

Regional Learning Partnership for South West Wales (RLPSWW)

REGIONAL STRATEGIC PLANNING – LOCAL DELIVERY

E-BULLETIN

May 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

Employer Engagement Task and Finish Group

- This group met for the first time and considered the complexities of the different levels of employer engagement across the region. Specific and measurable tasks will be identified at the second meeting, and this will be shared in the next Bulletin.

The Regional Network Provider Advocate

- The Advocate is meeting with the Region's HE and FE providers to explain the role, and pick up issues relating to sector skills councils engagement. Current focus is on assimilating information of provider's projects (not only ESF) to support the building of a Regional Compendium in conjunction with Paul Relf from Swansea CC. We are currently in the early stages of the work plan - profiling the supply of skills training, with the respective demand, within each county.

Third Sector Profiling Exercise

- Work has begun on the Third Sector Profiling Exercise. The exercise has involved an analysis of what reports of a similar nature are already in existence - including WCVA, NIACE and other sources – in order to build upon them to move this project forward to the agreement of all.

HE/FE Sub Group

- Development has begun on the work programme for the RLP HE/FE Sub Group. An update will be included in next month's report.

Swamwac (South West & Mid Wales Consortium)

- The six authorities have reaffirmed their commitment to establish a Shared School Improvement Service across both regions by September 2012, underpinned by a Regional School Improvement Strategy and the establishment of a Regional School Improvement Partnership Board. This follows a detailed options appraisal and feasibility study.



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

RLSO Information and Sharing Workshop

- RLSO Information and Sharing Workshop held at Llanelli Gatehouse led by Careers Wales West. Its purpose was, that as the RLSO expands, to agree a method of basic and consistent protocols in how we each obtain, contribute, manage, verify and produce the required data for the themes and data sets identified.

RLSO Project Management Group (PMG) meeting

- Following the meeting, the RLP has begun work on developing a survey aimed at employers to help identify any skills shortages within the region. Discussions are ongoing with the South Wales Chamber on how we may be able to utilise their existing survey to assist. The results of this survey would feature within the Observatory online, as well as within the soon to be developed RLP website.



Key Pillar 3: Regional E- Portal Update

The launch of the Swansea Strategic Regeneration Area Pilot

- Awaiting outcome of funding bid to the Welsh Assembly Government for Swansea Regeneration area.



General Update

- The Regional Learning Partnership south west Wales' new Regional Network Provider Advocate - Beverley Wilson-Smith - started in her full-time role on April 1. She joined the team following a successful tender bid by Gower College Swansea (GCS) to the Welsh Assembly, on behalf of the RLPSWW. The advocate has been seconded to the RLPSWW team for 18 months and is based at Parc-y-Scarlets. Her role includes working across the region, working with employers and Sector Skills Councils and looking at issues, such as skills shortages and employer needs.
- The RLPSWW has submitted its first ESF claim to the Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO) and also Wales Audit Office. The audit will take place annually.
- The development of the RLP website, which will be launched officially during the RLPSWW annual event on June 30, is currently underway. Team members are currently developing the architecture for the site, and also working on formulating the appropriate content.
- In an effort to further promote the RLPSWW to as wide an audience as possible, the team has started using social networking sites – in particular Facebook and Twitter. This pilot exercise focusing on the RLSO in particular, provides us with an opportunity to share information about the partnership and content focusing in learning and skills. Both sites are updated daily.
- The RLPSWW's Information and Communication officer is developing an Information and Communication strategy following a period of 'shadowing' several press teams within the partnership to broaden her knowledge of partnership working in order to promote its key messages the most effectively. The strategy can be used to benefit the way internal and external messages are promoted.
- The RLPSWW launched its new monthly E Bulletin in April which is circulated to partners on the 1st of every month updating them on the progress of the partnership.



A brief guide about the RLP

- The aim of the Regional Learning Partnership 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 the three Key Pillars of, 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.

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