

SWESA RESEARCH FORUM

SWESA RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 05/06

Version: August 2005

Strategic Objective/Lead Group	Project Title Project Aim	Anticipated Cost & Match Funding Partner (where known)	Proposed by	Proposed Impact	Lead agencies for action
FRESA FSO1 – Engaging Employers FRESA FSO3- Healthy Labour Market Balance	Flexible Training Solutions for Employers Phase 2 Aims: To gain a better understanding of the key components of effective practice in the delivery of flexible training solutions to employers and the conditions and behaviours within providers that enable effective practice to be developed. It also aims to make recommendations and develop the tools for its replication across training providers in the South West.	£35 K funding secured. Match funding from RDA. Project underway. HOST Policy Consultants.	FRESA/LSCs	Identify components of good practice in flexible training solutions and develop models of practice Develop tools for replication of good practice Test Peer Review processes for change management	SWESA to promote outcomes LLSCs to support replication with providers. Providers to adopt good practices and engage in staff development programmes
FRESA FSO2 – Inspiring Individuals	Generic Employability Skills Phase 2 Aim: To identify approaches to embedding generic	Project approved and LSDA to match fund £10k (awaiting	FRESA Generic Employability Group	To improve practice in delivery of employability skills in the region.	LSDA, LLSCs, SSCs.

	employability into curricula, and the range of approaches to the assessment of such skills.	confirmation). Somerset LSC to provide £10k match funding.			
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Research Forum	ESRC/Regional Skills Partnership Conference Aim: to bring together leading academics in the field of labour markets and skills, together with national and regional policy makers to discuss key issues and trends in regional skills.	Conference took place on 22/23 rd of June.	SLIM	To bring together policy makers and RSP representatives to debate issues and consider latest evidence/share practice.	Inform SW RSP partners of latest academic research and thinking on globalisation and the regions.
SWIP	Labour Market Dynamism Aims: To develop a better understanding of the dynamics of the South West Labour market. This was an issue that arose from the previous HLMR report.	£15K Match funding from RDA	SWIP. Project now completed and awaiting final version of the report. Actions to be discussed by SWIP.	Improve understanding of the nature of the “churn” process in the region, at sectoral and local area and to identify issues of concern.	LLSCs, Jobcentre Plus, Business Links
SWIP	Labour Market Policy Audit Aim: Following a proposal from the Academic Panel of the	£15K Match funding tba	SWIP	To improve understanding of whether and how funding follows	SWESA Board, LLSCs, Job Centre Plus, RDA, Business Links.

	Healthy Labour Market Review, this would focus on how policy and funding impacts on healthy labour market indicators.			policy priorities.	
SWIP	Healthy Labour Market Review Aim: To update and extend the HLMR report for 2005/6.	SLIM	SWIP Now completed	Evidence base for SWESA and part of Balanced Scorecard review of SWESA progress	SWESA Board and Alliance
SWIP	Review of demand for level 3 skills in the South West Aim: To review the demand for level 3 skills in the region. To be linked with the audit above.	Match funding not secured.	SWIP	Requirement of the Skills White Paper.	SWESA Board and Alliance
SWIP	Analysis of impact of qualifications on productivity Aim: To improve understanding of different qualifications levels on productivity at	Work to be conducted by Martin Boddy at UWE. Cost £8,000. RDA to	SLIM	Improve targeting of resources in order to increase productivity performance.	SWESA Board and Alliance, SSCs and LLSCs

