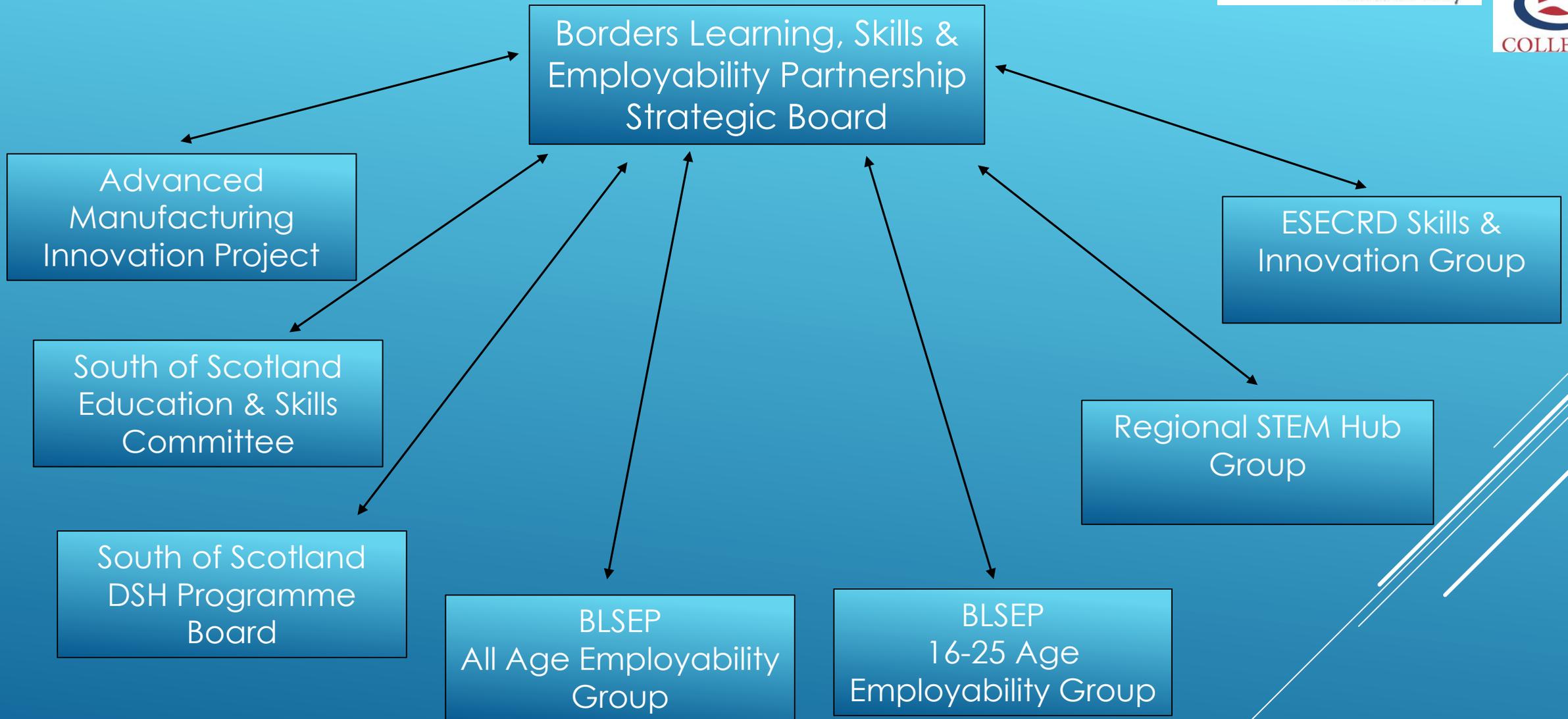


EDUCATION & SKILLS

Community Planning Partnership May 2021 Update

- Borders Learning, Skills & Employability Partnership
- South of Scotland Digital Skills Hub
- Advanced Manufacturing project
- Sustainable futures



BORDERS LEARNING, SKILLS & EMPLOYABILITY PARTNERSHIP



Purpose

To facilitate collective leadership and shared commitment across key partners for the learning and skills offering across the Scottish Borders. The partnership will respond to National, South of Scotland (SoS) and Edinburgh & South East City Regional Deal (ESECRD) skills priorities. The partnership will seek to align the education and skills offer in the Scottish Borders with current and future employment opportunities and provide coherent lifelong learning pathways from foundation to degree level qualifications.

