



[Supporting Work-Based Learning & Pre-Employment Providers in Sussex](#)

Chair's Report to the Annual General Meeting 18th January 2018

2017 has yet again been an 'interesting and challenging' year. The sector has continued to see rapid change, some of which has left providers reeling some of which has opened up new opportunities. SCTP has also seen more change this year than we were expecting but has still managed to grow our membership numbers, in fact, we hit a record 117 members.

We have delivered 23 events over the last year – 6 members meetings, 3 pre-employment meetings, 3 strategic leaders' forum meetings, 2 LEP surgeries, 1 promotional event and 8 CPD events which have been attended by 482 people with 83% of member organisations represented at at least one event.

The membership survey was completed this year and it was great to know that 72% of those who completed the survey were very satisfied and 28% were satisfied with the service received. We will also be acting on some very useful and constructive feedback on how SCTP's services can be developed further.

Richard Freeman, Lead Project Consultant for SCTP has continued to win funding for projects that have been of benefit to the members. During the membership year we have been involved in an extensive range of projects on Apprenticeship promotion to potential learners, employers and parents as well as projects on Apprenticeship diversity and leadership & management. Projects have been funded by AELP, the Education and Training Foundation, East Sussex County Council, Brighton & Hove City Council, CXK and South East LEP. The Strategic Leaders' Forum project had a successful outcome and has now become a new termly meeting.

We have a number of projects that are already confirmed for 2018:

- Sussex Learning Network: Collaborative Outreach Programme which will be taking Apprenticeships In Sussex into schools and the community
- AELP Teach Too Project
- Brighton & Hove City Council Graduation event
- East Sussex County Council Parent Roadshows during National Apprenticeship Week.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Richard and the team at Always Possible for their continued hard work in finding, winning and delivering projects that are of benefit to all SCTP members.

I talked in my report last year about the new governance structure. The Executive Management Group (currently myself, Paul and Sarah) has worked well to make sure that SCTP is running smoothly on an operational level allowing the Board to be much more strategic. This change in structure has been very successful.

I also talked about the growth plans we had in place to take on another Executive Director and an Administrator. After an intensive recruitment process we found Ann Potterton to work alongside Paul Mitchell as Co Executive Director. Ann fitted into the team very well and conducted the search for our new Administrator, Sarah Sawyer. Following a successful few months, Ann was spotted by BT and given an offer she couldn't refuse and left SCTP at the end of September.

The Board, in view of the current turbulence in the Sector, made the decision not to recruit a replacement for Ann and in discussion with Paul and Sarah restructured their roles to allow us to continue the smooth running of SCTP while reducing the financial resources that had been ring fenced for the staffing growth plan.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank both Paul and Sarah for their understanding, support and hard work during the transition.

This year has seen a redesign of the SCTP website and branding and a commitment to having a more significant social media presence – again thanks to Ann and particularly Sarah for their hard work in getting this completed within a very tight timeframe.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank the Board, Janice Duff, Charlotte Blant and Dan Wallman, for their commitment and support during the year. Mark Syrett moved to pastures new during the year and stepped down. He has been a great supporter of SCTP over the years and we hope to be able to welcome him back to membership at some point. Dan has continued to ensure that we are representing the Pre-employment members effectively. I would like to thank Janice Duff for her work as a Director over the years. She has made the decision not to stand for election next year due to work commitments. With 2 open Director positions I look forward to welcoming at least 2 new Directors to the Board for 2018.

As always it has been a privilege to be the Chair this year. We have continued to grow in membership numbers but also in recognition both locally, regionally and nationally. I look forward to working with the SCTP team during 2018 when hopefully the Sector will find some calmer waters.



Joanne Bridger
Chair
SCTP
January 2018