

Skills North East Regional Employment and Skills Partnership



WHAT IS THE REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS PARTNERSHIP?

Originally established in 2004, Skills North East is one of nine Regional Skills Partnerships across England, working through its partners to identify and meet employment and skills needs in the region.

The Partnership's mission is to improve the North East's economic performance by fulfilling the region's employment and skills aspirations.

HOW DOES THE PARTNERSHIP WORK?

The Partnership is open to all organisations involved in employment and skills in the North East who sign up as members via the website (www.skillsnortheast.co.uk). Partners are encouraged to get involved in ongoing consultations and events and will come together once or twice a year to review progress.

The Board, which meets quarterly, is led collaboratively by Chris Thompson of Express Engineering, who is also One North East Vice Chair and James Ramsbotham, Chair of the Regional LSC Board and CEO of North East Chamber of Commerce.

The Board is made up of key employer representatives and strategic funders. It has responsibility for steering the Regional Employment and Skills Partnership until the introduction of the new Skills Funding Agency and Young People's Learning Agency, planned for 2010.

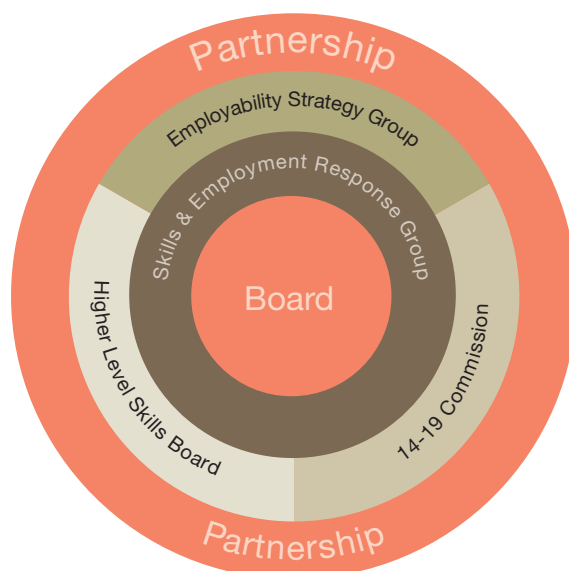
The Board's key role is to engage with Government on critical regional employment and skills issues and lobby for change.

Their key focus is on driving integrated and flexible local delivery, and responding in the short term to the economic downturn.

The Partnership's priorities are delivered by the **North East 14-19 Commission**, the **Higher Level Skills Board**, and the **Regional Employability Strategy Group**, key working groups of the Partnership, supported by a small Executive Group who meet monthly to engage partners and progress business. The **Skills and Employment Response Group (SERG)** has been set up to tackle the impact of recession and prepare for the upturn.



James Ramsbotham and Chris Thompson



WHAT DOES THE PARTNERSHIP DO?

The Partnership

- Actively engages stakeholders to respond to employment and skills needs and economic challenges in the region
- Works collaboratively with sub-regional partners, supporting the development of sub-regional Employment and Skills Boards
- Develops an employment and skills strategy for the region to promote economic success, high employment and productivity
- Provides a regional voice to influence key national stakeholders, public funding for employment and skills, and priorities for investment

KEY TASKS

The work of the Partnership is based around ten key tasks which have been identified as the priorities for regional working on employment and skills.

1. Respond to the economic downturn
2. Develop a regional employment and skills strategy
3. Provide a robust labour market evidence base
4. Promote development of higher level skills
5. Integrate skills brokerage and business support arrangements
6. Support sub-regional Employment and Skills Boards to engage with employers
7. Maintain an overview of arrangements for 14-19 and post-19 provision
8. Influence key national stakeholders and public funding for employment and skills
9. Support local partners to involve, listen to and inspire learners
10. Attract and retain talent in the region

Further information about the Partnership is available on the Skills North East website

www.skillsnortheast.co.uk

