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Cardiff
Capital
Region
Skills
Partnership

E-bulletin

Welcome from Leigh Hughes, Chair of the Employment and Skills Board, Cardiff Capital Region Skills Partnership.



As I write we are in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic - a situation which is evolving on a daily basis -and I hope that you and your families are safe and well.

At this difficult time, we want to ensure that you are kept abreast of developments within the skills and education landscape and we will endeavour to keep you informed about what is happening across the region.

The Cardiff Capital Region Skills Partnership (CCRSP) has been established to bring representatives from business, education and training together to promote strategic and collaborative decision making. By doing this we can share sector knowledge and understanding to ensure the region is best placed to prepare and respond to the required development of skills and talent.

In late 2019 we launched our **Employment and Skills Plan: 2019-22**. The production of this strategic document was led by the CCRSP and was developed through a broad range of collaborative approaches. We believe this plan provides robust recommendations to government. It recognises the challenges and sets out the actions needed to address the skills gaps that are a barrier to growth across the region.

We have also refreshed the **website** and updated our data observatory and I would encourage to visit both these as a good source of regional intelligence. (www.ccrsp.co.uk)

Since the launch of the plan activity has developed at pace and we are now very much focussed on delivery. I am pleased to say that we have a dedicated team who will play a lead role, which is fundamental to the process, to ensure our actions and recommendations are met.

We currently find ourselves in an unprecedented situation and the impact that this is having on the education, skills and training landscape is at the forefront of many people's minds. As a parent of two girls who should be sitting GCSE and A Levels, and as an employer, I am very mindful of the challenges this will have on young people and the choices they have to consider and make at these important milestones in their life.

I also recognise the impact this will all have on further and higher education establishments and training providers. The Regional Skills Partnership looks forward to working with you over the coming months, to respond to the resulting skills challenges we will face in the future fight for talent which we expect will be even more competitive.

Best wishes to you all and stay safe.

Leigh



»»» New management appointments

To drive the delivery of the **Employment and Skills Plan** we have appointed two RSP Managers to the team; Huw Wilkinson and Richard Tobutt.

Employed by Newport City Council, who is the host of the CCRSP, Huw and Richard will support the Employment and Skills Board in advising the Welsh Government on the future prioritisation of skills funding in line with the needs of regional employers. They will also work closely with priority cluster groups to both identify and help deliver against the skills challenges that exist on a sector level.



Richard brings a wealth of experience having worked across the skills landscape for nearly 20 years holding a broad range of related job roles.

Richard says, **“I am excited by the new challenge and I hope to have a positive impact when supporting employers to address their skills challenges. I am particularly looking forward to building on the positive working relationships that are already in place with Welsh Government and the providers of education and training across the region”**



Huw has over 12 years of experience developing and delivering a range of regional skills and employability projects at Newport City Council.

Huw told us, **“I am keen to build on new and existing relationships to support the aims of the Regional Skills Partnership and help ensure the Cardiff Capital Region has a skilled workforce that is able to adapt to any challenges we may face.”**

COVID-19 Update

We find ourselves in unprecedented times with the outbreak of Covid-19 and the situation seems to be evolving on a daily basis. We would like to reassure you that the Cardiff Capital Region Skills Partnership (CCRSP) will be working hard to understand the impact on skills and will help you to navigate through these uncertain times.

We would like to thank those businesses working in critical sectors; health, education, social care, manufacturing, technology and our local authorities, who continue to play a vital role in maintaining our essential services. We recognise the significant efforts you continue to make and under incredibly difficult circumstances. You are on the front line and will help us all to better respond to the challenges that lie ahead.

The Welsh Government has published advice and information on COVID-19 for individuals, business and employers, the social, community and residential care sector and the education sector. This advice can be found at <https://www.gov.wales/coronavirus>.

The UK Government has also produced an **action plan** on how to tackle the current coronavirus outbreak. We hope that this guidance will assist both individuals and businesses in preparations to minimise risks and impact and we would encourage you to familiarise yourself with the documentation if you have not done so already.

The CCRSP is committed to keeping you up-to-date with all the latest information relating to the coronavirus so that everybody can stay safe and informed across the region. A broad range of advice can be found centrally on the **Cardiff Capital Region website**.

If you would like to know more about the Cardiff Capital Region Skills Partnership or get involved in our future plans to support a thriving regional workforce, please do not hesitate to contact us.

