

# Skills and Productivity Board - meeting 10

Monday 21 February 2022

Sanctuary building, London

11:00 to 16:00

## Attendees

- Angela Noon – Chair (from 12.30)
- Claire Crawford
- Ken Mayhew
- Ewart Keep
- Arun Advani
- Andy Dickerson
- SPB Secretariat
- Deputy Director for Skills Analysis - Frank Bowley

## Apologies

- Grace Lordan

## Agenda Item 1 – Skills matching analysis

Board members presented an update on the work and analysis conducted relating to skills matching and debated the key messages to pull out in the publications for released in the Spring. Board members agreed that the policy report would have the greatest reach, and that it should review some of the methodological issues the Board has faced, which the work of the Unit for Future Skills can built upon.

The Board discussed how the labour market is not quite as dynamic as some people would have believe – skills most used in the labour market today are also the ones in the priority areas and in shortage today. The Board noted that while macro

quantitative data is helpful, this is insufficient to identify changing needs at a local level - something more sophisticated will be required to drive local skills policy forward.

**Angela Noon joined the meeting**

## **Agenda Item 2 – Plans and development**

The Deputy Director for Skills Analysis, Frank Bowley, shared an update on the development of the Unit for Future Skills, recently announced in the Levelling Up White Paper. Frank said that the Unit was a priority for the Secretary of State and stressed the importance of making data understandable and accessible.

Board members raised points for consideration around the strategy and delivery impact of the new Unit, and stated that making data as accessible as possible would be a hugely positive step.

Angela pressed on what work the Unit would undertake to look at future skills, as analysis on existing data is, by definition, backward looking. She described that the greatest opportunity is by linking into the wider Government economic strategy.

## **Agenda Item 3 – Skills, productivity and place**

Ewart Keep and Ken Mayhew presented an update on their respective papers in response to Question 3.

After discussion it was agreed by the Board that it would be best to keep the two papers separate. The Board also agreed that all three papers relating to skills, productivity and place should be published with a 4-5 page 'executive summary', drawing links between them and summarising key messages.

## **Agenda Item 4 – Longitudinal Education Outcomes analysis update**

Claire Crawford and Arun Advani presented a slide pack summarising findings from their analysis of Longitudinal Education Outcomes (LEO) data. A final draft of their paper is expected to be reviewed by the Board in the coming week before publication in the Spring.

Board members provided initial thoughts and discussed how the paper linked into, and provided support for, the key findings on the importance of place from the two discussion papers presented by Ken and Ewart.

## **Agenda Item 5 – Plan for Spring publications**

The SPB secretariat presented the Board with a draft plan and timeline for the publication of the Board's work.

The Board agreed to two post-publication engagement events, presenting the boards work with to relevant actors and interested parties, followed up by a Q&A session.

The first event is to cover work done around skills matching. It is agreed that the Unit for Future Skills will be best suited to host this event, given it will to build on the work of the SPB, with employers and OGDs in attendance.

The second event will cover skills, productivity and place. The audience to include teams from within DfE and from other government departments, as they are positioned to take the work forward.

## **Agenda Item 6 – AOB**

The Board shared an updated on the progress on the commissioned international research project, confirming that the work was on schedule.

The next Board meeting is to be scheduled.

**Next board meeting 16<sup>th</sup> March**