

MINUTES OF NW REGIONAL FORUM MEETING

Held on 13 December 2006

The Laird Foundation

PRESENT:

Mr T Jones	Interserve	(Chair)	(TJ)
Mr T Featherstone	ECITB		(TF)
Mr T Lazenby	ECITB		(TL)
Mr R Ventre	Lakervent Eng Ltd.		(RV)
Mr S Thorpe	TTE		(ST)
Mr N MacDonald	Fairports		(NM)
Mr John Dodd	Watson Structural		(JD)
Mr John Drake	Sitemech Utilities		(JO)
Mr. J O'Kane	Boulting		(JOK)
Mr S Bleasby	William Hare Ltd		(SB)
Terry McDougal	Washington Group		(TM)
Mr Phil Jennings	NRL Ltd		(PJ)
Mr Lindon Roberts	Haden Freeman		(LR)

Ms R Sewell	ECITB	(RS)
Mr M Bullock	ECITB	(MB)

APOLOGIES:

- Mr M Edwards
- Mr I Wallwork
- Mr I Pross
- Mr J Slatcher

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	<u>ACTION</u>
<p>1. WELCOME</p> <p>TJ welcomed members to the meeting and introduced himself as Regional Chair. TJ asked members if anyone had any objections to Steve Thorpe from TTE attending the meeting, the group felt it was appropriate on this occasion that he participated.</p> <p>MINUTES OF LAST MEETING</p>	
<p>2. The Minutes of the last meeting were approved and passed as a true record.</p>	
<p>3. MATTERS ARISING</p> <p>JO of Boulting Group raised the query over how the ECITB were proceeding this year with apprentices regarding recruitment location, travel and associated costs.</p>	
<p>4. TF reported that it was the intention that the ECITB would achieve their targets for recruitment in 2007. Which in turn would mean larger numbers per region and that the intention was all trainees would be recruited, trained and placed local to their sponsor company where possible. JO was concerned that there would not be a suitable training provider in his vicinity. ACTION to confirm training providers, disciplines and likely availability before next forum.</p>	MB
<p>5. Idiots guide to funding arrangements to be developed and issued prior to next meeting</p>	RS
<p>MINUTES</p> <p>4.1 <u>PERFORMANCE FOR FOURTH QUARTER 2006</u></p> <p>RS reported that the £50K Regional Discretionary Grant for 2006 had been fully claimed we will now start with a new budget from January 2007.</p> <p>Provisional budgets for 2007 have now been circulated to all company contacts.</p> <p><u>Apprentice updates</u></p> <p>Trainees in the NW are progressing well; the NW 2006 cohort has had a record year for attendance and retention. Pledge companies are encouraged to visit there allocated trainees in the training centre if possible this will be facilitated by the respective Account Manager.</p>	RS/MB

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There are currently two Mechanical Fitters and one Steel Erector on the awaiting placement list (further to the meeting these have since been placed).

TECSkills

TTE Ellesmere Port and The Laird Foundation, Birkenhead are now approved to deliver TECSkills units.

ACE

RS reported the NW and national ACE figures these were correct up to the end of November 2006.

- Total UK Registrations = 4468
- Total UK Cards issued = 2978
- Candidates in system = 2032
- Total NW Registrations = 302
- Candidates in System = 190
- Total NW Cards issued = 424

ACE Funding

Any registrations prior to **31 December 2005** will need to be completed by **31 March 2007** to receive funding.

Any registration from the **1 January 2006** will have to be completed by **31 December 2007**.

Registrations will still be accepted up until **31 of March 2007**.

Should you miss the completion dates **you not will receive the £800 completion grant** but you will be able keep the registration money

The Approved Centres are aware of these dates and will be chasing up any outstanding 2005 registrations.

After the 31 of March 2007 funding for ACE will not come from the LSC but may be accessible from Train to Gain.

4.2 2007 OPERATING PLAN

David Edwards CEO (Presentation attached as PDF)

Key outcomes

Following a request that the group wished to compare and benchmark the ECITB Apprenticeship model. DE present facts that clearly showed that on cost, retention, number of trainees per company, total spend and overhead cost the ECITB model is effective.

NW Priorities

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DE asked the group to vote on the following topics as to which three would be most beneficial for the region.

ACTION

- Regional strategy for school leaver recruitment and local training
- Regional strategy for adult training to craft status
- Develop a plan to use TECSkills effectively including a local shared database on training status of individuals
- Ensure all existing training routes are used to meet future needs
- Update the available portfolio for ECITB support
- Develop alternative funding options to support regional investment in training needs
- Simplify competency assessment for both trades and supervision across all key stakeholders
- Maximise the effective use of resources available to the region
- Improve understanding of ECITB products, services and expenditure

The NW groups selected top 3 priorities are as follows;

1. Develop alternative funding options to support regional investment in training needs.
2. Simplify competency assessment for both trades and supervision across all key stakeholders
3. Improve understanding of ECITB products, services and expenditure.

TJ

From the Sellafield Group the top 3 priorities were:

1. Simplify competent assessment for both trades and supervision across all key stakeholders
2. Ensure all existing training routes are used to meet future needs
3. Regional strategy for school leaver recruitment and local training

TJ proposed that the group develop a working party to move these three key actions forward the volunteers are as follows;

- Richard Ventre
- John O'Kane
- John Drake
- Lindon Roberts
- Sellafield volunteers included: Nick Houghton Shepley's and Geoff Carver from Studsvick.

The first meeting will be arranged in the New Year.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The CEO of The Laird Foundation gave a brief overview of the projects and ambitions of the Laird Foundation in the coming months; he also invited the group to tour the workshops and facilities.

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DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 20 March, 2007 - TTE Ellesmere Port

MEETING DATES FOR 2007

Tuesday, 12 June, 2007 - Venue to be confirmed

Tuesday 11 September - Venue to be confirmed

Tuesday 4 December – Venue to be confirmed

CLOSE OF MEETING

TJ thanked everyone for attending.