



REPORT TO THE GROWING MID WALES BOARD

19th of April 2024

TITLE:	Mid Wales Regional Skills Partnership Report
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1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. The purpose of the report is to provide an update on the progress of the Regional Skills Partnership, in particular:
- RSP board
 - Creation of RSP Website
 - Data and LMI
 - Business Cluster Groups
 - Careers Guidance

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. The RSP team has reviewed its functions through discussion with the existing team and wider GMW teams, political leaders, senior officers and many stakeholders and businesses.
- 2.2. The past 8 months has seen the RSP identify its priorities create a work plan and implement the changes approved by the RSP and GMW boards.
- 2.3. The RSP team has prioritised the points highlighted in 1.1 in order to create a structure and platform where businesses are able to engage, and intelligence is created to inform change.
- 2.4. This report will update the board on the progress of the priorities in 1.1.

3. Background

- 3.1. Regional Skills Partnerships aim to analyse and influence the provision of skills based on regional economic need, to support growth and key infrastructure projects in each region. The Regional Employment and Skills Plans build on and support priorities identified by Enterprise Zones, City Deal, City Regions and cross border collaborations.

- 3.2. The plans are refreshed every three years and provide recommendations to Welsh Government to influence the prioritisation and deployment of skills funding including Apprenticeship and Further Education allocations.
- 3.3. Within their regions RSPs are also involved in ongoing research, Labour Market Intelligence, development, and delivery of ESF projects, ensuring that regions are strategically aligned with European funding bids, and working with anchor companies and other companies of regional importance.
- 3.4. Currently across Wales there are 4 Regional Skills Partnerships.

4. Mid Wales RSP

- 4.1. As described in the national RSP context above, to be successful, the Mid Wales RSP must ensure that the priority sectors for the region are supported by national data that is underpinned by local business intelligence.
- 4.2. Through this process we will be able to focus the role of the RSP to ensure that:
 - The RSP bridges the gap between education, skills and regeneration to create a strong and vibrant economy underpinned by innovation, growth, and a capable workforce.
 - The RSP functions as a partnership which works with business leaders and stakeholders to identify current and future skills needs across the region.
- 4.3. To achieve, the RSP will aim to deliver four key deliverables:
 - Produce and analyse labour market intelligence (LMI) to inform current and future priorities.
 - Review regional skills provision.
 - Influence decisions on skills, training, and education.
 - Act as a strategic body that represents regional interests.
- 4.4. The Mid Wales RSP is part of the Growing Mid Wales programme and aligns itself closely with this activity. Therefore, the RSP reports directly to the GMW board.

5. Progress

RSP Board

- 5.1. The GMW board approved the restructure of the RSP board and membership in the November meeting.
- 5.2. The RSP team notified all existing and new board members of the decision in writing and explained their new role. Those who were no longer required as representatives were also informed but provided with an alternative role within the cluster group structure.
- 5.3. The new board met on the 29th of January. Please see new board membership. Attached, **RSP Annexe 1**.

- 5.4. As this was the first meeting of the new board, we utilised the time to reaffirm the RSP board, its priorities and to introduce all of the new members.

The board discussion;

- Board Restructure Update
- Introduction of the Cluster Group Chairs
- Overview of new RSP Website
- Skills Survey Responses – attached, **RSP Annexe 2**
- Apprenticeship cuts – Joint letter from all RSP sent to WG to raise our concerns – attached, RSP Annexe 3

6. Creation of RSP Website

- 6.1. To ensure that the work of the RSP is visible and transparent, we have engaged with a web design company and the RSP website is under construction. The website development has taken longer than anticipated and will be available from April 2024
- 6.2. The Data Observatory which sits alongside the website will be an accessible resource for all regional Labour Market Intelligence – This will be available in line with the Website in April 2024.

