



Progress
Report
June 2024

Cheshire &
Warrington Local
Skills Improvement
Plan (LSIP)

Annex 2

C&W Business & Skills Conference

(November 2023)

ANNEX 2: Cheshire & Warrington LSIP Business & Skills Conference

Date: Thursday 16th November 2023

Location: Alderley Park

Objectives

- To better inform local businesses about post-16 education and skills opportunities within Cheshire & Warrington, for both new and existing workforce and how they can benefit from this
- To advance future course development based on local skills needs
- To broker links between business and providers and the current skills system, to better understand what currently exists
- To enable different and new ways of thinking towards working with local providers

Event Partners

Cheshire West & Chester LA, Cheshire East LA, Warrington LA, The Cheshire & Warrington Pledge Partnership, Cheshire College – South & West, Warrington Vale Royal College, Reaseheath College, Macclesfield College, Priestley College

Event Exhibitor Stands

1. Cheshire College – South & West
2. Warrington Vale Royal College
3. Reaseheath College (inc Veterans info)
4. Macclesfield College
5. Priestley College
6. Crewe UTC
7. HMPPS
8. The Cheshire & Warrington Pledge Partnership
9. LEP Skills (Bootcamps) / Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Plan
10. DWP
11. Cheshire East Supported Internships
12. NHS England / Skills
13. South Cheshire Chamber
14. Spare desk for flyers from other organisations

Handouts to Attendees on Arrival

Plastic punched pocket containing: (pocket to have LSIP branded sticker on top “Thank you for attending our event” and website address)

- Agenda
- LSIP branded pen
- Sticky label – for attendee to write name and company
- 2 sheets of LSIP branded plain paper – for notetaking

Agenda

Time	Where	What	Who	Notes
9am	Networking			
9.30am	Auditorium 15 mins	Welcome (Purpose of the Event inc intro to providers) Overview of LSIP	Paul Colman / Sarah	Slides
9:45am	Auditorium 20 mins	Building Your Talent Pipeline: Quality Engagement with Young People	Grace Sheldon / Trevor Langston	Grace and Trevor presenting together.
10.05am	Movement Time (5 mins)			
10.10am and 11.30am	Panel 1 hour (approx. 10 mins each + approx. 20 mins Q&A) Auditorium Maria / Hannah	T- Levels (young people)	Reaseheath Crewe UTC Priestley College WVR	Nick Blakemore Adam - Priestley providing additional employer and 2 learners Andy Williams and Steve Fergusson also in the room
		Apprenticeships (new and existing workforce)	CCSW	Karen Roberts / Davinder Lotay / Altimex Apprentice Aaron
		Bootcamps (new and existing workforce)	LEP	Fiona Exley / SquareOne Training
		Apprenticeships Levy Transfer	NHS England	Jacqui Gladwin and Claire Tinsley
11.10am	NETWORKING BREAK (20 mins)			
10.10am and 11.30am	Panel 1 hour (approx. 10 mins each + approx. 20 mins Q&A) Helix Rooms Sarah / Paul	DWP – What we can do for you!	DWP	Nicky Freaney / Louise Berry
		Supported Internships	Cheshire East	Zoe Macey – on behalf of whole region
		Veterans	Reaseheath	Andrew Gould
		Ex-Offenders	HMP Thorn Cross	Samantha Harris / Fergus Morris

