

Step2Skills

Partnership Strategy

V7.0 January 2021

Contents

- 1 BACKGROUND & PURPOSE**
- 2 VISION**
- 3 PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES**
- 4 RELEVANT DOCUMENTS**
- 5 REVIEW DATE AND OFFICER RESPONSIBLE**



BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

Adult learning contributes to a wide range of national and local agendas and it is essential that the service forms effective partnerships with a wide variety of partners across the county.

Step2Skills defines partnerships as arrangements made between Step2Skills and other organisations or other HCC departments where the parties agree to work co-operatively and responsibly to support a shared goal that contributes to the aims and objectives of adult learning.

As a provider of adult learning, Step2Skills uses effective local partnerships to

- bring together key providers and relevant local agencies and services in the provision of community learning
- enable learners / participants to develop new skills, gain knowledge and qualifications
- generate additional income to maximise the value of public income, referred to as the “Pound Plus”. Additional sources of income include sponsorship, income from other government sources and contributions in kind, all of which can be achieved through working in partnership.

Many of the learners / participants are from vulnerable or isolated groups who would not be able to access learning without the support of the partnership organisations.

The 2017 Step2Skills Ofsted report said partnership working is a strong feature of the service. Step2Skills makes particularly good use of a wide range and large number of partnerships to provide an extensive range of good quality training and development opportunities for the county.

The purpose of this strategy is to provide the vision, framework and means by which Step2Skills build on current success to further develop and expand partnerships.

1 VISION

Learners / Participants are at the heart of what we do. All partnership arrangements will work towards achieving the best outcomes for learners and potential learners with an emphasis on reaching those furthest from learning and work; improving lives and employment chances and promoting the joy of learning.

We aim to engage with partners who will:

- Deliver high quality learning, which meets local needs.
- Help learners overcome barriers to learning and progress to further studies/volunteering/employment
- Offer support to vulnerable participants / learners
- Improve the employability chances of participants / learners
- Strengthen local communities, enabling them to become more self sufficient
- Support HCC, district councils and Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) to raise Hertfordshire productivity and to raise the levels of English, maths and digital skills amongst Hertfordshire residents.

2 PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES

Step2Skills recognises that many of its delivery partners also work in partnerships with other organisations and other HCC departments. It is important that Step2Skills recognises the value of these extended partnerships and supports the sustainability of those partnerships.

The arrangements for partnerships will recognise the unique value each organisation brings to the partnership and the contribution of individual members.

Objective 1: To continue to develop a range of formal and informal partnerships that effectively support the aims and objectives of government and non-government funded provision including maximising access to learning, supporting progression, improving lives and residents' health and wellbeing, tackling loneliness and developing stronger communities.

Objective 2: To continue to commission the delivery of Community Learning courses with a range of high quality partners who are able to meet the needs of specific local communities in Hertfordshire ensuring the funding is focused on people who are disadvantaged and least likely to participate in adult education.

Objective 3: To continue to commission the delivery of accredited learning with a range of high-quality partners who focus on enhancing employability chances through the delivery of employability, English, maths, digital skills and other sector-related qualifications.

Objective 4: To use partnerships to identify gaps in provision and avoid duplication in delivery across Hertfordshire.

Objective 5: To use partnership arrangements to ensure that the participant / learner is at the heart of all provision so that participants / learners become more actively involved in their local communities. This includes using partnerships to add value and deliver projects funded by non-ESFA routes, such as the Building Better Opportunities.

Objective 6: To collaborate closely with the LEP and with JobCentre Plus to devise, monitor and evaluate a Hertfordshire Skills Strategy, identify individuals with the greatest needs and deliver learning opportunities with job outcomes and productivity in mind.

Objective 7: To engage with local employers with the view to identifying pathways to work through voluntary work, work experience and apprenticeship placements.

3 RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

Education Skills Funding Agency - Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs): Increasing their influence on the Skills budget.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/404300/Local_Enterprise_Partnerships_LEPs_increasing_their_influence_on_skills_budgets.pdf

4 REVIEW DATE AND OFFICER RESPONSIBLE

Review Date: January 2022

Officer Responsible: Step2Skills Head of Service