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Title of meeting:	Culture Leisure and Economic Development (CLED)
Subject:	Economic Development and Skills service update for 2023
Date of meeting:	16 February 2024
Report by:	Ian Maguire Assistant Director for Planning and Economic Development
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Steve Pitt, Leader and Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Economic Development
Authorised by:	Jane Lamer Head of Economic Development and Skills
Wards affected:	All

1. Requested by

The report is produced at the request of the Portfolio Holder for CLED.

2. Purpose

To reflect on the impact of the wider service on the communities in Portsmouth during the last full year

It is noted that this is the first full year of delivery by the combined service, which was established in May 2022, merging the traditional economic development work with the wider skills services to provide a joined-up approach and make significant staffing savings within the limited budget.

3. Information Requested

The Economic Development and Skills service sits within the Regeneration (Economy, Planning and Transport) Directorate and the service is line managed by the Assistant Director for Planning and Economic Development.

The work delivered by the service reports to CLED and Education Portfolio holders, reflecting historical boundaries and the range of the economic development activities.



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Much of the service does not receive any centralised funding or has cost recovery targets to ensure they are cost neutral. 2 departments receive no funding and rely on externally sourced projects and grant funding for delivery

Business Support and Inward Investment

2.5 FTE centrally funded posts to provide a range of business support services to businesses in the city. Many of the new businesses the team engages with are from referrals and recommendations from other businesses/organisations we have engaged with. This demonstrates that our team are having a positive impact in reaching out and support many businesses in the city. Through attending many business networking events and expos, our team is getting great exposure, enabling us to be a first point of contact for businesses looking for support.

Our team regularly receives positive feedback from the conversations had with businesses, whether they have been able to access funding from the council or another source, or that they have been able to make the right connections for their business that enabled growth and provide employment.

For period January 2023 - December 2023:

- Over 500 businesses engaged via telephones and emails developing into conversations covering business support. Much of this engagement has come through enquiries to the business support helpline and shared inbox or through contact made to officers through referrals from other businesses, and networking events.
- Over 200 businesses supported 1-1 (Teams, Phone calls, F2F, Enterprise Centres, drop ins). Much of the support were focused on funding, support for starting up a new business, and searching for suitable premise
- 52 business networking events attended in total which enabled over 450 business engagements at a wide range of business events including regular monthly First Fridays and PCC Business 2 Business, Portsmouth Expo, annual Shaping Portsmouth annual conference, Portsmouth Creates and Space South Central Orbit networking events.
- Actively supported a Solent wide 'GetSet for Growth' business support programme funded by the European Regional Development Fund. This programme enabled over 400 eligible businesses across the Solent to benefit from funding and professional business advice. A GetSet Growth Conference was held at the end of the programme on 16 May to celebrate its successes.



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- Crowdfund Portsmouth

The council's contract with Crowdfunder UK was renewed from January 2023 to November December 2023, and during this time 10 regular drop-in sessions were held, attended by 79 businesses and community individuals to discuss their project with the SME (Small or Medium sized Enterprise) Development Officer and CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) Officer. It was the only funding programme of its kind run by a local council to support businesses in the Southeast.

This was a big year for the programme, with a total of £26,500 given to seven start-up & small businesses in the city through the platform, including Strong Island Clothing, Southsea Play Café, Portsmouth Distillery, No.6 Cinema, the Pole Coven Southsea Plant Shop, and Let's Mochi.

This is the second biggest 'activity' year for the fund, with the first being 2020 when the programme began. 2020 was a Covid year and the projects supported were around 'pay it forward' to help with business survival. This year's projects were all exciting business start or growth projects. This funding programme is now closed.

- Portsmouth Business Support Partnership (PBSS)

This a new initiative led by Portsmouth City Council and Shaping Portsmouth to help business to start, grow and thrive, with support from many partners including Solent Partners, The Apprentice & Skills Partnership, Business South, Federation of Small Businesses, WSX Enterprise, and Hampshire Chamber of Commerce. This new comprehensive 'one-stop shop' business support service will be launched in January 2024 at Shaping Portsmouth Conference.

- Inward investment

We have a positive working relationship with our Partnerships Manager from Dept of Business and Trade (DBT - formerly DIT) through our monthly meeting discussions on promoting trade and investment into our Freeports sites (i.e. Portico and Dunsbury Park). This has result in several team visits to the area (Finance and Professional visit in June 2023 to Southampton and Portsmouth, Inward Investment team visit jointly to PIP (Portsmouth International Port) 29/11/23 and Lord Offed visiting PIP on 18/1/24) to further promote the area.

