

**Regional Learning & Skills Partnership South West & Mid Wales  
RLSP Board**

NOTES OF MEETING

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March, 9:30 – 12:00  
Baglan Innovation Centre, NPT

**Present:**

Amanda Carr	<b>AC</b>	Third Sector
Barry Liles	<b>BL</b>	Provider Group Chair
Huw Mathais	<b>HM</b>	Advanced Materials and Manufacturing Chair
Jane Lewis	<b>JL</b>	RLSP
Jayne Bevan	<b>JB</b>	Regeneration Directors (Powys CC)
Jayne Ireland	<b>JL</b>	WEA CC Cymru
John Mark Frost	<b>JMF</b>	Job Centre Plus
Jonathan Field	<b>JF</b>	DWP
Judith James	<b>JJ</b>	Higher Education
Matt Modern	<b>MM</b>	ERW
Louise White	<b>LW</b>	Creative and Professional Services Chair
Lucy Good	<b>LG</b>	Tourism, Leisure and Retail Chair
Nicky Howells	<b>NH</b>	Energy Chair
Nigel Arnold	<b>NA</b>	Welsh Government
Nigel Williams	<b>NW</b>	Food and Farming Chair
Paul Greenwood	<b>PG</b>	RLSP Chair
Sara Nicholls	<b>SN</b>	RLSP
Tony Sawyer	<b>TS</b>	Health and Social Care Chair
Wendy Williams	<b>WW</b>	Careers Wales

**Apologies:**

Arwyn Watkins	<b>AW</b>	NTfW
Ceri Stephens	<b>CS</b>	Mid Wales Cluster Group
Gareth Morgans	<b>GM</b>	Regional Education Directors
Kim Phelps	<b>KP</b>	Welsh Government
Mandy Ifans	<b>MI</b>	Careers Wales
Mark Jones	<b>MJ</b>	Further Education
Mike Shaw	<b>MS</b>	Growing Mid Wales Partnership
Nigel Arnold	<b>NA</b>	Welsh Government
Paul Griffiths	<b>PG</b>	Regional Regeneration Directors (Powys County Council)
Phil Lumley	<b>PL</b>	Construction Chair
Sharon Reader	<b>SR</b>	WEA YMCA CC Cymru
Sharron Lusher	<b>SL</b>	Haven Waterway Board

Ref	Item	Action By Whom
1.0	<p><b>Welcome, Introductions and Apologies</b></p> <p>PG welcomed everyone to the meeting and members were asked to introduce themselves, PG provided the apologies to the board.</p>	
2.0	<p><b>Approve the minutes of the last meeting</b></p> <p>The chairman sought approval of the minutes of the last meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2018.</p> <p>Action from last meeting</p> <p>JL to send a letter to Swansea Bay City Deal representatives regarding the procurement issues.</p> <p>JL explained after speaking with the City Deal team it would be more beneficial to attend a Swansea Bay City Deal meeting.</p> <p><b>Agreed: that the minutes be approved as a correct record.</b></p>	
3.0	<p><b>To receive an update from Welsh Government</b></p> <p>Andrew Clark introduced himself to the board and explained his role within Welsh Government as Deputy Director Further Education and Apprenticeship Division. Firstly he thanked the RLSP for the work they are undertaking and for inviting him to the meeting.</p> <p>He commented on the Employment and Skills plan developed by the RLSP Team and the third iteration had been an improvement on the past two versions and WG will be able to use the recommendations moving forward.</p> <p>AC also informed the Board of the new Higher Apprenticeship Degrees hoping the first delivery will start in October 2018. ICT and Advanced Materials and Manufacturing are currently being developed and the next sectors to be developed will be Financial and Professional also Construction.</p> <p>HM commented that he was pleased to see Advanced Materials and Manufacturing being one of the new ones however is concerned that the ICT framework is more advanced and close to being completed than the AM&amp;M and these will be launched at the same time.</p> <p>PG raised concerns around the template provided by Welsh Government and that it is not user friendly.</p> <p>AC informed the Board that an internal review is currently being undertaken by Welsh Government, he mentioned that Welsh Government are not yet at this point completely happy with how the Regional Plans are looking.</p> <p>PG is the RSP process changing the way skills is being looked</p>	

