

Appendix 1. Single Apprenticeships Scheme – Briefing (January 2012)

1. Background

The City Employment & Skills Steering Group has recently adopted the creation of a single apprenticeship scheme as one of their three priorities for this year.

This reflects a growing feeling amongst the group that apprenticeships are of vital importance both in terms of the local economy and social equity.

Currently, there is a feeling that the routes into apprenticeships are complex and can be difficult for Employers to understand. This can lead to confusion and a lack of engagement with apprenticeship schemes.

Ultimately the aim is to maximise the uptake the number of apprenticeships across the city, and the group feel that the best way to achieve this is through the creation of a single apprenticeship scheme.

2. Current Position

City College, Brighton & Hove City Council, JobCentre Plus and others have recently set up and provided support to the City Jobs and Skills shop in Queens Road. It is designed to be one stop shop for jobs and skills. It is also the home of the Apprenticeship Training Association.

Brighton and Hove jobs.com are the main website for jobs and apprenticeships within Brighton and Hove. The site involves a wide range of partners, including Brighton & Hove City Council, City College, Brighton and Hove Albion, Legal and General, American Express amongst others.

In Brighton & Hove, City College Brighton & Hove (CCBH) leases and manages the centre for apprenticeship training and has invited other local providers to use the centre to promote their services, (the Council's Youth Employment Scheme is located there once a week)

The City Council also supports apprenticeships through the Brighton & Hove Local Labour Scheme (BHLES). Established in 2010 BHLES works with construction developers to ensure that local people have access to training and employment of major schemes. The BHLES team work closely with CCBH to arrange training and support for residents on the scheme.

The CESSG is keen to provide a clearer pathway to apprentices for local businesses and public sector employers. The creation of the ATA at Queens Road provides an opportunity for public sector employers to lead the way by recruiting apprentices and also by ensuring that funds linked to apprenticeship programmes and projects are developed in a manner that compliments rather than competes with existing provision.

3. Proposals

As the overarching partnership for employment and skills within the Brighton and Hove, the CESSG would like to propose the following;

- Build on the establishment of the Apprenticeship Training Association [ATA] to provide a one-stop-shop for employers and local people to increase the number of apprentices in the city.
- Retain Brighton and Hove Jobs.com as the web presence for all apprenticeship vacancies within the city
- Fully utilise the City Jobs and Skills shop as the physical hub for apprenticeships within the city, promoting it as a city wide partnership project
- Seek commitment from local public sector employers and the Public Service Board (PSB) as a whole to fully support this approach, committing to the reduction of duplication of provision concerning apprenticeships within their organisations wherever possible
- Commit as public sector employers to recruiting apprentices and providing residents with opportunities for training and employment

4. Progress to date

- A meeting with LA officers in this area of work has been held to clarify roles, responsibilities etc.
- A series of meetings with partner agencies including DWP, City College, National apprenticeship scheme etc conducted
- Paper being produced for PSB and ELT on recommendations and coordination with LA apprenticeship initiative. Paper will go to PSB 26th February