



**CORNWALL &
ISLES OF SCILLY**
LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

CIO S LEP AGM 2 March 2021 - Q & A Session

Question 1 - Is there going to be more support for employers to take on unemployed people - not just the 18-24 year olds?

There are lots of programmes offering support to both individuals and employers. And please note that the European Support Programme continues until 2023 and partners have worked hard with DWP to make sure all Cornwall monies are committed in a timely manner. These programmes are offered by a range of providers depending on need. For further information you can contact the Growth, Skills and People Hubs who will be able to undertake an assessment of needs and signpost you to the right support. We do also welcome the Government's new focus on FE and reskilling, although there remains concerns about some aspects of the recent White Paper. We also wait to hear further announcements around financial support for employers in the Budget on the 3 March 2021.

Question 2 - Digital Connectivity and Data was identified as a key trend, the pandemic has accelerated the demand for AI and Digital tech. How is Cornwall planning to keep ahead of the curve?

- Collaboration with local partners i.e. Software Cornwall and new ERDF investments such as Cornwall College's Digital Transformation project.
- Ongoing investment into digital infrastructure through continued rollout of Superfast Broadband, development through initiatives such as UK Government's Building Digital UK Programme, e.g. Outside In and Rural Gigabit Connectivity programmes.
- The LEP has commissioned some work to investigate the commercial rollout and timings for 5G deployment.
- We are working through our Digital Skills Partnership to ensure both businesses and communities can continue to take advantage of all that is on offer.

Question 3 - What could Cornish schools do to best prepare pupils for the local labour market?

All secondary schools and colleges in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly are working with our Careers Hub team to implement strong careers programmes that are well led, resourced, reviewed and developed. A key role in this is that of the Careers Leader who sets the vision for this work; more than 30 Careers Leaders have undertaken training programmes in the past 18 months to support them in these roles. Schools and colleges measure their progress against 8 benchmarks of good practice, in Cornwall, our schools and colleges are making good progress by achieving on average of 4.4 out of 8 benchmarks, placing us 13th out of 38 LEPs nationally. However, there is still much that we need to do before we can boast of a world class careers education programmes. Please note that we've got Alex Lingard, who is the Headmaster of Liskeard Secondary School and Cornwall Council education lead sitting on the Employment and Skills Board, alongside representatives of all employer groups, including health and care.

Schools and colleges should prioritise:

- 1) **Early Intervention** – we are starting a small pilot programme to encourage careers aspiration in primary schools this year.
- 2) **Strong leadership** – the responsibility for a good careers programme does not rest on the shoulders of the careers leader alone but should be strongly led by principals, senior managers and governors and supported across all staff.
- 3) **Focus on Outcomes not outputs** – Ensuring that schools and colleges know what they are trying to achieve through their careers programme and using data to determine if their aims and objectives have been met. For example, if you want to raise awareness of apprenticeships or progression into STEM careers as one of your goals, then you need to know how many students move in to apprenticeships or STEM based progression routes.
- 4) Understand the realities of the **labour market** and make sure that your careers programme is aligned to this, using digital means to **engage with a wide variety of sectors and businesses**.
- 5) Including a focus on **skills development** alongside academic qualifications and fair **promotion of all progression pathways** not just the ones that education staff may be most familiar with.
- 6) Using the services of a **Qualified Careers Adviser**. Careers Guidance is a wholistic approach that can provide much deeper and more sustained outcomes than academic mentoring alone.

7) Lastly Schools should make sure that their careers programmes promote **inclusion and diversity** – that is why our Careers hub team are delivering on a project to support careers outcomes for students with additional needs and disabilities.

We also note the engagement of spaceport, Virgin Orbit and Goonhilly in working with schools and young people which has been exceptional in terms of raising understanding and ambition.

Question 4 - As part of The Cornwall College Group we are working with Industry to develop our curriculum in manufacturing and engineering in readiness for the Celtic Sea offshore wind project, can you suggest a representative from the LEP who I could work with to understand how we can access funding from the LEP and from government to support this?

- Floating offshore wind (FLOW) represents real strategic opportunity for CloS.
- Confirmed our commitment to FLOW, part of LIS and Delivery Plan.
- In terms of funding, whilst there is no additional/specific access to funds, we are working on both ERDF and SIFP proposals to develop this. The SIFP proposal specifically identifies the need for local skills training, albeit the results of the application will not be known until after Easter.
- Furthermore, the FLOW opportunity is built into the E&S Board Agenda to build investment in line with this opportunity.
- The LEP, through Steve Jermy, will ensure Cornwall College Group and other partners are fully engaged so that accessible funds are maximised for the region.