	sector level. Extension of Meeting the Productivity Challenge analysis.	match fund in principle.			
SWIP	NESS 2005 Analysis Aim: To provide up to date analysis of NESS data.	West of England LSC to match fund £10,000 subject to agreement	SWIP	To gather and analyse up to date information from ye latest NESS survey.	LSCs, SWESA Board
SWIP	PSA Targets Aim: To bring together all relevant SWESA PSA targets and to establish a framework for monitoring progress.	SLIM to undertake jointly with SWESA research manager.	SWESA secretariate	Improve understanding of performance against key government targets and support joint planning activities	SWESA Board, LLSCs, Jobcentre Plus, Business Links
Skills for Life Strategy Group	Review of Skills for Life Data Aim: To review skills for life data with a view to providing better regional and local breakdown of skills for life data.	SLIM to fund. Meeting with key staff convened	Skills for Life Strategy Group	Improved understanding of skills for life issues in the region as the basis of planning and targeting actions	Skills for Life Unit, LLSCs, SWESA Board, through the Skills for Life Strategy Group
Skills for Life Strategy Group	Employer perceptions of Skills for Life Aim: To develop an understanding of employer views and	RDA match fund in principle up to £20,000. Project	Skills for Life Strategy Group Skills for Life	To improve knowledge and understanding of employer perceptions of	Skills for Life Unit, SWESA Board, LLSCs to improve focusing and impact of

	<p>perceptions of Skills for Life and its contribution to their workforce and business performance.</p> <p>A subset of this research will be to look explicitly at employer perceptions of ESOL needs and the extent to which the existing ESOL programme is fit for purpose. This will focus on a small number of sectors where ESOL issues are felt to be significant. The agreed research approach will define ESOL in terms of specific qualities and eligibility for public support. Initially the scale of need will be determined and then positioned within context. Research should differentiate between language barriers, the need for</p>	<p>agreed and in discussion with Skills for Life Unit RDA have agreed to match fund up to £20,000, yielding a projected overall spend of up to £36k.</p> <p>RDA have agreed to match fund up to £15,000.</p>	<p>Strategy Group</p> <p>Steering Group to include LLSC research managers: Marina Auburn (D and C) and Rosie Gilden (BDP)up</p>	<p>the Skills for Life to better assess the scale of need within the region. Appropriate outcomes for employers will inform their future expectations and uptake of Skills for Life as well as enabling better targeting of promotional campaigns.</p> <p>To improve understanding of ESOL needs in the region and issues affecting delivery of provision. This will underpin targeted action to focus on the greater ESOL needs in industry sectors actively recruiting overseas workers, bearing in mind that ESOL proficiency and available training may not be even across sectors.</p>	<p>campaigns aimed at employers.</p>
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	ESOL training, recruitment issues and the public and private sector, the latter not being eligible for LSC funding.				
Skills of Life Strategy Group	<p>To identify what proportion of those pursuing a level 2 entitlement have functional literacy and numeracy problems</p> <p>Aim: The current imperative is meeting the adult level 2 target. It is hypothesised that many of those pursuing a level 2 entitlement will have problems with functional literacy and numeracy.</p> <p>It is proposed that the research focus on the Employer Training Pilots currently running in Wiltshire & Swindon and Devon and Cornwall LSC areas, which will provide access to</p>	Tba	Skills for Life Strategy Group	Workers entering employment lacking Level 2 qualifications are entitled to free training up to their first Level 2. The research aims to identify the proportion of those coming into work and pursuing a Level 2 entitlement that also have functional literacy and numeracy difficulties, and therefore qualify for free training.	LLSCs, Skills for Life Unit

	<p>relevant data. As the respective cohorts have been active over differing timescales, this would permit measures to be taken based on evidence of their respective progress over longitudinal stages. Employers' perceptions could also be uncovered as part of the research.</p>				
<p>Skills for Life Strategy Group</p>	<p>Destinations and training intentions of those identified and assessed as requiring Skills for Life by Jobcentre Plus</p> <p>Aim: To undertake a longitudinal study of the destinations and training routes of those identified and assessed by Jobcentre Plus as having Skills for Life needs.</p>	<p>This will be subject to funding proposal for NRDC for joint longitudinal study</p>	<p>Skills for Life Strategy Group</p>	<p>To test overall effectiveness of JobCentre Plus screening and subsequent Skills for Life training on workers with low skills, and assess how well interventions have improved their employment prospects.</p>	<p>Jobcentre Plus, LLSCs, Skills for Life Unit</p>
<p>Leadership and</p>	<p>Support for development of</p>				

