

Notes from Management and Leadership Strategic Forum Meeting 25th March 2009

[More at: http://www.sfbn-mandl.org.uk/files/Forum_meetings/090325/080930_Forum_meet.html]

Present

Neli Dlamini, Vince Glover, Mo Lancaster, Carl Leonard, Derek Hartshorne, John McNamara, David Weaver, Linda McCourt, Jo Welch, Neil Park, Nigel Payne; Robert Hackling

In Attendance

Steve Studd, John Thorpe, Mike Hender, Nigel Crouch,

Apologies

James Murdock, Mike Lynham, Sue Green, Sarah McCarty Steve O'Keeffe, Chris James, Emma Skipper, Karen Woodward, Simon Leckie, Terry Roberts, Mike Carty, Lisa Devayya, David Cowey, Dawn Vinall

Steve Studd welcomed everyone to the meeting, the first one of 2009, and the first under the new arrangements working on behalf of the Alliance

Notes of last meeting 25 September 2008

In his opening remarks Steve covered the two major actions. The first was to develop a suitable programme of activity that the CEOs and the Alliance would welcome and agree to support going forward. This meeting showed that the M&L programme is back up and running. The second item focused on Simon Perryman's (UKCES) commitment that a joint Alliance – UKCES commissioning group would be established to help address in a logical and coherent way, the cross sector issues. This group has met twice but is still to deliver an agreed way forward.

Report on Progress

Steve introduced this item by advising the Forum that the arrangements for contracting around the NOS and SQS for Management and Leadership had changed. A paper was tabled that captured the key points and there was also a report from the MSC to the Forum on progress made in their developments.

It was agreed that, for the NOS and the work associated with the SQS, it was essential that the SSCs felt ownership of the process. Steve stressed that he was disappointed in the way the contracting had been handled by the UKCES not with the relationships between the SSCs and the CMI/MSC.

Steve pointed out that he was meeting the Chief Executive of the CMI in the next few weeks.

Action 1 the Forum supported the idea that the Steve should be positive in the meeting seeking to ensure their ongoing cooperation and close support, but to seek a formal commitment from them to engage the SSCs at all times.

Mike Hender then led the Forum through the various outcomes that are expected of our work and the progress towards them.

A full PowerPoint presentation covering this is on the web site at http://www.sfbn-mandl.org.uk/files/Forum_meetings/090325/Project_Update_090325.pptx

The report also updated members on developments in the Home Nations.

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The Sector Compacts analysis stimulated some interesting debate. The Forum recognised that a commitment to in excess of 14,000 interventions in M&L by SSCs was a huge step forward from previous years.

Action 2 – the information we hold in Compacts to be sent to all members with a request that they update the information. It was also felt as useful if SSCs would indicate whether any of the core M&L solutions figure in their Compacts. A final request was to see if we can go on to develop a UK wide picture of the commitments being made.

Action 3 – If the SSC is willing to share their Compact we would welcome that to encourage sharing of good practice etc.

Update on Train to Gain

A number of SSCs gave updates on their activities associated with Train to Gain. A common theme was that the new landscape was difficult to navigate in a joined-up way. The existence of brokers, who often were not aware of the existence of our work, was frustrating.

Colleagues did express concerns that, if an employer was referred on to a poor broker by the SSC then this reflected badly on the SSC. However all recognised that SSCs really have to find a positive way of working with the brokers. This may be a piece of further work the SSCs could undertake. Some sector are holding task and finish groups with the brokers and this appears to be having a positive effect.

The offer to be made also differed from region to region.

Carl Leonard painted a more encouraging picture of SSCs working together and leveraging out significant money in support of our core offer like Action Learning.

Action 4 – Pick out some of the helpful pointers and start to build a toolkit for Train to Gain activity to guide SSCs. Lessons to be learned like appointing a Compact Manager; getting protocols in place as to who does what in the partnership.

Management and Enterprise Essentials

Derek Hartshorn gave a short update – all information is posted on the web site at the top of the first page.

Inspirational Leadership

Nigel Crouch updated colleagues on work that had been undertaken with SSCs in recent months – this presentation is on the web site.

Action 5- members to contact Nigel if they required further information.

Update from the Alliance

John McNamara, newly appointed CEO of the Alliance joined the meeting and gave a very informative and upbeat presentation as to what the top 5 priorities for the Alliance were, as well as the 3 things of upmost importance in his in tray!

Top 5:

1. Alliance as a collective voice – positioning it correctly to be seen as a natural partner of government not an agency of government. Profile, priority partnership!

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2. Qualifications – getting to grips with qualifications approval and also ensuring that sectors who want NVQs can have them in the new system.
3. LMI – the USP of the SSCs
4. Cross sector – he stressed the importance of the work around M&L
5. Membership services – truly meeting the needs of the members of the Alliance – the SSCs. Ensuring added value.

The top item in his in tray was the recession – he spoke of the work the CEOs had been doing around the development of a Sector Skills Recovery Plan. This is a real opportunity to demonstrate to government that employers can really help move the country forward.

SSCs can provide quicker, deeper, faster, more effective solutions to a number of issues if they are given the money

AOB

Derek Hartshorne drew the developments of the Talent Plan to the attention of the Forum and asked colleagues to be aware of the new technologies that were being brought in to play analyse and scrutinise SSC web sites

Action 6 – Group members please contact Derek for further information, Derek to post any updates on the M&L web site.

Conclusion and Way Forward

Action 7 – Steve Studd, John Thorpe and Mike Hender to meet up with John McNamara to discuss a future work programme. To prepare for this, members were encouraged to advise the core team of their expectations and ideas for the work programme.

A date for the next Forum will be set in due course.

The meeting closed at 1.35