Ref	Item	Action By Whom
	<p>at internally.</p> <p>BL commented last year's plan has impacted the local colleges and as a result certain courses have been put on.</p> <p>PG irritated to make this partnership work employers and Welsh Government need to work together and influence the right people.</p>	
4.0	<p><b>To receive a presentation on the Education Business Exchange</b></p> <p>Emma Benger, Career Wales gave a presentation on Education Business Exchange a new innovation in employer engagement, the Education Business Exchange, is a Careers Wales facilitated database, giving employers the opportunity to work with schools to develop exciting curriculum enhancing programmes for pupils.</p> <p>For more information on the business class click <a href="#">here</a></p> <p>JL encouraged Careers Wales to work with the new NTfW representative that will cover our region.</p> <p>NW commented on how beneficial Business Class was to Castell Howells and the local schools and hope this will work in the same way.</p>	
5.0	<p><b>To receive an update on the RLSP Action Plan</b></p> <p>A copy of the updated action plan was circulated prior to the board meeting, in the last Board meeting there was concerns around the areas in red however since that meeting these have now been developed are now in the yellow (ongoing) category.</p> <p>JL informed the group that once the new NTfW officer is in post we will be working closely with them to work on some of the actions from Action Plan.</p>	
	<p><b>Update on Regional Employment and Skills Plan</b></p> <p>The board were told that the RLSP had still not received a specification from Welsh Government on the expected content on the plan moving forward. However the team are still working in the background collecting data from businesses in the region and meeting with partners to increase the employer engagement.</p> <p>JL informed the group that she had met the new Minister and it was made clear that the RSPs will play an important role and will be the key influence for skills and learning in the future.</p>	

Ref	Item	Action By Whom
6.0	<p><b>Swansea Bay City Deal update</b></p> <p>JL gave an update on the SBCR City Deal and the current situation, the group were informed that the RLSP submitted their Business Case for the Skills and Talent project and UK Government came back with comments and these comments are now being worked on by the team.</p> <p>JL informed the group that she attended a Shadow Joint Committee Meeting and there are still issues to be resolved between Welsh and UK Government. One being that all the money is capital and the RLSP project needs revenue funding, however the LA's solicitors are currently working on this. There are ongoing weekly catch ups with both Governments and the Skills project is always covered.</p> <p>JL told the group that the Shadow Joint Committee is made up of the four LA's Leaders, Chief Executives and representatives from Hywel Dda, ABMUHB and the two Universities.</p> <p>The Board were informed that the Chair of the ESB had been elected but cannot be advertised until it has been signed off by the Secretary of State.</p> <p>NW – are there private sector partners involved in the City Deal projects</p> <p>JL explained the projects all have a private sector partner.</p> <p>JJ expressed that the Board should be more involved with the Swansea Bay City Deal project.</p> <p>BL explained that the Provider Group would drive the Skills and Talent Project but the Board would have the overall sign off.</p>	
7.0	<p><b>Update from Cluster Chairs and AOB</b></p> <p>LW mentioned to the group that the chairs could contact their equivalent in the other partnerships to see how they engage with other business owners. LW also mentioned to increase the survey numbers could the RLSP do telephone surveys, also connections with recruitment companies would help increase engagement.</p> <p>HM encouraged the group to share good practice with the other chairs to increase the survey numbers and also the businesses around the table at cluster groups. HM informed the group that he now sits on the Welsh Government's <b>Wales Apprenticeship Advisory Board</b> as the South West and Mid Wales representative and he now sits on the Employer Advisory Board at Swansea University.</p>	



Ref	Item	Action By Whom
	<p>PG informed the group that Welsh Government mentioned the governance of all three partnerships in the last meeting he had with them, and this will need to be looked at closely as credibility and accountability are key.</p> <p>JJ wanted more information on how the industry clusters were set up and the governance of these groups.</p> <p>BL gave an update on the current work of the providers group, the work around the Skills and Talent Project and the creation of a Training Solutions Group – a group that will lead on the skills aspect of the City Deal project.</p> <p>TS provided an update on the issues that are currently being faced by the Health care sector and local Dom care providers are folding.</p> <p>JL informed the group that the next WESB meeting will take place in our region in the summer.</p> <p><b>Action:</b>  <b>RLSP Team to send out survey link and Board members to send out to their employer networks and encourage them to complete the short survey.</b></p>	
8.0	<p><b>Future Presentations</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Skills Gateway</li> <li>2. The new school curriculum</li> </ol>	
9.0	<p><b>Dates of future meetings</b></p> <p>10<sup>th</sup> May, Brecon  19<sup>th</sup> July, Llanelli</p>	