> October 2009 (Board)		31 <sup>st</sup> March 2010 (Board)
Date:	25 <sup>th</sup> November 2009 (Board)		26 <sup>th</sup> May 2010 (Annual Partnership meeting)
Date:	10 <sup>th</sup> December 2009 (Provider Workshop)		
Date:	10 <sup>th</sup> February 2010 (Board)		