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Leading learning and skills

Celebrating Success

London Learning and Skills Councils
celebrate the success of all partners
in delivering skills for London

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Welcome to our Review of the Year

This document celebrates all that's been achieved **together** in London.

These successes are the collective achievements of all those who work together to deliver education and training, and strive to ensure that people in London have the skills they need for sustained career progression – and for a thriving capital city with a skilled workforce.

The LSC works in tandem with a whole host of other organisations, such as further education colleges, work-based learning providers and the voluntary sector to deliver education and training, influencing the way in which the curriculum is delivered and to raise the levels of quality. The LSC regional approach has proved very significant – and our partners agree. We're operating in a more coherent way that's meeting the needs of Greater London even more effectively.

We're using our regional budget in a much more cost-effective and focused way and we're providing one voice, not only in terms of the contribution that the LSC makes in London, but also in the influence that we have on education, training, employment opportunities and supporting disadvantaged communities.

We will continue to strengthen the regional approach, because that helps us to make the biggest impact with the resources we have available. At the same time we want to ensure that we build on local relationships and responsiveness, because this is one of the unique strengths of the LSC.

We've achieved much in the past four years with the promise of further gains through operating in a streamlined way and, through the new Agenda for Change, working with our colleges, work-based learning providers, local authorities and others to create a more dynamic education and skills sector in London.

Jacqui Henderson



Jacqui Henderson CBE
Regional Director, LSC London

Learners

Improving the Learning Environment

The London Region LSC budget for 2005/06 is more than **£1.4 billion**, **an increase over the previous year of almost 8 percent**. We fund 253 School Sixth Forms; 55 Colleges; 175 Work Based Learning Providers and 33 Local Authorities to deliver Adult and Community learning opportunities.

In the past year almost **2 million people** in London have accessed education and training funded by the LSC.

The outcome of the London LSC **Strategic Area Review** has been to emphasise the need to target our resources to address the legacy created by a considerable period of underperformance and underachievement for young people in London at the age of 16, which often resulted in economic inactivity. Through forging strong 14-19 partnerships in each borough and investing in innovative vocational curriculum post-16, as well as prioritising education and training opportunities for 16-19 year olds,

the LSC has played a key role in the increased levels of attainment over the past four years.

Driving up quality across both facilities and provision is working. London has the **highest percentage of young people staying on in full-time education or training**. We have seen an increase of **17,500 young people** studying at Further Education colleges, and success rates for young people and adults are both **up by 6 percent**.

We are working closely with colleges and other providers to improve the quality of provision in London. In the last year 5 of the 12 Further Education Colleges and Sixth Form Colleges that were inspected were **graded as outstanding**.

Research confirms that investment to improve the quality of facilities and buildings for learners has a marked effect on educational outcomes: driving up student retention and success rates. Across London we have already invested over **£84 million**

across 48 projects, to improve learning facilities. As part of the new regional approach to infrastructure investment the LSC in London is helping to create world-class facilities for learners.

Many of our capital investment projects have come to fruition, including:

- City Lit
- City & Islington College
- Ealing, Hammersmith & West London College
- Uxbridge College
- Crossway Sixth Form Centre
- Hackney Community College
- Sir George Monoux College
- Enfield College
- Merton College
- Carshalton College.

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Our priority in London has been to deal with a market failure for adult skills across two areas: basic skills needs in numeracy, literacy and languages; ensuring that adults have at least a level 2 vocational qualification, the minimum requirement for the majority of employers.

Skills

Skills for Growth

The London region's economic strength is rooted in human talent. It is expressed through finance and business, knowledge-based creative and cultural industries and through service industries, all of which compete internationally for London's workforce and markets.

The LSC has set up **47 Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVEs)** across London, with a further 9 in development. Following **£16 million of investment** they are providing responsive and flexible learning using the most up-to-date facilities and equipment to provide high quality vocational skills training to support economic growth and meet the skills needs of London's employers.

The London CoVE network is meeting the needs of the capital's major sectors: construction, rail and automotive engineering; health and social care; retail and fashion; hospitality and catering; media technology; business and IT and horticulture.

The LSC is leading on employer engagement, targeting new sectors and those employers that do not have training as an integral part of their business strategy for growth.

We have a regional contract with Business Link for London and Reed in Partnership, under the banner of *AddMore* to deliver the skills needs of small and medium sized enterprises. To date this contract has successfully signed up over **650 learners**. Our Employer Training Pilot in London East has provided learning opportunities for more than **12,000 employees** and over **1,000 organisations**.

Recognising the importance of leadership excellence the LSC promotes leadership support to owner managers across London and has hosted Leadership Masterclasses benefiting more than **200 business leaders**. A further 400 attended Business Breakfasts aimed at **black and minority ethnic business owners**.

This year we have expanded the highly successful central London **Business Alumni group** extending it across the region. This group is a dynamic forum of leading employers committed to promoting the importance of skills development in the capital including Bovis Lend Lease, BUPA Hospitals, Harrods and Prudential Property Investment Managers.