Question 5 - How can we be involved in supporting the G7 to showcase local innovation?

- Understandably we have had this question come in from a lot of different businesses since the G7 announcement.
- We are determined that we show case all the opportunities the region has to lead a new industrial revolution but also deliver those things that will allow us to bounce back strongly from Covid and the subsequent recession.
- There are a series of live conversations going on with the Cabinet Office as well as with local partners, both with looking at show casing for the event itself but also for the legacy opportunity that we are presented with.

- The best answer I can give currently is that there is a lot of work in the planning stage and for businesses to be ready for a variety of opportunities that could emerge over the coming weeks and months. It's worth keeping in touch with the various support bodies, such as the Chamber and FSB who are all looking to maximise this opportunity.

Question 6 - How do you feel Cornwall is coping in supporting the unemployment at the moment?

The Covid-19 Pandemic means that unemployment and business failure has risen rapidly across Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. Few places in the UK has the impact of Covid19 been felt more severely than in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. The LEP is ensuring that we have the correct strategies and interventions in place to support people back into work, either within our own organisation or to support the labour market more widely in Cornwall to do so. The true impacts are yet to be fully known, but we are working very closely with the Council, the DWP and local employment support providers to ensure we have a range of support in place for those most impacted by the pandemic. At the present time, those impacted by the pandemic have been fast tracked through the relevant financial support such as Universal Credit, Furlough etc.

We have worked hard with partners to develop the '**The Careers We Want**' Programme which will help us to recover and rebuild our economy by developing the right skills for residents and businesses to thrive, whilst creating opportunities for Career development and progression that support our foundation and emerging sectors. The programme will enhance current employment and skills delivery, focusing on gaps exposed or exacerbated by the pandemic; creating a Cornwall where you can become skilled in, and work, in your career of choice. Our Careers We Want Programme will focus on:

- **Inspiring Careers:** We will continue to support the Careers Hub
- **Digital Skills, Inclusion and Transformation:** We will continue to support the Digital Skills Partnership
- **Emergency Support:** We will expand the Emergency People Hub
- **Redundancy Support:** We will continue to run the multi-agency redundancy task force
- **Skills delivery:** We will offer match funding to projects that will help us mitigate and recover from the impacts of the pandemic in the following ways:

- Those furthest from the labour market
- Employment support:
- Supporting our young people:
- Providing advice, guidance and support for 900 individuals employed or at risk of redundancy
- Aligning skills to business need

Question 7 - What do you perceive will be the biggest drivers of regional economic recovery from the COVID pandemic?

There are a number of factors to be considered for the region's economic recovery, as set out in the LEP Chair's recent [blog](#) - Poldark and pasties? Think again. Open your eyes to a new Cornwall as it hosts the G7 summit, urges Mark Duddridge.

Also, as set out in the LEP's recovery plan, based on the national LEP Network 5 driver model, LEPs focus should be on factors including local recovery tools (intelligence, response networks), LEP-led stimulus (investment programmes), skills programmes, green innovation and access to funding and investment mechanisms.

Question 8 - How can we support businesses in Cornwall to be Corporate Aunties and Uncles to young people with care Experience?

The LEP, through its Employment and Skills Board, works with statutory partners, such as the local authority, across a range of initiatives. Following on from this question, we will commit to further liaison with the local authority to better understand the corporate parenting situation, both in the context of our existing LEP capabilities, including the CloS Careers Hub, Digital Skills Partnership and European Social Fund programmes and within any further opportunities for business ambassadors in support of young people with care experience.

Question 9 - Details regarding funding opportunities for business development

The LEP are keen to ensure businesses get the help they need. To ensure businesses are guided towards the correct support the LEP have invested in a project called the Growth Hub. The Growth Hub offers a new and simple way to get to the support businesses needs.

We would recommend contacting the [Growth Hub](#), register on their website with a request to be contacted and a member of the Growth Hub team will be in touch to talk through the options available.

Question 10 - How to get support for the rescue of a Cornish asset in West Cornwall?

The LEP Executive will follow up directly to this question with the enquirer in order to ascertain further details and a more complete response.