12.30pm	NETWORKING LUNCH (1 hour)			
1.30pm	15 mins	Welcome back: What do you get out of working with your local college?	Altimex/1010 Gaming to provide their stories – as SMEs, why they chose to engage with local college and how this benefits their business	Paul to interview Davinder Lotay – MD Altimex (CCSW) Arthur Parsons – Design Director, 1010 Gaming (WVR)
1.45pm	4 rooms plus lecture theatre 5 mins to intro and move 55 mins working group time Strengths and opportunities to be explored further – flipchart (for later circulation)	Sector Working Groups – intro and break out	Sarah to introduce Working Groups section – everyone to move	Flipcharts and pens in each room Rooms laid out for roundtable discussion (may need to move furniture dependent on number of attendees) LSIP Rep to introduce and facilitate discussion – use Working Group questions document
	5 mins to move back to lecture theatre	1. Manufacturing (inc Engineering, Supply Chain)	Sarah	Auditorium
		2. Health & Social Care	Maria	Helix Room 1
		3. Life Sciences	Paul	Vision Room 5
		4. Digital	Hannah	Helix Room 2
		5. Low Carbon	Julie	Helix Room 3
2.45pm	10 mins	Feedback from Sector Working Groups (headlines/common themes), including commitments from businesses who wish to become part of the working groups	Paul to lead – feedback from the team	Identify common themes from flipchart notes on opportunities

2.55pm	5 mins	LSIP Website – Making the system easier for business: www.cheshireandwarringtonlsip.co.uk	Maria	Show live website
3pm	10 mins	Other ways to get involved with your local college (Business Centre/ Business Hub/Employer Engagement) Close – Feedback Form (QR Code)	Paul	Rebecca Anderson-Moss (WVR) / Anna Harvey (Reaseheath) / Helen Meakin (CCSW) / Martin Hallows (Macc) / Adam Bird (Priestley) to contribute informally FORM – QR CODE. Form must be completed before leaving the room!
3.10pm	Close	Additional Networking until 3.30pm		

Cheshire Business & Skills Conference – 16th November 2023

- Spaces advertised via Eventbrite and our partners and reserved via Eventbrite.
- 110 attendees from employers, providers and partners.
- Launched LSIP Website.

Feedback on the Event

41 responses to feedback, as follows:

- 17 Extremely Satisfied
- 21 Very Satisfied
- 2 Somewhat Satisfied

Quotes taken from feedback forms:

What did you like most about the event? Networking; Working Group activities; Understanding different pathways and gaining information and insights.



What did you like least about the event? Nothing!; Time pressured; Not enough Businesses; Need more focus on existing staff.



MEDIA RELEASE: Cheshire & Warrington LSIP Business & Skills Conference

16th November 2023, Alderley Park

We are delighted with the feedback following our first Business & Skills Conference. Thank you to all the training providers, employers and local stakeholders who joined us and participated so fully in the agenda.

The purpose of the event was to:

- Better inform local businesses about post-16 education and skills opportunities within Cheshire & Warrington, for both new and existing workforce and how they can benefit from this
- Advance future course development based on local skills needs
- Broker links between business and providers and the current skills system, to better understand what currently exists
- Enable different and new ways of thinking towards working with local providers

The Cheshire & Warrington Pledge Partnership spoke about the importance of business engaging with young people and teaching staff, to improve experiences of the world of work and build a talent pipeline.

Expert panels highlighted the benefits of T-Levels, apprenticeships and apprenticeship levy transfer, as well as employing ex-offenders and veterans, supported internships and how DWP can better support business.

In the afternoon, we broke out by LSIP priority sector (Manufacturing, Health & Social Care, Life Sciences, Digital, Low Carbon) to discuss current training provision and opportunities for improvement. The conversation in each group was passionate and although there were common opportunities across all of the sectors, we noted specific opportunities to explore further.

We then launched our LSIP website: www.cheshireandwarringtonLSIP.co.uk

The purpose of the website is to be an honest broker, for employers to access the skills system in its easiest form; supporting employers to get to the information they need as easily as possible.

LSIP Project Manager – Sarah Emes Young said: “We were delighted with the 100% positive feedback we received from attendees following the event, and look forward to building on the positive links that have been made between employers and training providers today.”

Following the event, we will now launch our Sector Working Groups. These Groups will help to enable real change in the skills training provision, by putting the voice of employers at its heart.

If you would like to get involved in a working group – please contact us by emailing lsip@sccci.co.uk