Management	leadership and management Framework Aim: It is anticipated that the forthcoming consultation exercise aimed at developing the region's management and leadership framework will identify a number of knowledge gaps which will be addressed through the research and knowledge development fund. Initial indications are that the Leadership and Management group will require a regional scoping study.	The RDA has agreed in principle to match fund and leadership and management research priorities.	Management and leadership Steering Group		
Business Brokerage	To be agreed following mapping of business support in September.	RDA has agreed in principle to match fund the business Brokerage priorities.	Business Links		
SWESA Partners (Joint Planning)	Sector Skills Matrix Aim: To develop and populate a framework for a regional sector skills matrix. To develop	RDA has agreed in principle to match fund £20K	Skills for Business Network	To improve access to information and intelligence on sectors within the region and	SWESA Board, SSCs, LLSCs, RDA

	a robust methodology for quantifying numbers who might need qualifications at each level in each sector.			provide a framework for sharing of data by SSCs at the regional level.	
	<p>HE Matricies</p> <p>Aim: To provide data and resources that may be useful in supporting the measures proposed in the <i>HE Metrics</i></p>	SLIM funded internally and project completed	SWRDA and HEFCE		
	<p>Employment without Training</p> <p>Aim: To provide additional cohort information about the types of young people who fall into the employment without training. Learning Theme will inform the development of a detailed specification for the project,</p>	Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole LLSC to provide £10k match funding. Project being commissioned	Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Connexions on behalf of all Connexions services in the region	Under discussion	Connexions and LLSCs

Learning Theme	Young People in employment without training. This will provide qualitative research linked with the proposed Connexions research above.	SLIM to fund Learning Theme underway	Connexions services	Underway	
Learning Theme	Skills for Life Needs at a Sector Level The Learning Theme would focus on the outcome of the Sector Skills Matrix process and aim at developing a dialogue about sector needs for skills for life.	SLIM to fund. To take place Jan to March 2006	Jointly with the Skills for Life Strategy Group		
Learning Theme	Sector Skills Agreements: Making them work in the South West The Learning Theme will bring together SSCS with other partners in the region to look at the development and implementation of SSAs	SLIM to fund. To take place Oct – Dec 2005	Jointly with SSDA and LSCs		

	in the region and what is needed to make them work effectively.				
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Research and Knowledge Development Plan 2005: Summary of projects	Match Funding	Status
Project Title		
Flexible Training Solutions for Employers Phase 2	RDA	Ongoing
Generic Employability Skills Phase 2	LSDA	Under discussion
ESRC/Regional Skills Partnership Conference	SLIM	Completed
Labour Market Dynamism	RDA	Completed
Labour Market Policy Audit	Not yet identified	None
Healthy Labour Market Review	SLIM	Completed
Analysis of qualifications levels on productivity	RDA	Under discussion
Review of PSA targets	SLIM	Under discussion
Review of demand for level 3 skills in the South West	Note yet identified	None
Review of Skills for Life Data	SLIM	Under discussion
Employer perceptions of Skills for Life	RDA	Under development
Functional literacy and numeracy problems of those pursuing a level 2 entitlement have	Not yet identified	None
Destinations and training intentions of those identified and assessed as requiring Skills for Life by Jobcentre Plus	NRDC has been approached	None
Support for development of leadership and management framework	RDA	Under discussion

Skills brokerage research support	RDA	Under discussion
Sector Skills Matrix	RDA	Being initiated
Employment without Training Connexions project	Somerset LSC	Under discussion
Learning Theme: Young People in employment without training.	SLIM	Underway
Learning Them: Skills for Life Needs at a Sector Level	SLIM	None
Learning Theme: Implementation of the Management and Leadership Framework within the South West	SLIM	None