

Skills Network Annual Conference 2017 Event Report

Skills, Collaborations, Futures

Over 150 delegates from across the city region's education and skills arena gathered to be part of Leeds City Region Skills Network's Annual Conference, hosted at Bradford College's Advanced Technology Centre.

Led by Ian Billyard, Chair of Leeds City Region Skills Network and WYCC and Leeds College of Building Principal, the conference marked the sixth of its kind with topical presentations from Roger Marsh OBE and Stephanie Burras CBE from the LEP.

The Rt Hon, the Lord Andrew Adonis of Camden Town also delivered a thought provoking key note speech on the influential role of skills providers amidst a challenging climate of change and uncertainty.

The conference concluded with the launch of West Yorkshire Consortium of Colleges (WYCC) two funded projects, More Skills, Better Jobs and Reach Higher along with an insight into future opportunities.

Closing the conference, Ian Billyard added: "Through this collaborative partnership we continue to maximise growth through the vital role we play in supporting learners and communities. The recent funding secured marks the next phase of partnership working, led by the Consortium, which will provide sustainable, long-term solutions to the local economy."

Full presentations available at www.leedscityregionsskillsnetwork.co.uk



Summary of Key Note Speeches and Presentations

Roger Marsh OBE, LEP Chair

Roger provided an overview of the impact and successes of the Leeds Enterprise Partnership (LEP) over the past year, these included developing the only inclusive growth programme in the country, securing £67.5 million in Growth Deal funding and the significant investment in world-class further education facilities.

Support for 2,000 SMEs through the Growth Service and the creation of 1,340 jobs were highlighted as leading examples of the economic growth benefits for local business and communities.

Roger set out the LEP's ambitions for the next year which included support for the growth of 2,500 business, creation of 1,550 jobs and safeguarding 500 other jobs alongside assistance for 1,000 individuals to access employment.

Stephanie Burras CBE, LEP Employment and Skills Panel Chair

Stephanie highlighted the LEP's commitment to working with the Network to meet the objectives of the *Employment & Skills Plan: Skilled People, Better Jobs* by ensuring that the city region's workforce has more and higher level skills to meet the demand of the jobs of the future as well as addressing the inclusive growth agenda.

Delivery Agreements for each of West Yorkshire's colleges, setting out how each college aims to address acute skills shortages faced by key sectors was also announced. The agreements are the first of their kind in the UK, representing a 'landmark' partnership with the LEP and the West Yorkshire Combined Authority.

“The Skills Network is a real asset to achieving mutual employment & skills goals across the

The Rt Hon the Lord Adonis of Camden Town

“We need to nurture the pathway to skills”

Lord Adonis delivered a thought provoking key note speech acknowledging the marked improvement that has been made in terms of the partnerships between FE, HE and private training providers, citing the Skills Network as one of the strongest collaborations he'd seen to date.

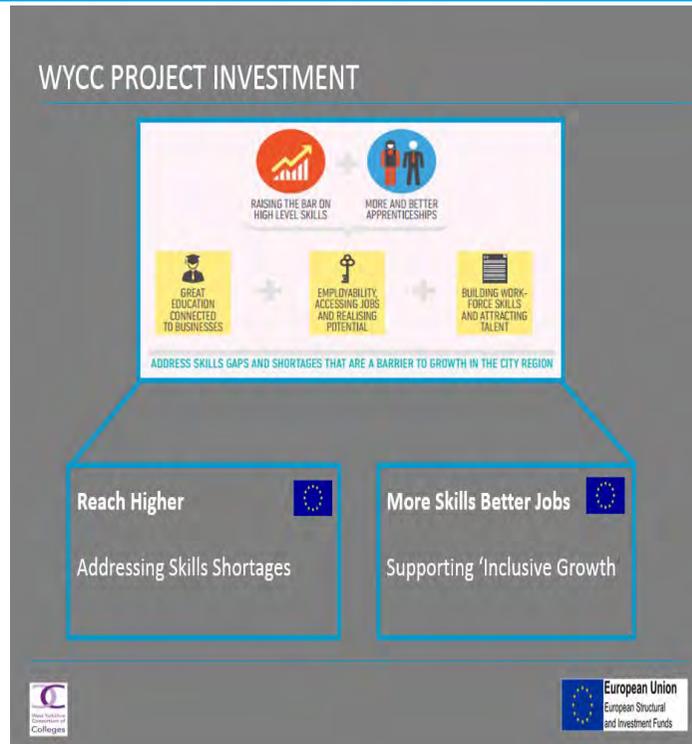
Lord Adonis reflected on his time in government and the reforms made during that period.

He also spoke candidly about apprenticeships and welcomed questions from delegates and open discussions on technical education and funding, amongst other topical themes.

WYCC Project Funding Announcements

REACH HIGHER

- £3.5 million investment
- Addressing Skills Shortages
- Widen participation in higher level skills
- Increase take up high level education and training
- Improve the employability
- Support for work placements, internship and conversion programmes
- Programme co-designed by employers within priority sectors
- Leading to employment where there are skills shortages and barriers to growth in the City Region



MORE SKILLS BETTER JOBS

- £2 million investment
- Supporting Inclusive Growth
- Tackling the In Work poverty agenda through skills development
- Piloting Approaches to In Work Progression
- Apply JRF best practice & recommendations into service design & delivery
- Supporting individuals who don't traditionally engage with training
- Increased labour and social mobility and greater earning potential.
- Reduce the gender employment & wage gap
- Reduce the risk of underemployment

SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITY



merran mcrae @merranmcrae · Jul 19

Good start to @LCRSkillsNetwk with @WYCColleges & @LeedsCityRegion talking collaboration & shared focus on skills



LCR Skills Network @LCRSkillsNetwk · Jul 19

@steffiburras up next sharing @LeedsCityRegion's employment & Skills achievements and plans!



WYCC @WYCColleges · Jul 19

.@rogermarshOBE sharing #skills capital activity to date across all our #fe colleges #investinskills



Andrew Adonis @Andrew_Adonis · Jul 19

Great to be @BradfordCollege speaking at conf of 7 FE colleges in region to discuss 'skills revolution.' Great city; great future



The LEP @LeedsCityRegion · Jul 19

ESP chair @steffiburras highlights the success of #apprenticeships in #LeedsCityRegion w a growth rate of 8% v 2% nationally #investinskills



Michelle Hunter @InspiringLCR · Jul 20

@Andrew_Adonis @LCRSkillsNetwk we need a revolution in skills training! "We only have a great future if young ppl have great jobs!" 🌟



Ben Still @benstill_ca · Jul 20

Lord Adonis saying education and skills is half way through a revolution. But only half way..



LTU Business Network @LTUBusinessNet · Jul 19

Great to be at the @LCRSkillsNetwk Skills Conference this morning #InvestInSkills @LeedsCityRegion

“Good discussions with economic and social transformation at the heart”

“A really successful event”

“Spotlight on future needs and aspirations—good to be involved”

“Lord Adonis was thought provoking”

“I’m glad to be a part of this unique network”

“A very interesting and enjoyable event”

“Welcome insight from key figures at the LEP”

“Congratulations on a fantastic event”

“Nothing but positive things to say about the morning as a whole”

FURTHER INFORMATION

About Us

For more general information about us and our work, visit www.leedscityregionskillsnetwork.co.uk

Follow us on twitter [@LCRSkillsNetwk](https://twitter.com/LCRSkillsNetwk)

To access presentations from the conference visit <https://www.leedscityregionskillsnetwork.co.uk/latest-news/2017/07/annual-conference-2017>

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