

## Segment Two

**Sector:** Textile Manufacturing

**Executive summary:** Let's Talk Real Skills asks for an understanding of SME needs and demands for training provision by utilising the intelligence gathered in the Segment 1 report to consult with employers, providers and individuals, and to assess whether current provision is meeting the needs of industry and the people who need to access the learning. It will also determine the appetite of providers to explore new methods of course delivery and their support to develop a collaborative skills and training pathway offer for the region. An employer action learning group will be established to provide input, support the project and benefit from the outcomes.

This report details the actions (taken or ongoing) that are relevant to Segment 2, but not in isolation to the requirements of other segments, e.g., three and four. One example is apposite: in the case of the half-day digital workshop delivered in March 2020 new content that has been developed and put into practice has yielded further valuable feedback from those participating companies, and that has been used in this report.

The region's F&T businesses have had to respond to a number of difficult circumstances in the last year with no end in sight. The prevailing economic uncertainty surrounding the UK was compounded by flooding earlier in the year (2020), and by the current Covid-19 health crisis with its associated impact on the economy. Some F&T businesses have ceased to trade as a result. This draft report highlights some of the key issues that businesses had reported upon prior to the current pandemic, and on some of the effects that it has caused in the months since it began. It identifies eleven gaps and opportunities for skills enhancement, most, if not all of which will be relevant in the changed business environment emerging from the effects of Covid-19. In addition, Appendix 3 suggests a pathway to continue an investigation in the further needs of the sector in light of the effects of the pandemic.

The draft report also investigates how some Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) pathways might be improved for the sector; another area made even more important because of the impact of Covid-19. A section relating to digital approaches to Health and Safety training provision identifies some key issues for the sector but was written before the full impact of Covid-19 occurred and is therefore included as an appendix. Some of the recently developed content for new courses that was included in an earlier draft of this report has been removed for inclusion in the Segment 3 report.

**Key findings/conclusions:** The report identifies twelve areas to be considered for action. Some issues are identified in the knowledge that some action is being undertaken by organisations working in a wider environment than the LCR, e.g., training on equipment manufactured overseas. Others can be considered for direct action within the LCR, e.g., reducing lead times, improved business planning or new content and delivery for training programmes.

The construction of a group of key fashion and textile stakeholders to assist with the consultation and evaluation of the LTRS work was an objective fulfilled early in the project. Invitations were sent out to representatives from the region's policy makers, universities, colleges and businesses with a good response.

The group (called the Action Learning Group but now renamed as a Collaborative Skills Partnership) met for the first time in October 2019, principally in order to be introduced to some of the key findings of the Segment 1 report, then in draft format, which was then commented upon and signed off formally at a later date. A second meeting was to be held in April 2020 but this was postponed due to the current medical situation. In the meantime, an update was provided to members in January with a face-to-face meeting with LTRS project leaders taking place in early March.

The construction of the group is sufficiently fluid for new members to be advocated and introduced where appropriate, particularly when considering what might emerge from the research findings. Most face-to-face meetings have been on hold currently pending a resolution to the Covid-19 pandemic. Some meetings have been held online both out of necessity and to maintain some progress.

Find out more about the Textile Manufacturing Collaborative Skills Partnership and get in touch through - <https://www.westyorkshirecolleges.co.uk/contracted-projects/lets-talk-real-skills/textile-manufacturing>