



COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

Sustainable Development



chair@northernskillsnetwork.co.uk

ABOUT US

The first NSN Sustainable Development Community of Practice was held in May, which launches the programme of practitioner support & development funded by the ETF as part of their Apprenticeship Workforce Development Fund.

The CoP welcomed delegates from across 8 provider networks in the North of England, all of whom deliver apprenticeships & want to learn more, share & develop their response to 'greening up' the curriculum & ensuring staff, apprentices & employers have the knowledge to live, learn, & work more sustainably aware.



This programme of work was identified by the NSN board through their 2023 manifesto, which looks at future skills, the demand for skills & ensuring our members have a responsive & current offer when supporting learners, apprentices & employers. We are also committed to meeting our local MCA & LEP priorities & LSIP themes aligned to green & sustainable development, and we believe apprentices & apprenticeships play a critical role in the net-zero success.

The CoP is being led by Alex Miles, MD of YLP & co-chair of the NSN and is supported by the regional networks across the North & their representative champions.

The session started with sharing 'The Why' - understanding why it is important for FE & skills to respond to & represent greater knowledge on sustainable development. Some of the 'Whys' include -

- All LEP & MCAs across the North have declared a climate emergency
- 80% of students want their institutions to be doing more on sustainable development, with 60% of students wanting to learn more about sustainability within their existing courses (NUS survey 2020).
- 90% of students (aged 16-24) have eco-anxiety (SoS survey 2021) with the climate crises having a growing toll on their mental health.
- Many SMEs do not know where to start on their sustainability journey, therefore, struggling to meet the growing demands of this agenda on their business.
- 90% of teachers think climate change should be compulsory in schools & FE, but 70% of teachers feel ill-equipped to teach it.



The UNESCO Education for Sustainable Development Roadmap was discussed & referenced for being a key influencer & change-maker in the sustainable development agenda for education providers. Alex shared the 7 key challenges highlighted in the roadmap, which she suggests is where the sector should start when looking at developing strategies & gaining practitioner buy-in. Alex shared the UNESCO 17 sustainability goals, which identify the different workstreams & impacts that can be used to transform curriculum & support apprentices. It was recommended that providers read through these goals & identify 4-5 that can start the process of organisation strategy, curriculum development & apprenticeship KSB alignment. These can then be developed over time & added to.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD



The group were asked what they wanted to gain from the sustainable development CoP sessions, which will run over the next 6 months & how this will help shape future sessions & topics. This included -

- Wider knowledge of how to embed with apprentices.
- Help support apprentices with the knowledge to reduce impact on the planet with their business.
- Understand local initiatives & priorities.
- Reduce carbon footprint as an organisation.
- Develop organisational wide strategy.
- Share practice from other providers
- How to get 'buy-in' from tutors who already have a lot to deal with.
- Look at sector specific support or initiatives - such as Hair & Beauty
- How we can use apprentices to support employers with their sustainability journey
- How to improve communication of sustainable practice.
- Influence of LEP & MCAs

The project outcomes were shared with the team & how to CoP will help support the above mentioned needs from other members. Project outcomes include -

- Improved support, resources, pastoral alignment & curriculum development of GSD.
- Appropriate CPD for tutors & practitioners of apprentices, delivered by the partners & stakeholders within the community
- Development of GSD padlet, which helps provide appropriate support & guidance on lessons, practice, successes - will be updated monthly
- Develop a GSD champions network - these champions will support training organisations in their region to implement the approaches identified through the project & be a person of contact
- GSD charter for those involved in the project

Activities that will support the outcomes include -
Monthly CoP online meetings with providers, partners & MCAs

Develop bespoke champions course with NCFE

Employer Roundtable - F2F

Apprentice Roundtables - online

Desk based review into current activity

NSN GSD padlet

Resource bank - lesson ideas, pastoral, KSB embedding, apprentice projects

Align to ESD, ESG & SDG

Develop GSD charter for networks & providers

NSN GSD conference - July 23

The session then discussed some potential projects & activities to complete with apprentices that are easily aligned for KSBs and job roles, such as waste audits or reduce, reuse, recycle activities. These ideas will be further explored and shared at future CoP sessions & will be updated on the Padlet.

Alex will also map sustainable development activities to the Ofsted Education Inspection Framework & review the northern LSIP reports to find skills alignment with their activities. There has also been an analysis of the LEP & MCA green priorities for across the North to be shared with the group.

The group discussed how it would be useful to introduce different classifications of 'green' based on the apprentices job role, to help them better understand how they can directly impact net-zero goals - for example - **L&M apprentices being dark green to recognise them as sustainable leaders, accountancy, project, supply chain & retail being medium green to represent sustainable contributors and admin, customer service light green** to represent sustainable citizen.

There was also a call for a glossary of terms to be developed to help apprentices understand the different aspects of sustainable development and for example, of training providers current sustainable development strategies to be shared. All of these are great starting points and will help develop a more sustainably aware apprenticeship sector and the CoP will look to develop & add to the Padlet and further explore at future sessions.

Next Steps -

Future CoP dates and the padlet will be shared with all attendees shortly and updates on the project will be shared across socials and with partners monthly.

Thank you all for attending the first community of practice - do not hesitate to get in touch for more details of future sessions, if you want to share ideas, or have guest speakers you recommend.

Alex Miles - alex.miles@wylp.org.uk

