

Regional Learning Partnership for South West Wales (RLPSWW)

REGIONAL STRATEGIC PLANNING – LOCAL DELIVERY

E-BULLETIN

June 2011



Welcome to the RLP's monthly E-Bulletin

- The aim of this bulletin is to provide a brief update to all our colleagues in partner organisations about the work and progress of the RLPSWW.
- It will give an overview of the projects we and our partners are involved in based on our three main pillars of partnership working - which include Partnership Brokerage and Development, the Regional Learning and Skills Observatory (RLSO) and the E-Portal.



Key Pillar 1: Partnership Brokerage and Development Update

- **The Regional Network Advocate Provider**

Beverly Wilson-Smith has scheduled meetings with Senior Management Teams of the region's HE and FE providers to explain her role and pick up issues relating to Sector Skills Councils' engagement. We are currently in the early stages of the work plan – profiling the supply of skills training, with the respective demand, within each county from provider intelligence. Current focus is also on assimilating information of provider's projects (not only ESF) to support the building of a Regional Project Compendium in conjunction with Paul Relf from C&C of Swansea. We are working towards a regional strategic 'curriculum' planning event for Hospitality and Tourism sectors in December 2011.

- **Local Service Boards (LSBs)**

Presentations about the RLPSWW have been made to Neath Port Talbot, Swansea and Carmarthenshire LSBs, with input from local partners. Updates were all well received by the Boards and recommendations supported for a further detailed presentation on the RLSO being given to the LSB over coming months. The general direction of travel for the RLPSWW has been supported by each LSB. A presentation to Pembrokeshire's LSB is being scheduled.



Key Pillar 2: Regional Learning & Skills Observatory (RLSO) Update

- **Employers Survey**

The RLSO Project Management Group is undertaking an analysis of employer surveys by our various partners. This is to assist the ongoing work of the Regional Learning & Skills Observatory in assisting employers and providers across the region. Currently, partners engage individually with employers on surveys. The RLP is seeking to address this potential duplication - through the use of the RLSO - by bringing together all those partners and individuals involved within employer engagement, to discuss the feasibility of a single employer survey. Plans to hold a half-day workshop, with all relevant individuals from across the region who are involved within surveys for employer engagement, to discuss the feasibility of a single regional approach are being looked at. This would be complemented by maintaining individual organisation's surveys on more local issues and data requests.

- **New Sectoral Data Published**

The first new set of additional sectoral data has now been published on the RLSO. Data relating to the tourism industry has been launched on the observatory, and amalgamates all the STEAM (Scarborough Tourism Economic Activity Monitor) data for each of the counties within the region, within a single electronic environment. This is hoped to now pave the way for additional relevant data sets held locally by partners and other organisations relating to tourism, to be made available for inclusion within the observatory, and assist further engagement with employers within this industry across the region.



Key Pillar 3: Regional E- Portal Update

- **The Launch of the Swansea Strategic Regeneration Area Pilot**

We are currently awaiting the outcome of funding bid to the Welsh Government, in relation to the Swansea Regeneration Area.



General Update

- **Team Away Day**

The RLP held its Team Away Day, on May 10, at Dinefwr Park Farm, Llandeilo. The aim of the event was to reflect upon current project-updates and to obtain ideas from team members regarding future priorities and identify ways in which these can be delivered successfully.

- **Third Sector Profiling Meeting**

The team's researchers are progressing the Third Sector Profiling work and linking up with each of the County Voluntary Council's in the region, plus the WCVA.

- **National Adult Learners Week**

The RLP showed its support for National Adult Learners Week by attending the National "Inspire" awards evening for Learners, in the Brangwyn Hall, Swansea. A member of the team also participated in, and supported an event within Carmarthenshire as part of the weeks offerings. The RLP generally also promoted the week through its presence on social network sites Facebook and Twitter, and forwarded event details onto several media outlets throughout the five counties – including local newspapers and radio - in order to aid its wider promotion/ participation.

- **Credit & Qualifications Framework for Wales (CQFW) Seminar**

The RLP has arranged a free seminar for anyone interested in attending to understand more on the new proposals for the above Framework. The event will be facilitated by Katy Burns and colleagues from Colegau Cymru. It will consist of an overall presentation, to be followed by workshops on key areas from a strategic perspective. Ultimately, the session will identify key questions for consideration around the curriculum, quality assurance, tracking, and general information and advice. The event will be held on the morning of June 8, at Parc y Scarlets, Llanelli. If you are interested in attending, contact the RLP team on 01554 742430.

- **RLP Annual Event**

This year's RLP Annual Event will be held on June 30, in Parc Y Scarlets, Llanelli. The title for this year's event is, "A Vision for Quality in South West Wales – Economy, Education, Skills." Further details on speakers, the programme for the day, and booking forms, are to be circulated amongst partners shortly.



A brief guide about the RLP

- The aim of the Regional Learning Partnership continuing is to bring education and regeneration partners together to help provide a better future for learners across the south west Wales region.
- The RLPSWW team, based at Llanelli's Parc-y-Scarlets, has been engaging with key regeneration and education organisations across the five counties of Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire, Neath Port/Talbot and Swansea.

- Since forming in 2007, the RLPSWW, which is funded by the European Social Fund and other domestic funding sources, has been recognised by the Welsh Assembly Government as a “transformational partnership.”
- Its main over-riding aim is to ensure publicly-funded learning providers and associated organisations work collaboratively, effectively and efficiently to meet the needs of learners and the regional economy in south west Wales.
- The RLP works in partnership with local authorities (education and regeneration), higher education and further education institutions, the third sector, work-based learning providers, with private sector representation through the South Wales Chamber of Commerce as well as Careers Wales West and JobCentre Plus.
- The partnership's work is based around three Key Pillars which are Partnership Brokerage and Development, the Regional Learning Skills Observatory (RLSO) and an E-Portal.

Please feel free to circulate this bulletin to fellow colleagues within your organisation.

We would also welcome the opportunity to respond to any queries you may have regarding the work and direction of the partnership - as well as to find out how your organisation can become more involved with the RLP.

For further details contact RLP Information and Communication Officer Victoria Williams on 01554 742434 or e-mail: vawilliams@carmarthenshire.gov.uk.