We continue to build the skills of young people by the on-going development of the Apprenticeship offer in London. We have **exceeded our target by 6 percent** for the number of young people starting the programme and, importantly, achieving the qualification. There are now over **16,000 young people** taking part in London. Apprenticeship achievements have **risen by 12 percent** in the last couple of years. We have also developed the Apprenticeship model to meet the needs of Public Sector employers, encouraging more young people to consider a career in this vital sector for London.

The London region also supported **Skill City 2005**, which was held in July at the Excel centre. This unique exhibition provided young people with the opportunity to 'have-a-go' at a wide range of vocational training options. Exhibitors included London colleges and training providers along with high-profile employers such as the BBC, Marks and Spencer, John Lewis and L'Oreal.

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Links to the Economy

Working Together Brings Success

The health of London's economy is not only vital to the capital but also to the rest of the country. London delivers almost 20 percent of the UK's GDP. At £116.44 billion, London's economy is larger than that of Finland, Portugal and the Republic of Ireland. The LSC in London has an important leadership role, providing drive and direction to the delivery of world-class learning and skills throughout the capital. In the past year we have been instrumental in leading and contributing to partnerships to meet this challenge. We have introduced new ways of working that will meet the needs of London's employers, from small micro businesses to large multi-national organisations.

We are increasing the pool of available young people for London businesses, in the last year we have seen a **drop of 20,000** in the number of young people that are not participating in employment, education or training or whose status was unknown.

Building on the Framework for Regional Employment and Skills Action (FRESA), the London Skills Commission, led by the London LSC and the London Development Agency (LDA) is bringing together key stakeholders to ensure that the skills needs of the London economy are met. We are engaged in achieving a shared vision: for London to create a **healthy and dynamic labour market** accessible by all residents, to deliver benefits to employers, employees and the wider community.

The LSC in London has played an important role in delivering the skills needed by employers in **regeneration areas**, including the Thames Gateway, Terminal 5, Wembley Stadium, Kings Cross, Battersea, The Upper Lea Valley, Grahame Park Area and White City. This will continue to be a major focus and we are already engaged in the 2012 Olympic preparations. We are determined that local people will have the chance to gain the skills and experience required to reap the benefits of this wonderful opportunity.

As the success of the 2012 Olympics will depend upon the availability of highly competent workers in a wide range of vocational sectors, the emphasis on the regional role of the LSC will be increasingly essential in ensuring the right provision is available for young people, adults and employers.

We are working with the Sector Skills Councils to deliver a joint response to the Government Skills priorities through the emerging **Sector Skills Agreements**. We have four agreements in place with CITB Construction Skills, e skills uk, Skillset (audiovisual) and SEMTA (science, engineering and manufacturing technologies alliance).

Equality & Diversity

Offering Opportunity for All

London is one of the most diverse places in the world. Our new regional approach to equality and diversity is building on our current successful activities and strengthening our relationships with London's diverse communities and groups.

In the past year we have made it possible for more than **350,000 people** to improve their basic skills in literacy and numeracy while a further **170,000 people** have taken English for Speakers of other Languages (ESOL) courses. All of this was delivered through LSC funded provision and means that we have achieved **125 percent** our Skills for Life target.

The five London LSCs have led a range of valuable local projects to tackle Equality and Diversity and maximise impact across London. All these efforts are now co-ordinated within an overarching **London Race Equality Scheme Action Plan**.

Through our provider network we are:

- **Increasing success rates** – high participation sometimes masks low achievement among black and minority ethnic (BME) groups
- **Challenging stereotypes** – providers are actively addressing stereotyping in vocational education and training
- **Improving monitoring** – to be able to effectively tackle access to provision, accurate monitoring by providers of disadvantaged groups is essential.

Examples of regional projects include:

- Employability, a regional European Social Funded (ESF) project **helping people with disabilities** access employment or further learning in the cultural, creative or tourism sectors. It also encourages this sector to recruit people with disabilities

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- English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) – an astonishing **47 percent** of England's ESOL provision is delivered in London. We are leading the regional strategic partnership to identify and respond effectively to learners' and employers' needs.

- The shortage of trained electricians in the capital is being addressed by Action Replay, a regional ESF project that works with young African Caribbean people helping them achieve National Vocational Qualifications in domestic and commercial electronics.

- Our Migrants and Refugees Qualifications programme is enabling people to realise their potential and is helping to **alleviate regional skills shortages**.

- The Women's Management and Leadership ESF training project is supporting women from small and micro businesses by improving their business management and leadership skills and is ultimately **helping more small and micro businesses succeed** in the capital.

The London LSCs have successfully allocated and matched the £230 million invested in the capital through ESF. We have funded 58 London-wide projects, reaching out to some of the most disadvantaged groups living in the capital.

This year the London LSCs have worked closely with London Probation Service to significantly improve achievement for Skills for Life, **exceeding the target by 18 percent**. The LSC will assume full responsibility for the new integrated service for offender learning in prisons and probation by August 2006.