TRAIN TO GAIN

IMPLEMENTING "PLAN FOR GROWTH" - PROGRESS REPORT

16 January 2008

Agenda item 7

Paper LSC 03/2008

Overall

1. The Plan for Growth has been very well received by key partners and stakeholders. All are keen to implement and we intend to maintain the momentum built up through ongoing communications with the sector.

Implementation

2. Since its publication at the end of November, there has been progress on a number of fronts:

- DIUS Ministers have just agreed more detail on flexibilities announced for Leadership and Management, volunteers and the self-employed.
- The model for offering second level 2s to individuals - integrating Local Employment Partnerships and Train to Gain - should be finalised by end January.
- Guidance on these and other flexibilities will be issued to the sector by the end of January.
- Draft transition plans for the transfer of skills brokerage to RDAs (delivered through the Business Link service) are due at the end of January – final plans to be agreed by end March.
- Aim to have agreement shortly on skills brokerage support for larger organisations – expectation that part, if not all of this, can be offered by existing skills broker organisations where they can demonstrate necessary skills and sector expertise.
- First (9) Sector Compacts should be agreed by February. Implementation at regional level will flow from that.
- Aim to have commissioned the strategic change management programme for providers by the end of February. As that rolls out from Spring onwards, we would like to seek Council member sponsorship in its promotion.
- LSC Regional Plans for the expansion of Train to Gain are being developed, ready for sign off by Mark Haysom at the end of March. This will include consistent models of regional operation and delivery.
- Based on projections in Sector Compacts, Regional Plans and employer segmentation strategies, we aim to have a solid assessment of the impact that the Plan for Growth by the end of March.
Implementation Issues

3. We need to balance the imperative of implementation, guidance on flexibilities with a requirement to keep bureaucracy to a minimum and a consistent approach to business and delivery models. Regular and effective communication and Regional Plans will help manage this process.