



West Midlands Skills Partnership

Minutes of RSP Data Group - 10:15am, 17th November 2010 at WMRO

Present:

Stephen Howarth (Chair) West Midlands Regional Observatory

Stephen Alcott	University of Wolverhampton
Reg D'Souza	SEMTA
Anne Green	University of Warwick
Pat Jackson	Advantage West Midlands
Rajdeep Kaur	West Midlands Regional Observatory
Paul Kitchen	Lifelong Learning Network
Ian Mitchell	Jobcentre Plus
Andy Phillips	West Midlands Regional Observatory
Clare Rapkins	West Midlands Regional Observatory
Jamie Smith	Birmingham Metropolitan College

Apologies:

Maureen Atkinson	Regional Action West Midlands
Gill Bentley	University of Birmingham
Kay Bevan	University of Birmingham
Andy Bywater	Sandwell Council
Denise Craig	Federation of Small Businesses
Nigel Garrett	National Apprenticeship Service
Patrick Highton	University Central Birmingham
Helen Higson	Aston University
Geoff Hyde	Birmingham and Black Country City Region
Louise Richardson	CSWP Ltd
Sam Richardson	Young People Learning Agency
Kim White	University of Wolverhampton

Item		Action
1	<p>Minutes of last meeting The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and action points discussed.</p> <p>Reminder to contact Ian Yarroll (NIACE) for the NIACE survey results.</p>	WMRO Skills Team
2	<p>Progress reports</p> <p>Measures linked to regional investment priorities: Stephen Howarth (SH) presented the document on West Midlands Skills Priorities 2011-12. The document includes some recommendations for UKCES for their National Employers Skills Survey, UKCES have considered some recommendations and question others, and there will be on-going discussions to resolve outstanding issues. Additional data to support this work includes sub-regional analysis, although this is reliant on the future of the Observatory.</p>	WMRO Skills Team
3	<p>West Midlands Skills Assessment 2010:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project highlight report: Clare Rapkins presented the 2010 Skills Assessment project highlight document. • Paper two: Achieving transformational change: Andy Phillips (AP) presented the key findings of paper two - achieving transformational change. <p>Data group members provided a wide range of comments on the conclusions and policy implications for the report, which will be taken forward and incorporated in the final version published by the end of November.</p> <p>One outstanding action was to contact Richard Riley from the Universities West Midlands for any further data.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process for reviewing paper 3 and 4: AP presented the paper on outlines for briefing paper 3 and 4 to give the group an idea of what is included. Both reports will be circulated in draft in the coming weeks. 	AP

4	<p>Future plans</p> <p>SH went through options for the future of the Observatory. A prospectus has been issued inviting potential bidders to buy all or some assets of the Observatory. If no bids are received by 19th November, the Observatory will wind up business within weeks - finishing off the most immediate of work. If bids are received and one of those is deemed satisfactory a limited resource of work will continue until March 2011. SH presented a list of research priorities if a potential bid is found, which can be completed by the end of January 2011.</p>	
5	<p>Any other business and date of next meeting:</p> <p>If there is no successful bid, this could be the last data group meeting. If there is a successful bidder, a data group meeting may take place in the New Year. We will keep the data group informed of any developments.</p>	