During the year, we have assisted 21 enquiries on suitable sites & premises in the city, from which 9 were referred from Dept of Business and Trade (formerly DIT) and 12 via our www.investportsmouth.co.uk website enquiries form.

We regularly review overseas enquiries and exchange updates on latest initiatives and overseas trade opportunities, for example, their support with MIPIM (Le Marché International des Professionnels de l'immobilier, (translated as The international market for real estate professionals) that took place on 14-17 March in Cannes,



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France which attracted around 23,000 delegates from over 90 countries, which was 15% more compared to previous year.

International partnerships (Sister City)

Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

- We hosted a visit for their Mayor and Halifax Partnerships team in January 2023, to sign the new Sister City agreement; tour of the city and focussed business meetings, plus a sector focused business networking event attended by over 40 maritime, space & satellite applications, shipbuilding, and oceanology
- Attended [Ocean Business 2023](#) conference in April 2023 and the Canadian Reception and met the Ocean Technology Council of Nova Scotia and some of their Canadian start up and SMEs (Small or Medium sized Enterprise)
- The Halifax Partnership team was shortlisted for the [Maritime UK Solent Awards](#) under International Partner of the Year category
- Returned visit took place on 24/09/23 - 28/09/23 with representatives from Portsmouth International Port, Portico, Solent LEP (Local Enterprise Partnerships) / Maritime Solent UK
- Currently working with Maritime UK Solent to jointly host a virtual business networking event for maritime businesses for Halifax and Portsmouth areas on 4th March 2024, with both the Leader and Mayor Savage speaking. The event will also present opportunities for businesses in both cities to share their exciting projects and any collaboration opportunities.

Duisburg, Germany

- We hosted a visit from Duisburg Business & Innovation team on 3rd and 4th May 2023 focused on the work of the Portsmouth economic development and regeneration projects, and Hydrogen/sustainability initiatives. Tour of the city and key business meetings
- Lord Mayor & Mayoress visited in November 2023
- Continue to support commercial opportunities and support for any business interested in connecting with businesses in Germany

News & Events - Invest Portsmouth

On our website we promote successes / good news and new case studies, latest news stories have been added to the website include:

- Business with Portsmouth's twin city Duisburg
- Lakeside win Workplace of the Year
- Quattro Foods awarded recognition for its commitment to achieving Net Zero
- American fast food chain plan to open in city centre
- Portsmouth Library of Things and Repair Café Portsmouth at Cascades shopping centre in Portsmouth's city centre
- Portsmouth is the top choice for growing paper and printing businesses
- Buckwells of Southsea wins UK's best sausage award



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- The driving forces behind Southsea Food Festival
- Eat the Island: a new opportunity for local food industry
- Lakeside opening for Carrington West recruitment (opening by The Lord Mayor) - Carrington West named best places to work
- Successfully held the third year of week-long business focussed events as part of the Portsmouth and South Coast and Business Week 2023, from Monday 6th February to 10th February 2023. This popular festival of business engaged with over 1000 businesses, including daily sessions streamed on Facebook Live.
- Business case studies: "SLR Marine recruitment company as a growth company over the past five years;" "From market stall to shop via Love Southsea;" "Why being small and independent is the secret behind Southsea Deli"
- Innovate UK Edge Roadshow one of three roadshows in the Southeast was hosted at Lakeside North Harbour in Portsmouth and attended by over 40 businesses receiving guidance support with innovate funding opportunities. The other two roadshows were held at Oxford and Farnham
- Venture fest South 2023_PCC was a paying partner at this year's Venture Fest South event held at the Ageas Bowl venue. The event had 1,186 registrations and 750 delegates attended. A quarter of attendees were students and less than a quarter were businesses.
- Yarty on growing from kitchen table to exporter

Evolutionary – CRM (Customer relationship management system)

Purchased in 2021/22 within employment and skills service, this resource is now embedded in the economic development service, increasing recording against individual business engagement. The long-term plan to increase the potential for accurate intelligence and market engagement. This significant work has led to a CRM strategy which will be implemented as part of the training to the team, to ensure best value from the resource.

Places and Markets

2 FTE centrally funded with an additional 2 FTE funded within a cost recovery envelope for the delivery of the commercial markets across the city

Markets

Cosham and city centre markets continue to perform adequately. Room for growth and development of markets as set out in the 5-year action plan in the now adopted market strategy. Consideration/challenge in Cosham as no power available for traders. Recruitment underway as per the new structure to deliver the market strategy over the next 5 years, with the plan to appoint by the end of January 2024.

