

West Yorkshire Lifelong Learning Network

Sustainability Plan for Sector Groups

1. Background

- 1.1. It was agreed at a previous Board meeting that four of the seven sector groups would develop different models for continuing into a fourth year. The purpose of this would be to allow the wider partnership to assess whether there was any merit in maintaining sector activity, when there was no development funding available from WYLLN. There is a total budget of £40,000 available for this activity. The four sector groups that have been asked to develop plans are Health Social Care and Early Years (HSCEY), Construction and the Built Environment (CBE), Leadership Management Innovation and Enterprise (LMIE), and Culture Media Sports & the Arts; Hospitality Tourism & Leisure (the Culture Group)
- 1.2. Sector Officers and their Lead Institutions were asked to develop fully costed plans for the fourth year, to be presented to the first Board meeting of 2010. However, as that meeting was not until March, the Officers were asked to present their proposals to this meeting. As a consequence, none of the proposals are not fully worked up, but there is sufficient information for the Board to determine which sectors should go forward into a fourth year; a fully worked up plan can then be presented in March.
- 1.3. This paper summarises the key elements of each plan; full proposals are appended to it.

2. CBE Sector Group (Appendix 7a)

- 2.1. This sector group was one of the first to be fully operational with the Director of HE at Leeds College of Building taking the lead for the sector group from September 2007 until a full time sector officer was appointed in October 2008.
- 2.2. The sector group has provided the opportunity for HE providers, employers, sector skills councils and professional bodies to come together for the first time. This has enabled a curriculum map to be created and new progression routes to be developed. It has also supported a range of curriculum developments including Construction Environment and Sustainability, Facilities Management, Civil Engineering, Building Services and Environmental Engineering, Architectural Technology and Design, as well as modern and traditional methods of construction, management and maintenance. One of the more important developments has been to support the sustainability agenda. As with all four sector groups there have been intangible benefits for stake holders coming together.
- 2.3. The main purpose of the sector group in the fourth year would be to continue with these developments, particularly with respect to sustainability and low carbon industry. No curriculum maps exist at the moment and progression routes need to be developed, as currently coverage is sporadic locally, regionally and nationally.
- 2.4. The proposal presents three options that could be taken forward with different level of funding support from the WYLLN. For two of the options the support requested may not be able to be met

by the current budget allocated depending on how many of the sector groups are supported in the fourth year. The most interesting and somewhat unique element of the proposal is the relationship to, and links, with the Yorkshire Forward funded Yorkshire and Humberside Construction Sector Network. One of the options suggests this will provide an element of external funding and even the opportunity for future activity beyond the fourth year. As with two other proposals, there is no indication of the level of confidence the lead institution has in being able to manage a reduction in the level of staffing to ensure the delivery of the WYLLN agenda.

3. The Culture Group (Appendix 7b)

- 3.1. The Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Society at Leeds Metropolitan University took on the sector officer role for the sector group from September 2007, but it was not until March 2008 that the sector group became fully operation following the appointment of a full time sector officer.
- 3.2. This sector group covers the widest range of curriculum areas. It is the best attended of all sector groups including providers of HE, sector skills councils, the Arts Council, regional and sub-regional bodies representing the areas of sports, arts, and dance, and local authorities. The strength of the partnership has meant that the sector officer has been invited to join several groups including Yorkshire Forward's Skills, Employment and Education Group; NSA Sport and Active Leisure Operations Group; and the HE/FE representative on West Yorkshire Youth Dance. Of particular note is that the sector officer now co-ordinates the Skillset Education Forum.
- 3.3. The activity proposed for the fourth year varies depending on the level of funding that can be generated in addition to WYLLN funds. The proposal is at the stage, for reasons stated earlier, that it still needs to be firmed up. The first two options are associated with maintaining the network and embedding currently developments. The third options utilises the additional capacity to seek other sources of funding and identify new curriculum development and employer engagement opportunities. It is the fourth option, where a full programme is proposed. A key question for the Board is at what level of funding will the partners gain any value for the sector group continuing. As with two other proposals, there is no indication of the level of confidence the lead institution has in being able to manage a reduction in the level of staffing to ensure the delivery of the WYLLN agenda.

4. HSCEY Sector Group (Appendix 7c)

- 4.1. This sector has been led by the University of Bradford. Activity in the first year of operation was low, although sector meetings were held. Following a review, the University gave the lead for the sector group to the Director of Escalate and appointed a new full time sector officer in October 2008. The sector has been fully operational since that time and has closed the gap in activity delivery that had existed between it and the other sectors.
- 4.2. As with the other groups, it is the partnership of providers, sector skills councils and employers that has provided the driver for the sector activities. It has overseen a range of developments that are detailed in the proposal attached to the papers. Many of these developments are linked to major initiatives in work-force development in the Health and Care

Sectors. It is the continuation of these developments that forms the core of the fourth year activities.

- 4.3. The funding model to support a fourth year is the strongest of the four presented. There is a commitment from the lead institution to fund a sector officer until March 2010. WYLLN funding will then be used to fund the post for the remainder of the academic year.

5. LMIE Sector Group (Appendix 7d)

- 5.1. This sector has been led by Wakefield College and a sector officer has been in post since early on in the project. The sector officer reports to the Director of HE at the College.
- 5.2. Membership is comprehensive including HE providers (there is full representation from all four universities), private training providers, Sector Skills Councils, the Chartered Management Institute and other professional bodies and employers. Close links have been developed with the Northern Leadership Academy. The sector has undertaken a range of activities. Work with Employer Based Training Accreditation (EBTA), and organising and managing the Women into Leadership Conference are of particular note. This sector group was established to work across all sectors. This has occurred as demonstrated by the development of two of the foundations degrees validated to date. It is this type of activity that forms the core of the proposed activities for the fourth year both with Skills for Care and the Construction Skills (both SSCs). A key question to be addressed when considering the future of this sector group is how much a separate group is required to carry out these developments.
- 5.3. The proposal from the LMIE sector group presents a range of funding models and recommends a mix of WYLLN funding and in-kind contributions. As with two other proposals there is no indication of the level of confidence the lead institution has in being able to manage a reduction in the level of staffing to ensure the delivery of the WYLLN agenda.

6. Board Action

- 6.1. The Board is asked to consider the proposals presented in terms of the value and viability of their implementation in the fourth year and to recommend which sector groups should go forward.