

SCTP Pre-employment Group Meeting Notes & Actions

20 June 2018 at Jobcentre Plus, Lewes

Attendees:

Members: Emma Hotston (Asphaleia), Kat Last (Barnardos), Karen Kingsland (Brighton & Hove City Council), Ana-Maria Maddock (Crawley Borough Council - Employ Crawley), Dan Wallman (DV8 Sussex & SCTP Director), Caroline McKiddie (East Sussex County Council), Judy Perraton (East Sussex County Council), Iqraa Rehman (JACE Training), Connie Bielsa (Maximus UK), Susan Hart (PACA Adult Learning), Andrew Ayres (Rewards Training), Sarah Caulfield (Sussex Community Development Association), Jude Day (Sussex Community Development Association), Ryan Matthews (The MY Trust), Nick Howard (WEA), Jane Chew (West Sussex County Council), Jamie Guest (YMCA Downslink Group), Paul Mitchell (SCTP), Sarah Sawyer (SCTP).

Guests: Gary Edwards (DWP), Helen Kay (East Sussex County Council), Debbie Leach & Joanne Upton (HM Prison & Probation Service)

Apologies: Jess Wylde (Barnardos), Shiromi Cabraal (Brighton & Hove City Council), Heather Armstrong (London Learning Consortium), Mandy Crandale (Possability People), Mel Fuller (Skills Training UK), Nina Thair (West Sussex Alternative Provision College)

Matters Arising from last meeting (28 February 2018)

- The Mental Health Wellbeing training session, which SCTP organised following interest from the pre-employment group, unfortunately had to be cancelled due to the low number of bookings received. The reason for lack of interest was discussed, with issues around timing and budgets being the main reasons. Those present still felt that this was a training need amongst staff dealing with learners/clients. SCTP have a date from Possability People when the session could be run in September. Early October was discussed as potentially a better time.
ACTION: SCTP to investigate putting this session on again in October.
- Judy Perraton, has been appointed as Schools Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing Adviser for East Sussex County Council. Judy is working with schools across East Sussex, implementing an evaluation framework to assess what is happening in schools and where support is needed. They are planning some workshops in September for senior leadership teams within schools to ensure a whole organisation approach is adopted and to bring various services together, so organisations can support their staff dealing with learners with mental health issues. These sessions may be able to be open to SCTP members too and SCTP will liaise with Judy about this and about possible collaboration across Sussex. Judy highlighted the publication - Supporting children and young people in their mental health, which can be accessed here - <https://czone.eastsussex.gov.uk/media/3318/full-schools-mental-health-guide.pdf>
- **T Levels**
Dan Wallman gave an update following a recent webinar about T Levels from the Association of Employment and Learning Providers.
 - The emphasis for T Levels is for learners to gain the knowledge and skills to get a job, not to actually do the job, which an apprenticeship focusses on. Therefore, T Level students finishing their L3 qualification would likely progress onto a L3 apprenticeship.

- The English and maths elements of T Levels would be funded and delivered separately from the rest of the qualification and would be on top of the 1800 hours necessary to study the T Level.
 - The launch of T Levels in 2020 will focus on 16-18-year olds, although T Levels will be available for 19+ learners too.
- City and Guilds indicated at the SCTP members meeting in March that T Levels are likely to attract UCAS points, this remains to be confirmed.

Member Updates

Members shared issues and exchanged information on their provision and recent case studies of success.

Hastings Opportunity Area

- Hastings is one of 12 Opportunity Areas across the country. The main aim behind the Opportunity Areas is to increase social mobility.
- The Hastings Opportunity Area has identified four priorities:
 - Improving literacy – there will be a Hastings wide literacy campaign with £250,000 of funding available to support children and young people to read more every day to improve literacy skills. Funding will also be available to improve literacy teaching in early years and resources to support literacy in the home.
 - Raising attainment in maths – funding is available to improve the quality of maths teaching in schools. Partnership working with the National Collaborative Outreach Programme is in place to invest in development for maths teachers in further education to improve the quality of teaching of maths post-16 also.
 - Improving mental health and resilience – they will be adopting a whole school and college approach to good mental health and resilience. There are plans to ensure all children and young people can access support and there is support for parents and carers too.
 - Broadening horizons and preparing young people for work – funding is available for regular enrichment activities for schools across Hastings. They are working with the Careers and Enterprise Company to commit to all Hastings secondary school pupils receiving four meaningful encounters with employers. Some town wide opportunity days are being organised which will include a range of activities and experiences for young people.
- There are also two underpinning themes alongside these priorities:
 - Quality teaching, including the recruitment and retention of teachers and investing in leadership.
 - Good attendance from early years to further education.
- Any organisation can bid for the available funding as long as they are delivering in Hastings.
- The funding is only for schools and colleges. A plea was made for the potential for other providers to contribute to this agenda to be recognised and encouraged.
- For further information, please see the [Hastings Opportunity Plan](#). Helen Kay can be contacted on helen.kay@eastsussex.gov.uk.

