

Feedback from Thematic Subgroups: September 2009

Name of Thematic Partnership
Gosport Employment & Skills Partnership
Progress and issues arising since April 2009
<p>The inaugural meeting of the Partnership was held in May 2009 and all partners known to be involved in planning, developing or delivering employment and skills activity in the Borough were invited to attend. At present over 50 service delivery partners are members of the Partnership.</p> <p>The Partnership meeting included presentations on PUSH, activity of the PUSH Skills Group and emerging Employment & Skills Board, and 14-19 Diplomas. It provided an important opportunity for all to gain a broad understanding of the current context for employment and skills in Gosport. Given the size of the Partnership it was agreed to establish a Board who would lead on developing and implementing an Action Plan – all partners were invited to express interest in joining the Board.</p> <p>A combination of expressions of interest, and direct invitation to key partners such as the LSC and JobCentre Plus, led to the establishment and first meeting of the Board on 15th July 2009. Terms of Reference have been agreed and a draft Action Plan is in place. The latter has informed the submission of a funding proposal to the Gosport Partnership (due for consideration at the September meeting). If successful, outcomes will include improved intelligence on supply and demand for training and skills provision amongst the employed and unemployed; and an online Skills Prospectus/Directory. Other actions will be progressed at the next meeting of the Board and/or furthered once the research into supply and demand is complete.</p> <p>As part of the localisation agenda, both the LSC and JCP are encouraging the Board to represent the employment and skills needs of the Borough and help to shape the specifications for future mainstream and ESF-funded contracts. The ability of the Board to contribute in this way will be strengthened as it develops its knowledge and understanding.</p> <p>The Board is keen to ensure that all partners are kept informed and given the opportunity to become involved in areas of work that are of interest/importance to them. Information and documents are therefore circulated on a regular basis to members of the wider Partnership. The Board will also ensure that an annual Partnership meeting is held, providing an opportunity to review and refresh action planning and membership of the Board.</p> <p>The Board aims to involve local businesses and/or other organisations representative of their interests. Business engagement is likely to be sector-based and may result in businesses joining the Board and/or becoming involved in task-and-finish groups around specific actions.</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 development and growth.</p> <p>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.</p>

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		
Name:	Steve Wain	
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Gosport Partnership Board: Representative		
Name:	As above	
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		Joe Cavalla
Hampshire CC (Skills)		Carol Holloway
Hampshire CC (Adult/Family Learning)		Tim Wills
Gosport Voluntary Action		Nicky Staveley/David Miles
Extended Schools		Lauren Stevens
Fareport Training		Jane Lamer
Meetings Held and Arranged		
Date:	7 th May 2009 (Partnership)	
Date:	15 th July 2009 (Board)	
Date:	8 th October 2009 (Board)	
Date:	w/c 23 rd November (Board)	