

Appendix 3

Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Education Trust

Key Task Groups

The Trust Board meeting on 15th November 2012, identified the following headline theme priorities:

Quick wins

- what can be achieved quickly and effectively

Employers

- we need to educate employers of the benefits of employing young people
- we need better links between businesses and education establishments
- we need to link effectively business and skills

Influence

- we need to improve collaborative partnership working
- we need to influence academies and other education establishments that are outside the jurisdiction of the Local Authority

Communication is fundamental

- we need to communicate the opportunities to young people and their parents/carers to raise their aspiration and ambition
- we need to communicate examples of good practice and business opportunities

In order to progress the themes listed above, it is proposed to establish the following key task groups, whose membership will comprise Trust Board members and members of the former LEP Enterprise and Skills Group and its Implementation Group, plus wider partners who can contribute to the groups' work. All group membership will ensure geographical and sectoral coverage.

Group 1: Improving the links between business / schools / education and training providers

This group will consider the various ways that links can be improved, recommend to the Trust Board an action plan to improve the current situation. The issues that this group will cover will include business representation on governing bodies; mentoring; work experience; internships; business lectures to students.

Suggested membership of the group: Sara Williams (Chambers of Commerce) - Chair; Prof. Nick Foskett (Keele Univ); Shan Schanda (Blythe Bridge High & Staffordshire Headteachers Group); James Whybrow (S. Staffs College); Paul Mangnall (SASCAL); Judith Kirkland (BES & LEP); Wendy Dean (Steelite); Anthony Baines (SCC) – officer support.

Group 2: Matching supply to demand

This group will look at the current skills profile of local people (all ages) and the demands of local businesses. It will also consider the potential future demand, such as that created by the project proposals within the Wave 2 City Deal submission. It will identify current and future gaps in supply, and recommend action to fill those gaps. A key part of this group's work will be to look at the pathways available to young people, how those pathways are presented, and the role of IAG within learning.

Suggested membership of the group: Ann Moulton (H&R Johnson) – Chair; Sarah Robinson (SOT College and Staffs Colleges Assoc); Mike Askew (SPA); Rosie Crehan (Staffs Univ);

Phil Wright (JC+); Marilyn Castree (Chamber of Commerce); Mike MacLoughlin (SFA); Linda McQuade (Chamber of Commerce); Julie Obada (SOT CC) – officer support.

Group 3: Communication and networking

This group will look at communication opportunities within the Trust and between the Trust and its wider stakeholders. It will consider partnership working, the most effective communication channels, and will set out a calendar of potential events, supported by a communications plan.

Suggested membership of the group: Ken Stepney (Trust Chair, JCB) - Chair; Alison Knight (SOT CC) – officer support; Glenn Watson (Cannock Chase DC); John Woodward (BusyBees); Kim Graham (NBC); Jill Norman (SMCVS); Chris Bamsey (SCC).

Timescales

The groups will be formed in January 2013, and will report back to the Board at its next meeting with key milestones, KPIs and outcomes.