



Regional Network Meeting - South

Thursday 14th June 2018, 9:30am – 11:30am

Teleconference Call

Attendees:

Name	Local Network
Sue Taylor	Confederation of Learning & Employment Organisations Berkshire - CLEO (joint Chair)
Alex Richards	Western Training Provider Network
Mark Dawe	Association of Employment and Learning Providers - AELP
Julia Falaki	Gloucestershire & Wiltshire Partnership
Joanne Bridger	Sussex Council of Training Providers - SCTP
Rod Davis	Dorset & Somerset Training Provider Network
Jane Hickie	Association of Employment and Learning Providers - AELP
Matt Alvarez	Association of Employment and Learning Providers - AELP

Apologises:

Name	Local Network
Alison Sumpter	ALPHI
Sharron Robbie	South West Training Provider Network - SWTPN (joint Chair)

Agenda Item	Notes and Key Actions
Welcome and Introductions	The chair welcomed everyone to the Southern Regional Network Meeting. Sue thanked everyone for the change of meeting to a conference call on this occasion. Future meetings will revert back to face to face in Bristol.
Minutes of Last Meeting	<p>ACTION: Uncertainty about ESF funding at the moment. Mark will raise it again with Peter Mucklow (Director of Further Education)</p> <p>Funding bands – 15 to the new 30 have been introduced (to take effect on 1st August 2018). Mark has continued to ask members if they are struggling with the costing of particular standards that are not deliverable with current levels of funding. AELP will continue to enable providers to offer feedback if this is an issue (though not much has come from providers on this so far). It needs to be hard-core evidence not anecdotal information. Costing information of the breakdown will really support this particular subject. Action: Sue to get some of this data to Mark within the customer service sector where funding is in the lower bands.</p>
Regional Update	Confederation of Learning & Employment Organisations Berkshire and ALP SURREY (Sue Taylor)

Some of her providers are going through OFSTED inspections at the moment under the new audit format. She will feedback once they have gone through the full process.

ESF and capital funds are being delivered by a number of her providers.

Although capital funds are difficult to get hold of for training providers and tend to go to Colleges as a rule. Alex Richards said that he has a couple of examples of training providers delivering capital fund contracts (he will share with the group).

Gloucestershire & Wiltshire Partnership (Julia Falaki)

ASK have asked Julia to deliver Wiltshire as a whole for the renewal of the extended year (as they didn't go out to tender as previously planned earlier this year).

Julia raised the fact that Wiltshire has no pilot providers on the T-Level pilot. Mark's view is this is not a regionally allocated pilot and it is just finding a certain number of providers and trial the offering. It will be one that people will be watching to see how it is handled.

LEPs recognising training providers has been a real issue. The regional network are engaging with the LEPs in their areas to ensure that there is a clear understanding of the importance of independent training providers and the voice they have with both apprentices and employers. Whilst they have a good relationship with the people on the ground that work in and around the LEPs there is a lack of understanding at the committee level.

Dorset & Somerset Training Provider Network (Rod Davis)

One member gone through the new OFSTED inspection. The feedback was that it felt like a full inspection and not a tailored new version. The provider will feed back to the regional network next time they meet to provide fuller details of the experience. No major surprises have come from the new inspections and the two providers that are in the middle of their inspection are comfortable with the expectations.

The Dorset LEP has had a new chair and he has dropped the Dorset regional network from their employer group. He appears to be keeping the three main colleges and universities of the group. This has caused some annoyance. The colleges and universities have said they will table an agenda item at the next meeting to get the independence view back at the table. View is it is naivety of the chair and not something particularly malicious.

Western Training Provider Network (Alex Richards)

With all the talk of OFSTED auditing, Alex brought up the fact that he had got someone to do a training session on auditing for the network just recently. This went down very well but from his perspective was quite expensive to put on for his group.

He has a devolved city on his patch. It is taking time to settle down between the devolved and non-devolved areas and how the skills plan and strategic economic plan are being implemented to support engagement with young people, demographics of the area, apprenticeships reform and T-level reform are being handled.

As a network, they have set up a peer-to-peer group that captures some key areas of best practice between members. This is enabling the members to look