7. Data and LMI

- 7.1. Part of the RSP role, as identified in earlier statements, is the collation and analysis of data and Labour Market Intelligence to ensure it is current and relevant.
- 7.2. The way in which the RSP will achieve this is by taking a three stepped approach:
1. LMI - The last report identified that we had completed the tender process and appointed a contractor to provide our LMI data. This work is on track to be completed by the end of March 2024.

The Mid Wales employment and skills survey has been completed and the responses have been collated. In **RSP annexe 2** attached is a summary of the responses.

2. Mid Wales Sector cluster groups will review, and sense check all data collated and provide an expert view for that sector.

The cluster groups in April will begin reviewing the survey response and the newly acquired LMI data.

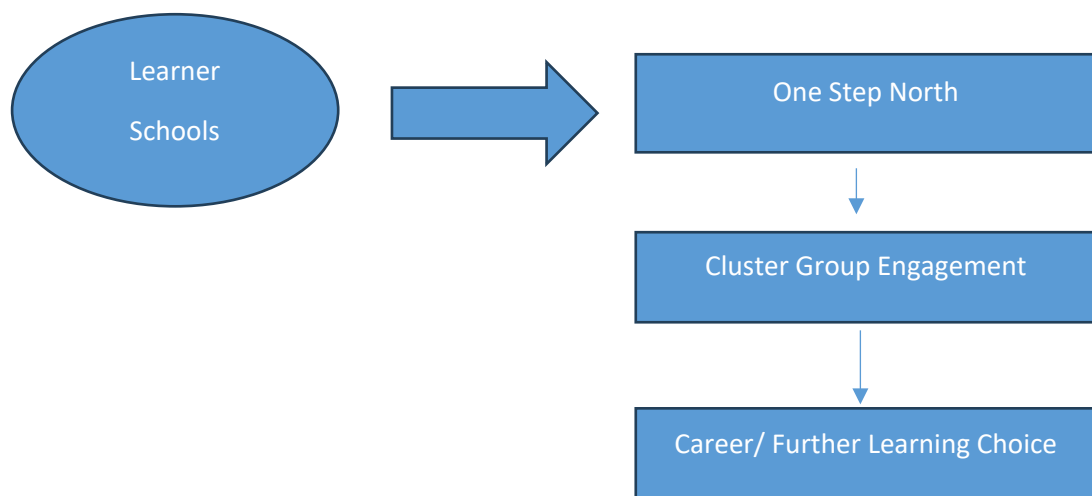
8. Business Cluster Groups

- 8.1. We have established 9 business cluster groups and 2 support cluster groups.
- 8.2. Engaging over 120 business across the region – Attached, Business cluster members, **RSP annexe 4**.
- 8.3. 8 of the 11 groups now have chairperson representation.
- 8.4. We are still establishing the Health & Social care, Transport and Logistics and Young Persons Guarantee groups.

9. Careers Guidance

- 9.1. RSP team has prioritised the objective of careers guidance for young people. This has been highlighted as a priority for the region.
- 9.2. The RSP has started to gather information from partners and young people through surveys that will demonstrate our current provision.
- 9.3. The RSP has engaged with an Artificial Intelligence careers guide portal called 1 Step North. The RSP has engaged both Powys and Ceredigion LA education teams with the view of making this interactive career portal available to all school children aged 11 – 18 across the region.

The structure when complete will give schools and learners daily access to all career opportunities, especially in Mid Wales. Schools are then able to utilise the RSP cluster groups for further engagement. Providing a more informed career offer for learners.



- 9.4. To successfully manage this model, a dedicated resource from either the Careers Wales service or from LA/ schools who will work with the RSP cluster groups will be required. However, the RSP will maintain management of the cluster groups on an ongoing basis. This resource is still to be established.

10. Legal Implications

- 10.1. None.

11. Human Resources Implications

- 11.1. None.

12. Financial Implications

- 12.1. None.

13. Appendices

- 13.1. Appendix 1 – Board Membership
- 13.2. Appendix 2 – Survey Results
- 13.3. Appendix 3 – Apprenticeship Letter
- 13.4. Appendix 4 – Business Cluster Lists for Ceredigion/Powys