

TEACH TOO LOCAL COLLABORATIVE PROJECT

A case study on the Teach Too local collaborative project at Bishop Auckland College



Project overview

Whilst Bishop Auckland College has good working relationships with several local employers, the focus of this Teach Too project was to further develop the nature of these relationships to provide meaningful collaboration across County Durham that would have a significant impact on students.

The project investigated strategies to engage employers in collaborative approaches to curriculum planning and the on-going

The positive impact from this project being a strengthened relationship with the employer, a revised and updated curriculum and upskilled teaching staff as well as a level of dual professionalism of employer's staff. A further unintended but very welcome consequence of the project was the commitment of the employer to recruit an additional four apprentices but with full ownership of the recruitment process passed to the College Group. There were 400 applicants for the positions, shortlisted down to 45. The 45 were put through the College Group 'select a head' and screening process with 17 eventually being invited for interview and skills tests. The four successful applicants are in the process of being signed up. The employer provider relationship is truly symbiotic.

This working relationship with this employer will be used as an exemplar for others to follow. There is already a second project underway with another large multi-national employer. Through visits to the training facilities, they have recognised that a robotic resource in the centre replicates exactly in miniature an element of their pharmaceutical production system. They have requested that the curriculum be shaped around this and planning is underway.

Positive impact and expected outcomes

The Steering group, which was established to oversee this project in spring 2018 has continued to support strategic direction for the College Group in its work with employers and to ensure the curriculum matches business requirements. The membership includes key local employers who provide a valuable insight into emerging industry developments to ensure that the college direction is aligned with local skills plans.

Collaboration with employers has been ‘

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Future activity

Activities initiated through this project are continuing and being extended as they are now part of the culture of the organisation and its relationship with employers.

The value of inviting employers into college buildings to view resources and facilities and discuss the use of these with teaching staff is immense and such tours will now be offered following the Business Breakfasts.

Recommendations for developing local collaborative arrangements

- ◁ Involve the correct people in developing plans
- ◁ Engage an advocate to support progress
- ◁ Focus on key skills gaps
- ◁ Be flexible in designing and agreeing solutions