LSC Appoints New Director of Equality and Diversity
Lee Probert becomes LSC’s youngest ever Director

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) today announces the appointment of Lee Probert as their new Director of Equality and Diversity. Lee will be tasked with developing a new Equality and Diversity strategy for the council. At 24 years of age, Lee also becomes the youngest person ever to be appointed as a Director at the LSC.

Lee previously worked as an Equality and Diversity Advisor at LSC Hereford and Worcestershire, and before that, as an early years’ professional.

Lee will lead the Council’s drive to develop a single equality scheme and will develop and manage their national equality and diversity strategy. This will allow the Further Education (FE) system an opportunity to deliver sustainable change in the equalities area.

Commenting on Lee’s appointment, Mark Haysom, Chief Executive of the LSC, said: “I am delighted that Lee has been appointed into this role. He will be instrumental in driving forward the LSC’s Equality and Diversity agenda and is committed to developing approaches which will ensure that this agenda is available to everyone. He recognises the importance creating a clear and concise LSC Equality and Diversity strategy that is available to all providers”.

Lee Probert said: “One of the first challenges I plan to undertake is to ensure that through our Equality and Diversity strategies everybody is included and that we continue to engage with hard-to-reach people. Context is important in treating all groups equally. We should not just support those groups which have the loudest voice; the opportunities must be available for everybody.

“We need to think more creatively about how we manage funding so that we provide a holistic range of learning opportunities. It’s about offering high quality learning for everybody, all of the time.
“Personally what I will bring is enthusiasm about the policy area, a genuine commitment to making a difference to people’s experiences of learning.

“We shouldn’t treat E&D organisations any differently or be scared of diversity, but we should engage with them to make a difference”.

Impact assessment is central to Lee’s role, he will be working closely with the Department for Education and Skills to ensure that the impact of policies affecting learning is truly assessed and that equality and diversity outcomes are correctly measured and reported.

-ENDS-

Notes to Editors

Learning and Skills Council
The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for planning and funding high-quality vocational education and training for everyone. We have a single goal: to improve the skills of England’s young people and adults to world class standards. Our vision is that by 2010, young people and adults in England have the knowledge and skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce. Established in 2001, we work nationally, regionally and locally from a network of offices across the country.

Biography
Lee Probert was appointed as Director of Equality & Diversity at the LSC in October 2006. Lee replaces Kit Roberts who was previously in the role. Lee is the youngest person ever to be appointed in a Director’s position at the LSC.

Lee trained as an early years professional in Worcester, before joining the Learning and Skills Council in Worcester as their Equality and Diversity Adviser.

Lee is spearheading the work on the single equality scheme within the LSC. As part of Lee’s core work is involved in working with the Department for Education and Skills to make sure that the impact of policies affecting learning is truly assessed. Also, for making sure that outcomes in respect of equality and diversity are properly measured and reported. This includes working on equality impact assessments for the recent Further Education White Paper, the National Skills Strategy and 14-19 Reform.

Lee believes that training and development are fundamental to achieving success in equality and diversity and is delighted to be able to work with the LSC to develop approaches that enable us to ensure that this is for everyone.

For further biographical information and pictures of Lee/ any interview bids, please contact the LSC Press Office on the number below.
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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