	<p>at how they handle their practice for all things building together their delivery. These collaborative groups are meeting over the year and will feed back into the main network group.</p> <p>Mark was stating that their needs to be some common guidance as to what is included in the End Point Assessment (EPA). There is concern that some key aspects are being left to the provider to pay which is not understood initially by the EPAO and the provider. It has a huge impact on the costing of the delivery and assessment aspects for the apprenticeships. Mark is going to raise this with the EPAO SIG on Monday to see what can be done collectively so that costs of the EPA are clear and what is included and what isn't. It will help providers to compare "apples with apples". Clear thing is there needs to be transparency with the costs and resources needed.</p> <p>Sussex Council of Training Providers - SCTP (Joanna Bridger) They have also had one of their members go through OFSTED audit. Mark has asked for some more clarity on the stated concern about how the audit handled the 20% OTJ recording. There is a slight difference between the stated aim of OFSTED, which is reviewing the quality of the OTJ part of the delivery and not going into the detailing of the recording of every element.</p> <p>ACTION: Joanna Bridger – If Joanna can feedback some of the detail of how it was done then AELP can ensure that we support OFSTED in feeding back to get clarification on the line that they are intending to take.</p>
<p>National Update</p>	<p>FETL – Leadership / Employer Programme – AELP have put on round table events around the country. Discussing the primary motivations around delivery quality, financial transparency, does the sector protect itself adequately, codes of conduct and governance (led by Sue Pember). It was a roundtable that offered a voice to capture the demands and expectations on them and how they can be better supported and self-supporting.</p> <p>FETL Governance programme – covers the importance of quality within the delivery of delivery that comes from how that is supported with a documented structure. In the light of OFSTED, auditing and how certain ITPs have potentially handled when issues are raised within an audit. Having a clear documented structure and how an issue is identified, handled and resolved. This is the requirements of planning for this to demonstrate clarity and transparency.</p> <p>We are going to launch this at the National Conference and have a workshop. If it is clear that there is a demand then we could place this within the programme offered out to the regional networks.</p> <p>End Point Assessment package – Having a run through with the EPAOs on Monday at the Special Interest Group (SIG). This will also be launched at the National Conference. It will allow a benchmark set out to enable providers to understand where and how it is positioned and then different EPAOs can add their specific requirements when working with the providers.</p> <p>Apprenticeships – Numbers have fallen again for apprenticeships (figures announced today is 52% down this month). We have suggested that the mandatory 10% provision to funding of non-levy (from employers) is more around the allocation of monies as a contribution from employers (to show willingness) rather than an arbitrary 10%. There is clearly a concern if numbers don't start turning round soon.</p>

	<p>There is a couple of other potential routes to massage uptake. Encouraging progression from L2 to L3 by potentially not charging an employer another 10% to progress that learner onto another level.</p> <p>AELP have a paper coming out on Level 2 and the impact of not having a strong vision on the merits of progression through the L2 apprenticeship through and getting onto the step ladder for career progression. There was opinion that the Level 2 (Business Admin – for example) will be hugely missed within the public sector. Without a T-Level at Level 2 there is a clear need to have a strong L2 in apprenticeships.</p> <p>April 2019 – The free market approach is unlikely to happen. AELP are working with ESFA and government to suggest possible best options of how it can work effectively.</p> <p>Off the Job guidance appears to be offering some clearer view as to how providers can utilise this to help. It has gone through the relevant stakeholders to provide comment and feedback. Whilst they are not allowed to endorse they have had their feedback taken in and applied to the final.</p> <p>Devolution is becoming an ever more important area of discussion and concern. With nearly 50% moving into devolved funding (which can be utilised in any way that that areas wished to use the funding – as long as they are meeting their areas needs). The contracting of existing delivery across devolved and non-devolved areas will add complications. This will need people to think about whether this is going to affect you and how you handle any sub-contracting that moves across the area divides. There could be a need for procurement processes in the longer term but we have recommended they get things aligned and understood first before going head long into a complicated procurement process</p>
ASK	<p>Due to Keith Smith's change in role, they have decided to roll the ASK existing contract for a further 12 months. The aim for the future is to get the money onto the ground and spent where it is most needed (managed with a regional and national agenda).</p> <p>With Jason Holt as the new CEO of the ambassador network, he is very keen to engage with the regions as he sees the benefit of spreading the word.</p> <p>At the London network meeting, the region have expressed the fact that they have used this future direction as a stick with ASK to get them to engage more with the regions.</p>
Careers Enterprise Company	<p>AELP are trying to get CEC to get a co-ordinator to work with the regions. This is not currently happening. Getting them to do what they say is proving to be quite difficult.</p> <p>They are "working" with the 12 networks, although this is a cause of disagreement as to how much they are doing to support this funded work. There are a couple of webinars happening over the next week. If you have any questions that you want to feed into it then please send to Jane Hickie.</p> <p>ACTION: Regional leads to send Jane Hickie any relevant questions to ask at these webinar sessions.</p> <p>ACTION: Jane to provide Alex Richards with the telephone number of the contact of the CEC.</p>

Event Programme	<p>AELP have a model listing of the event programme as a flexible model to support as four regions or as 40 separate networks that can get 20 heads in the room. It is a case of cost and pricing share.</p> <p>There is a full day or half-day rate. There is a different rate on the facilitator depending on the subject and expertise needed. There is a different rate for facilities depending on the venue (in-house or elsewhere), there is marketing costs etc. Then there is a share in profit/cost between AELP and the regions.</p> <p>This is very much a collaborative approach between AELP and the networks. Whether it is a collective approach across networks or whether it is with one network delivery. We need to be sensible that we work in association with the network leads and agree how the “surplus” is divided and that it isn’t a land grab.</p> <p>ACTION: AELP have themes and subject matter that cover this programme. Jane will send out after the meeting – Completed – Jane has sent out.</p>
Next Meeting	<p>Second week in September – date to be confirmed very soon.</p>