

Skills Update note: January 2020

This paper is to provide an update on various areas of skills related work including:

1. **Remaining European Social Funding (ESF)**
 2. **SELEP Skills Advisory Panels and analytical toolkit**
 3. **SELEP Digital Skills Partnership**
 4. **Tutor recruitment bursary and campaign**
 5. **Apprenticeship toolkit**
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1. **Remaining European Social Funding (ESF) update**

- The **Enabling Progression in Entry Level jobs** call has now closed and bids are being evaluated by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)
- The **‘Driving Apprenticeship Growth across the SELEP area’** calls targeting both SMEs and individuals closed on 15th October and is currently being evaluated.
- The **Wheels to Work and Training** call didn’t receive any bids and is therefore due to be reissued by DWP with a lower minimum value in February 2020.
- Most ESF **Big Lottery (BBO)** projects are extending
- **SELEP can now apply to the national reserve fund for ESF and calls will be issued in the coming months** (with DWP to confirm exact time-frames). **Colleagues can still input to priorities for this**, where there are gaps.
- Details will be published on the SELEP website when available and all calls are published at <https://www.gov.uk/european-structural-investment-funds>

2. **Skills Advisory Panels (SAPs) and analytical toolkit**

- In 2018, the government announced that SAPs would be established in all LEP areas by October 2019. The SELEP SAP met in September, October and January for first meetings. This has included feeding into the Local Industrial Strategy.
- The SAP is employer led and with membership largely from local employers. All local federated / skills board have representation. Meeting agendas, minutes and Terms of Reference will be added to the SELEP website in the coming weeks at <https://www.southeastlep.com/our-delivery/skills-advisory-panel/>
- Kent and Medway members include Hilton Group, HSBC, Social Enterprise Kent, Screen South, Berry Gardens and Wire Belt Company. Essex and East Sussex members include Stansted Airport, DP World, Konica Minolta and Sussex Chambers of Commerce. The SAP Chair is SELEP Board member Colette Bailey, Chief Executive of local company Metal.
- The SAP also includes local authority, provider, FE and HE representation.
- The establishment of the SAP also requires preparing an analytical toolkit. This will be a comprehensive and detailed overview of skills needs, looking at supply and demand and available to local partners. SELEP’s new SAP Support Officer and Data Analyst Vimbai Foroma started on in October. Information will be published on the SELEP website in the coming months. This will include an update of the Skills Strategy Evidence Base and reports as at <https://www.southeastlep.com/our-strategy/skills/> in the coming months.

- The SAP will be underpinned by the existing SELEP Skills Strategy (2018-2023) and key performance indicators. There will be clear links also to the LEP Local Industrial Strategy.
- An event is planned later in the year to engage the wider business community.

3. SELEP Digital Skills Partnership

- Further to a successful bid to the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) to become a Digital Skills Partnership area, a launch was held on 12th June in Hastings and Jim Wilkinson is in post as a co-ordinator of the partnership. Jim is based one day per month at DCMS in Whitehall.
- The first Digital Skills meeting was on 18th October and the next one will be on 12th February at Pfizer in Kent. This will be co-chaired by Alison Parmar of Kent FSB and Melissa Hanna-Brown of Pfizer. An action plan will be signed off at the February meeting. This includes plans for a digital prospectus.
- A number of Google, Microsoft and Facebook workshops have already been held across the LEP for a range of audiences and plans are underway to engage teachers in a White paper.
- Further information is available at <https://www.southeastlep.com/our-delivery/digital-skills-partnership/>

4. Tutor recruitment bursary and campaign -Delivering Skills for the Future

- The Skills Advisory Group (now SELEP Skills Working Group) submitted a proposal to the SELEP Sector Support fund to offer bursaries and raise the profile of teaching opportunities in FE, to overcome the shortages of tutors particularly in priority sectors.
- This was successful and the Tutor Bursary programme has been very well received with over 80 bursaries funded to date, far exceeding targets. This has now been opened up to level 3 teacher training and a series of videos showcasing local tutors will soon be launched with the website <https://www.becomealecturer.org/> (currently under development). Further information at <https://www.southeastlep.com/selep-bursary-for-industry-leaders-to-teach-future-workforce/>

5. Apprenticeship Toolkit

SELEP has worked with the Learning and Work Institute to produce a toolkit for employers and with some local case studies included. This is available at https://www.southeastlep.com/app/uploads/2019/11/Compressed_SELEP-Toolkit-FINAL-employers-pack.pdf

6. Additional information

- SELEP will be at the BEST Growth Hub event on 27th February and has supported a workshop with FSB, DWP, Essex CC and the Education and Skills Funding Agency. This will include a post-card outlining links to support in areas such as apprenticeships, T-levels and Disability Confident.

- It's National Apprenticeship Week on 3-9th February and this will include a social media campaign. The Department for Education have asked for @Apprenticeships and use #NAW2020 and #LookBeyond to be used in our social media posts. There is also a 'Fire it up' campaign to promote apprenticeships, with a campaign toolkit [here](#).
- The Money and Pensions Service now has regional teams to support with a range of aspects of financial wellbeing for employers and individuals. Further information is at moneyadvice.service.org.uk and pensionwise.gov.uk Local colleagues could attend future meetings to explain this in more detail.