Objectives

- To support the delivery of the education and skills strategy for the Scottish Borders.
- To support the delivery of the Borders Employability strategy
- To drive forward and implement the priorities of the SoS Education and Skills Strategic co-ordination group and ESECRD Skills priorities.
- To drive forward and implement the necessary actions in response to COVID 19, BREXIT and Scottish Government ambitions to ensure that no one is left behind.
- To ensure close alignment of training and employment with current and future employment opportunities.
- To co-ordinate information-sharing and action between strategic and delivery partners.
- To co-ordinate resources to improve opportunities and outcomes

BLSEP MEMBERSHIP

Borders Council – Education and Employability

Borders College

Heriot Watt University

Developing Young Workforce

Skills Development Scotland

Registered Social Landlords

South of Scotland Enterprise

Chamber of Commerce

Third Sector



PARTNERSHIP WORKING OVER LAST YEAR



- Local commitment to ensure no young person was left behind ahead of national campaign
- Over 450 senior phase school pupils on college programmes
- Collaborative Kickstart bid – since October a partnership of public, private and 3rd sector organisations have submitted 4 bids to Kickstart on behalf of employers across the region. So far, 108 placements have been approved with 45 of these submitted to DWP for recruitment. 25 placements have been filled with more anticipated in the coming months. One of these placements has already resulted in a permanent job.
- DYW/Borders College- offer of support to school leavers through 'The Pathway to Employment' course, worked in partnership to deliver a virtual 'Do you Care' event to all , especially those interested in Child, Health & Social Care as a career and raise awareness of employers currently recruiting.
- Borders College/Galashiels Academy – webinars offered as part of apprenticeship week with foundation apprentices taking part to raise awareness of the scheme and the benefits of the FA. Employers, parents and potential students attended.
- SDS/Borders College - Apprentice Employer Grant (offered as part of YPG) 21 successful applications and 35 new MA starts in a variety of settings including small businesses.
- Partnerships with Scottish Borders Council – 75 apprenticeship starts in 2020/21 in Healthcare and Childcare.

SOUTH OF SCOTLAND DIGITAL SKILLS HUB



Brief overview

Background to the formation of the Digital Skills Hub

Began in November 2020

Led by Borders College and Dumfries & Galloway College

Aim: To make the region more competitive by facilitating the delivery of higher level digital skills

Objectives: Provide a digital offer which meets the needs of the region's dispersed population to support digital upskilling and retraining for the key sectors of the south of Scotland's economy

Structure: A Programme Board and an Industry Advisory Group with over 25 partners from education and industry

SOUTH OF SCOTLAND DIGITAL SKILLS HUB

Working with our partners we have:

- identified 'priorities for action.'
- identified four key themes for our work
 - ✓ Educational pathways
 - ✓ Improving access to digital skills
 - ✓ Career Long Professional Learning and mentoring
 - ✓ Upskilling and reskilling for business
- held workstream meetings which identified a 3 year work plan for the Hub
- gained approval for the ESECRD DDI's CPD programme to be rolled out to Dumfries & Galloway College in 2021-22

SOUTH OF SCOTLAND DIGITAL SKILLS HUB



Our current focus:

- running a CPD programme for college lecturers on Data Science which starts this month
- introducing 'Cyber Live' sessions into the region's schools in June
- organising a regional dialogue with south of Scotland employers and individuals to take place this summer to inform the development of the Colleges' digital provision
- developing case studies to reflect regional employment opportunities
- Ensuring strategic partners are aware of the work of the DSH
- DSH priorities remain aligned to national policies
- Access funding in order to deliver on 3 year priorities



AIMS PROJECT

Dumfries and Galloway and Scottish Borders Councils, along with Dumfries and Galloway and Borders Colleges, South of Scotland Enterprise and key stakeholders successfully bid for a funding allocation of £3.3m to deliver the Advancing Innovative Manufacturing in the South of Scotland (AIMS) project.

This project is for manufacturing SMEs in the South of Scotland and will provide access to advanced manufacturing technologies, delivered through a regional hub and spoke approach aligned with the Skills and Learning Network launched by Borders College and Dumfries and Galloway College.

Services will include:

- Training and upskilling the workforce
- R&D investment/innovation/concept development
- Product realisation
- Enabling a manufacturing ecosystem

OUR FUTURE AMBITION...



A PARTNERSHIP RESPONSE TO SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH EDUCATION, KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE AND ADOPTION OF TECHNOLOGIES

Progress to date

- Sustainability Summit planned with Eildon Housing, Borders Council & College
- Borders College leading on 3 Fringe events at COP 26
- Working with SOSE Energy Transitions Group, College Sector Energy Skills Partnership and SDS Climate Emergency Skills Action Plan
- Working with Change Works on upskilling local tradespeople

Future priorities

- Carbon literacy education programme in schools, college and community
- Sustainability Champions and Innovation Catalyst Programme