

West Yorkshire Skills Partnership

Context: The Leeds City Region Skills Network was formed in 2010 in response to the emerging LCR Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). It provided a forum for discussion on the skills priorities for the Leeds City Region area and how best these could be delivered by the provider network. The concerns and issues raised were articulated at the LEP's Employment and Skills Board by the Chair of the Skills Network who represented the views of the group.

In 2012 a Partnership Agreement was signed between all FE colleges, universities, independent training providers and the LEP which was endorsed by the then Minister for Skills, Matt Hancock. It stated:

"Members of the Leeds City Region Skills Network and our partners share the ambition of fulfilling the skills needs of the city region economy. We are committed to supporting individuals, employers and businesses to access the skills needed to achieve economic growth.

The Leeds City Region Skills Network brings together representatives from organisations in Leeds City Region who deliver skills and training; FE Colleges, Universities, Higher Education Institutions, Private Providers and Voluntary Sector Providers from across the LCR geography."

In 2021 the machinery of local government has changed. There is now a West Yorkshire Combined Authority, which is about to become a Mayoral Combined Authority.

The group has considered the terms of reference to reflect the changes to geography and funding systems. As a result, the Leeds City Region Skills Network has agreed to change its name to the **West Yorkshire Skills Partnership.**

The West Yorkshire Skills Partnership is an established network. There is a web-page <https://www.WYskillspartnership.co.uk>, which will be used to update members and disseminate strategic information.

Role of West Yorkshire Skills Partnership

The West Yorkshire Skills Partnership provides one place for providers from across sectors (universities, FE colleges, independent training providers) to come together to shape and influence skills policy and strategy where there are clearly shared priorities and collective positions can be reached.

The remit of the group is to:

- Provide strategic contributions to the West Yorkshire skills system in relation to global, national and local policy development, implementation and evaluation.
- Enhance integrated and system leadership by working with FE, HE, private and community providers alongside the region's employers
- Working with employer representative bodies, collectively respond to employer needs.
- Cascade decisions and information and provide strategic direction back to the networks represented.
- Better understand the challenges and operational realities of skills delivery.
- Support the West Yorkshire skills system in the identification of skills priorities and the sharing of best practice.
- Support the region's ambitions to increase productivity, create more inclusive growth and tackle climate change.

Frequency of Meetings

It has been agreed that the standard frequency of meetings will be once per quarter. This will be subject to change should meetings be required more urgently.

Membership of Network:

- Higher education establishments
- Further education institutions
- Independent training providers based in the Region.
- Representatives will be sought from the Voluntary Sector
- The West Yorkshire Combined Authority

Chair: The Chair of the West Yorkshire Skills Network will be provided by the West Yorkshire Consortium of Colleges.

Two Deputy Chairs:

- A named representative from the Yorkshire Learning Providers network
- A named representative from one of the Yorkshire Universities

Members may nominate a named deputy from the constituent group they represent.

Communication Plan

The Wider Forum of the West Yorkshire Skills Partnership will be invited to consultative events as required.

The Partnership will seek to hold an annual conference open to all the Wider Forum in July of each year.

The members of the West Yorkshire Skills Partnership would be expected to consult with the members they represent. Board members are requested to disseminate information and to share meeting minutes with the wider group they represent.

It is recommended that members of the West Yorkshire Skills Partnership share news, reports and information that they would like to see communicated on the West Yorkshire Skills Partnership website and social media channels.

Annual Skills Network Conference

Agreed to hold annual conference. The 2021 conference will be on the 1st July.