

Community Engagement - ensuring the college is at the heart of the Hastings & Rother communities

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What does successful community engagement look like?

Individuals – how far do we reach out into our communities who wouldn't normally come through our doors

Employers – how far do we support upskilling and job creation

Community groups and wider stakeholders – how far we link with and join up services and funding

Policy framework

- Baroness Sharpe ‘a dynamic nucleus: Colleges at the heart of their community’ (2011)
- SFA Community Learning requirements (2013)
- SFA requirement for providers to link to LEP priorities (Feb 2015)
- BIS Dual Mandate consultation that refocuses FE on Higher Vocational Skills and Second chance provision (April 2015)

Current Individual engagement

- FE Choice learner views and You Said, We Did feedback sessions help shape future curriculum offers
- Focus groups and questionnaires during Adult Learners Week focused upon non-students
- Delivery of Community Learning across Hastings and Rother (with partners)
- Limited volunteering or social action undertaken by students as part of their programmes

Current employer engagement

- FE Choices employer views – 200+ responses
- Existing links with employer representative groups – chambers, BNI, MAS
- Member of Skills East Sussex
- Improved responsiveness to meet local needs e.g. Vacuum course; increased apprenticeships and niche training for unemployed people (with employers)
- Employers groups
- Limited work experience offered to students

Current Community/Stakeholder engagement

- Membership of H&R Adult & Community Learning and Employability fora
- Partnerships with local organisations to provide niche provision e.g. Community Learning or Apprenticeships
- Vertical Education Partnership, Economic Taskforce and LSPs
- New members of Big Local Board in NE Hastings (Ore)
- Annual [Community Learning statement](#) developed with partners

Future Engagement Developments

- Development of Ore Valley as a community campus
- Development of vocational 14-16 provision with Hastings & Rother schools
- Development of Employability strategy to increase work experience and volunteering take up/measurement
- Development of Campus Employer Boards
- Principal led Mind the Gap project focused upon closer partner working in Hastings

Ore Valley as a community campus

- Linking with the Big Local initiative covering North East Hastings
- Development of Ore Tuesdays
- Summer 2015 use of the MUGA for sporting programmes

Mind the Gap project

- Initiated by the Principal
- Focused upon identifying gaps in local services due to current or future cuts
- Attempt to bend the spend to fill those gaps by piggy backing on each other initiatives

Evaluation of our community engagement

Good with outstanding features in the community with some areas that require improvement in our engagement with employers and individuals.