

South West Employment and Skills 'Research Forum'

Research Plan 2003/4

UPDATE - June 2003

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The attached Research Plan provides an update on the Plan submitted on 17th March 2003.
- 1.2 The March Plan submitted emphasised the need 'to identify protocols and processes that will allow research proposals to be taken forwards whenever these emerge'. Since then a 'Communications Protocol' has been established with other FSO groups. Although we are still at an early stage, the arrangements established for joint working appear robust and have, thus far, worked well.
- 1.3 In previous Plan also emphasised the need for flexibility. It set out a timetable for taking forwards research needs expressed by FSO Groups at that date and stressed that 'Further projects are expected, which will need to be included within the Research Forum's developing workplan as they are defined.'
- 1.4 The plan submitted below reflects progress and new priorities that have emerged in the last three months.

RESEARCH PLAN

Strategic Objective / Lead	Aim	Milestones/Outputs	Budget / Source
Research Activities Initiated by FSO Groups			
FSO1 - Flexible Funding Group	A request for research support is anticipated from the Flexible Funding Support Group. The Aims, activities and outputs are under development.	To be agreed	Budget and source to be identified
FSO2 - Employability	Employability Group is developing a research project to examine: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the extent to which current programmes to promote employability equip young people for the world of work - differences in employers', learners' and providers' perceptions and differences between these and policy intent - Scope for regional / local intervention to address issues and mismatches. 	To be agreed Research Forum currently awaiting formal request for research support	To be agreed.
FSO2 - Information Advice and Guidance	SLIM is currently running a 'Learning Theme' on behalf of the IAG Group, to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Examine the impact of IAG services in the region and identify gaps - Identify Good Practice - Identify key issues to be addressed in any further pilot activity 	On-line discussion w/ IAG practitioners - June / July 2003 IAG Workshop - 15 th July 2003 Report and recommendations - August 2003	£30k - from existing SLIM resources

FSO3 - Care	<p>A joint FSO3 / Research Forum 'Research Activity Group' is taking forwards a research project examining how barriers to care limit labour market participation and engagement in skills development and learning.</p> <p>The aim is to inform the formulation of a regional policy to support and encourage employers, learning and information, advice and guidance providers to address care barriers to employment and training.</p>	<p>Contractor selected - 25th July Interim report - October 2003 Final Report - February 2004 Dissemination - March 2004</p>	<p>£75k - South West RDA</p>
FSO3 Group - Emerging Skills Shortages	<p>Ensure the region has early intelligence on skills mismatches</p>	<p>Map available data, current reporting procedures - July 2003</p> <p>Work with FSO 3 to develop recommendations on additional data / analysis requirements - August 2003</p>	<p>SLIM - Existing resources</p>
Research Activities Initiated by Research Forum			
<p>All FRESA Objectives</p> <p>Particular focus on Generic Skills</p>	<p>National Employer Skills Survey (NESS)</p> <p>To analyse findings of NESS, SW Household Survey and Census 2001 and the strategic implications of the data for FRESA and its delivery</p> <p>To improve understanding of issues around engaging employers in generic skills</p>	<p>SW questions on generic skills issues developed - Feb 2003</p> <p>Survey & data preparation - Apr to Sept 2003</p> <p>Regional & Sub regional Reports - Dec 2003</p> <p>Dissemination & Embedding w/ FSO Groups - Jan / Feb 2004</p>	<p>February 2002</p> <p>£50,000 - SW RDA</p> <p>£40,000 - LLSCs</p> <p>£20,000 - SW RDA</p>

All FRESA Objectives Healthy Labour Market Review Group	To develop capacity to assess progress towards a Healthy Labour Market in the South West To review the selected indicators To improve understanding on how Healthy interpret movement in the indicators	Format for review agreed - Feb 2003 Workshops w/ expert input - May & June 2003 Outline report to SWREF - July 2003 Recommendations to SW REF - Sept 2003 Healthy Labour Market Review - Jan 04	£50,000 - SW RDA
Research Forum Research Mapping	To map of current and forthcoming research activity on key FRESA issues identified by FSO Groups	Initial mapping Complete - June 2003 Analysis and reports back to FSO Groups - September 2003	SW SLIM - Existing Resources
Objectives selected by FSO Groups / SWREF	To examine identified FRESA issues via SLIM Learning Themes.	To be agreed	SW SLIM - Existing Resources
Research Activities Initiated by Key Partners			
FSO2: To raise individuals' aspirations and skills for working in the South West FSA2.1 Stimulate individuals' commitment to learning FSA2.3 Develop generic skills for employment	SW Centre for Personal Development Planning To analyse if a coherent approach to Personal Development Planning (PDP) will assist in developing a culture of lifelong learning and effective workforce development. The study will investigate the development of a regional centre for PDP.	Interim Report - Jun 2003 Final Report - Oct 2003	SWRDA - Under tender

<p>FSO1 - To increase employers' participation in Skills Development in the South West.</p> <p>FSO2 – To raise individuals' aspirations and skills for working in the South West</p>	<p>Modern Apprenticeships - Establishing the supply and demand in the South West</p> <p>To identify the role and importance of Modern Apprenticeships (MA) in the South West economy. This study will focus on the supply and demand of MAs within the sectors of economic importance, including the emerging sectors.</p>	<p>Interim Report - Jun 2003</p> <p>Final Report - Aug 2003</p>	<p>SWRDA - Under tender</p>
<p>FSO3 - Develop the efficient and inclusive working of the South West Labour Market</p> <p>FSA3.1 - Provide a Coherent Skills Development Infrastructure.</p>	<p>NVQ Progression Routes</p> <p>To identify the progression routes through the National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) delivery structures in the South West within the sectors of economic importance.</p>	<p>Interim Report - Jun 2003</p> <p>Final Report - Aug 2003</p>	<p>SWRDA - Under tender</p>
<p>FSA1.1: Develop employers' commitment to skills development</p> <p>FSA1.4: Integrate sector skills' activities within the region</p>	<p>Great Expectations</p> <p>To contribute to the raising of standards of quality and take-up of work-based learning in the region's key sectors. This study will focus on and pilot a range of approaches to work-based learning within the sectors of economic importance, including the emerging sectors.</p>	<p>Interim Report - Jul 2003</p> <p>Full Report - Nov 2004</p> <p>Recommendations & Dissemination - Feb 2004</p>	<p>SWRDA - Under tender</p>