Prison Service Update

- The Prison service are changing how provision is commissioned within prisons. The new commissioning round will give each prison governor more autonomy over what is procured for each prison based on the needs of their prisoners. There will be one provider for the 10 prisons in the local area to deliver the core English, maths, ESOL and IT training, but the governor will be able to decide how much of their budget is spent on this aspect and then can choose how to spend the rest of their budget.

- There is a Dynamic Purchasing System which potential providers need to register on. Providers chosen to deliver training will receive a 12 month contract through this system. The prisons are interested in piloting innovative programmes to get people back into education.
- There is an event on 2 July at Rochester Conference Centre where the 10 prisons across Sussex, Surrey and Kent will be represented, showing providers how to register on Bravo to get on the DPS and how the commissioning process will work. If anyone can't attend the event and would like to receive information about how to register on Bravo, please contact joanne.lupton@hmpr.gsi.gov.uk.

DWP Update

- Universal Credit continues to be rolled out across all Sussex offices, due to be completed in September.
- Universal Job Match has now closed and has been replaced with 'Find a Job' system, which is not mandatory.
- The Work & Health Programme, the DWP's flagship programme, is being delivered by SCDA in East Sussex and Maximus UK in West Sussex and Brighton & Hove. It is a five-year programme and will work with individuals over 18 who are likely, with support, to be able to get into employment within a 3-12 month period.
- DWP is running a couple of pilot programmes locally. A health-related pilot to get individuals with health problems into work, in conjunction with the NHS and a drug and alcohol pilot in Brighton to get individuals into sustainable work.

Work & Health Programme

Maximus UK are delivering the Work and Health Programme in West Sussex and Brighton & Hove.

- Work coaches work with participants to identify what support is needed with the aim of moving into employment. They work on a 1:1 basis and work across various locations in the community.
- Maximus will be working with individuals with a range of needs and circumstances including ex-offenders, homeless people, refugees and those with disabilities.
- In-work support will also be offered to help maintain employment.

Local Authority Updates

Brighton & Hove City Council

- The Supported Employment team are working to support employers and potential employees and have received additional funding to work with young people who are NEET. They also support people with disabilities and people far from the labour market.
- They are looking at the local offer for supported internships and are happy to speak to training providers about this. Contact karen.kingsland@brighton-hove.gov.uk.

East Sussex County Council

- The SEND preparation for employment grant from DfE is for local authorities to provide job coach training to get job coaches to support young people with SEND on work placements and to set up local supported internship forums to bring together training providers and employers to look at how to deliver supported internship programmes locally. Further information will follow from the council.
- The Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC) are match funding a post to support this work and there will be an Enterprise Coordinator who will be able to focus on SEND, funded for one year.
- ESCC are bidding for a careers hub through the CEC. More information will follow if this bid is successful.

- Apprenticeship starts and participation rates continue to be down on last year's figures, with more young people entering work without training.

West Sussex County Council

- WSCC's careers team continue to focus on working with pupils in schools who are at risk of NEET in Year 11 and with 16-18 NEET young people.
- They are recruiting for a NEET job coach with a SEND focus.
- Two careers fairs have been arranged for the Autumn term – one in Crawley on 25 September and one in Worthing on 27 September.

SCTP Updates.

- The Brighton & Hove Apprenticeship events, which SCTP has organised with BHCC, are on 20 June at Hove Town Hall and 10 July at the Brighton Centre from 16:30 – 19:30. If you have any young people you work with who may benefit from speaking to apprenticeship and traineeship providers, please do promote this to them.
- The 'SCTP Members' Linked In group is available for members to communicate with each other. You can use this forum to promote your provision to other members. [Connect to the group here.](#)
- The Apprenticeships in Sussex service is still going into schools and colleges talking about apprenticeships, traineeships and other training. Please do keep your offer on the AIS website up to date. If you spot anything that needs changing, please contact sarahsawyer@sctp.org.uk.
- SCTP, along with other local training provider networks, will be partnering with the national provider network, AELP, to run and promote CPD events in the future. More information about this will follow in the newsletter soon.
- If any SCTP member can introduce a potential new member to SCTP, a 10% referral incentive is available. This gives the SCTP member a 10% discount on their next SCTP membership subscription if that introduction leads to a new member joining SCTP. Please contact paulmitchell@sctp.org.uk with any introduction details.
- Members were asked for any input they would like to have at the next SCTP meeting. An update on the East Sussex College Group merger was requested.

The next Pre-employment group meeting will be on **Wednesday 10 October**, 10.00 – 13:00.

If anyone can offer a venue for pre-employment meetings, please contact Sarah at sarahsawyer@sctp.org.uk. The venue would need to be in the centre of Sussex to suit those travelling from further out in East and West Sussex, be transport accessible and be able to accommodate about 25 people.