

South East Digital Skills Partnership – Steering Group

18th October 2019 @ STEM Learning

Attendees:

Louise Aitken SELEP	Pallavi Malhotra Huawei	Christophe Chen Huawei
Gloria Opara Cyber Engineers	Murray Foster Digital Southend Working Group	Andrew Dowell Mid Kent College
Sam Rhodes Skills East Sussex	Emma Wilcox Creative Estuary	Ashleigh Seymour-Rutherford Colbea
Melissa Hanna-Brown Pfizer	Lucy Dickinson Superfast Essex	Patrick Whittock Uttlesford CVS
Jo Nolan Screen South	Dave Cope DWP	Michaela Nield Google
Adrian Northeast HM Prisons and Probation	Sam Coles Plumpton College	James Maltby Plumpton College
Karen Scott Future Coders	Nicky Kelly South Essex College	Rebecca Smith Social Enterprise Kent
Richard Freeman Always Possible	Vanessa Potter SCTP	Emma Rudd Kent County Council
Hannah Kopel Essex County Council	Clarissa Wheeler NCFE	Kelly Edwards Harlow College
Will Pickford Thurrock ACC	Graeme Tolley The Prince's Trust	Jessica Walsh City of London/Futuredotnow
Alison Parmar FSB	Jane Knight Successful Mums	Debbie Lloyd CXK/NCS
Vimbai Foroma SELEP	Poulomi Solanki DCMS	Ajay Sharman STEM Learning
Jim Wilkinson SELEP		

Apologies:

Paul Coffey Coast Digital/Creative Colchester	Jonathan Smith East Kent College	Debbie Leach HM Prisons and Probation
David Prince Microsoft		

10:00 Welcome and Introductions

Roundtable introductions, including members' particular interest around digital skills, with key areas including:

- Lack of IT and digital teaching staff and provision of Continued Professional Development (CPD) for all staff
- The need for more and greater working with schools and the importance of out-reach (Secondary and Primary)
- Closing the gap in low skills attainment across the SELEP area and ensuring basic digital skills for all ages
- Tackling recruitment challenges in IT and digital
- Addressing digital inclusion and ensuring access to key services isn't negatively impacted for cohorts such as unemployed, elderly and homeless people
- Harnessing untapped skills, such as those with autism and applying to coding jobs
- Ensuring SMEs can access digital skills support and particularly in areas such as cyber security
- Supporting the voluntary and community sector with digital skills and utilising digital for their work (i.e. Smart Homes through Uttlesford CVS)
- Ensuring access to Digital apprenticeships, degrees and T-levels

10:30 Digital Skills Partnerships, the Government perspective

(Poulomi Solanki, Department for Digital, Media and Sport (DCMS))

Poulomi set out the background to the Digital Skills Partnerships and pilots to date. The South East LEP is one of six pilots nationally. Further background is contained in the attached presentation.



DCMSPpt2.pdf

10:40 The SELEP Context

(Louise Aitken, SELEP)

Louise gave background to SELEP's priorities and the original bid to be a Digital Skills Partnership area as determined through the Skills Strategy.



LOUISE2.pdf

10:50 Our Local DSP Steering Group/Introduction to Co-Chairs

(Jim Wilkinson, SELEP)

Jim provided an overview of progress so far, including planned activity with partners such as Google, Huawei and Microsoft. Further background is contained in the attached presentation.



dspmeetslidespdf.pdf

Jim also noted that Alison Parmar (FSB) and Melissa Hanna-Brown (Pfizer) had agreed to co-chair the DSP and thanked them for their commitment to the partnership.

<p>Jim asked all members to provide their logo so that this could be used in marketing about the DSP</p>	<p>ACTION: All to provide logo</p>
<p>11:20 Data/Evidence, including the Digital Skills Survey (Jim Wilkinson, SELEP)</p>	
<p>Jim noted that a lot of data and evidence had been used to look at areas of priority and need which were captured in the slides (attached above). Additionally, a Digital Skills Survey had been circulated to inform priorities and Jim thanked members for responses to data. The survey is still live so members were invited to respond / circulate if they hadn't already. The survey is at https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/SELEPDigitalSkillsSurvey/</p>	<p><i>See slides above</i></p> <p>ACTION: All members to circulate / respond to the survey</p>
<p>11:40 What are the priorities for the SE DSP in first 12 months? (Group discussion, ALL)</p>	
<p>There was a general discussion about emerging priorities, with key areas of feedback including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring basic digital skills at all ages are addressed to avoid excluding individuals from society • Looking at the specific needs of particular cohorts such as care leavers • Creating clear pathways to learning and being clear on the offer / what's free of charge • Defining 'digital' • Establishing a clear picture of need and how this can be responded to – such as schools performance, areas of deprivation for all ages • Future forecasting in areas such as jobs at risk of automation • Acknowledging the infrastructure needed (broadband, tutors, facilities) • Looking at access points for adult learners and particularly those without access to the internet • Building on existing best practice (i.e. City of London Prospectus, https://futuredotnow.uk/) • Utilising existing support (i.e. Google Digital Garage and online resources, Huawei teacher training, BT commitment to upskilling 10 million people through 'Skills for Tomorrow', Lloyds ambassadors) • Building on innovation (such as virtual reality training and work experience particularly where micro businesses may be home based) • Important to include upskilling for existing 'successful' industries to de-risk the future in terms of talent pipeline, retention and national 'competitiveness' • Agreeing a strapline and vision to galvanise partners • Highlighting existing work and amplifying best practice 	

12:30 Agreeing the LDSP Priorities for Year One

Building on the discussions above and evidence /survey so far, Jim noted that priority areas were as follows:

- Support to those at risk of/already experiencing digital exclusion
- Ensuring alignment of educational offer and industry need
- Support to schools to ensure students leave with the digital skills required for the world of work
- Support to SME's to ensure staff are responsive to developing technologies
- Creation of Digital Skills Prospectus for South East

ACTION: JW to develop and share action plan for next meeting

These would be developed into an action plan to be shared with the partnership for discussion at the next meeting.

12:50 Future meetings (Frequency/Dates)

To be decided – Jim/Melissa/Alison/DCMS to meet to consider next steps, including future meeting dates and then share with Steering Group members Group will also be presented with draft Action Plan for consideration and agreement.

ACTION: JW to share meeting dates / invites when available

Jim also noted that there was a dedicated web page on the SELEP website for Digital Skills Partnership updates - <https://www.southeastlep.com/our-delivery/digital-skills-partnership/>

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