Southsea markets continue to be delivered by Hampshire Farmers and Love Southsea under a commissioned process. Procurement/contract award process underway for markets provision in Southsea for the next five years.



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Procurement/contract award process underway for Christmas markets provision in the city centre 2024 - 2028

Small Business Saturday 3rd December 2023

Additional market pitches added to the city centre market for free and including gazebo to encourage micro/startup businesses an opportunity to trader. Initial interest high, 5 traders on the day positive feedback from them and the existing traders. Future, similar activity planned with new P&M team.

BIDS (Business Improvement Districts)

Exploratory conversations to be held early 2024 with city centre and Southsea businesses following recent feedback regarding high streets and challenges businesses

are facing. CLED scrutiny on high streets ongoing, report to follow with recommendations from scrutiny panel, may include BID exploration. Partnership approach to problem solving with PCC teams and better connections with businesses in high streets as a minimum. Additional staff in P&M team will enable/free resource to dedicate to this activity but remains a significant pressure on the team, currently led by 1 staff member.

Events

Southsea Food Festival was delivered in its 15th year in 2023, and although 2023 was the first year we had to cancel day 1 (Saturday) due to extreme high winds, we achieved our highest footfall of 35,000 on the Sunday.

60 individual traders booked in to attend and those that were moved to Avenue De Caen were all happy. Feedback from traders was positive, with some achieving comparable sales to 2022, even with one day of trading. Planning under way for 2024 festival, working with the Victorious team, and building more cultural and creative content to the festival.

Eat the Island

Successful event June 2023, further networking planned for 2024, exploration of grant funding for trade show attendance, maximising opportunities for food businesses/producers in the city. March session to establish purpose/actions TOR to keep clear focus and objectives for the group and ensure business led.

June event planned with Business South/Hampshire fare to launch the food festival, potential hosting in a venue e.g., Staggeringly Good to open venues up and bring buyers/producers together in one place.

Pop up Project

Working with Flude and Cascades to deliver 'Pop up Portsmouth' an opportunity for a business in PO1 - PO6 to be in a high street location with lower rent and short-term lease. Idea to bring independent business to a traditionally chain/national brand

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location. Idea to enable a path for businesses - market stall, pop up shop to more permanent high street location and offer business support on the journey. Also facilitates the change we want to see on the high street of a wider mix of businesses and maintain footfall to the area and potentially reactivate shop frontages.

Enterprise Centres

7.2 FTE centrally funded under a cost recovery envelope for the delivery of 3 established centres (increasing to 5 in 2024 with the addition of City Buildings and Bridge Centre sites) Enterprise centres offering short term lease opportunities to SMEs across the city.

Occupancy for all sites remains strong, averaging over 95% across all sites, although delays in moving City Buildings to live and required refurbishment of sites in Victory to allow reletting has reduced budget expectations for 23/24 where it is anticipated a small loss against budget.

City Buildings refurbishment is currently subject to a capital bid following a frustration with the insurance claim for the "Playlands" site, but significant conversations are being had around lease opportunities for the site on refurbishment.

The team is currently recruiting 2 FTE following promotion of 2 staff who started with the service as apprentices during covid.

Skills Strategy and Section 106 Employment and Skills Plans

1 FTE centrally funded

Skills strategy

Work on the second annual review of the 'Skills and Labour Market Strategy 2020-2025' action plans was completed in February 2023. This review covered the year 2022.

Notably this review showed that PCC had met the requirements of all action plans for Theme 4 'Respond', which was focused on the Covid recovery plan. This review showed progress for most of all other actions plans, and highlighted areas that required focus for the year 2023.

Work on the third annual review of the 'Skills & Labour Market Strategy 2020-2025' action plans began at the start of December 2023. This review covers the year of 2023. This will be ready to be presented in the first quarter of 2024. Early data review shows actions plans are being met in a timely manner and most headline LMI data is improving. Qualification data around Level 4 skills attainment has been queried with the ONS, and until then, that data is being viewed with caution.

LSIP/LSIF

The Solent Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) was agreed and published in the summer of 2023, led by Hampshire Chamber as the Solent's Employer Representative



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Body (ERB). The subsequent Local Skills Improvement Fund (LSIF) bids were submitted shortly after and were successful as of November 2023. Approx £2.4MILL was secured for Further Education (FE) providers in the Solent, over the two-year period to March 2025. There are 4 projects within the LSIF: Creative, Maritime/Freeport, Research & Development and Health & Social Care. PCC representation is held at both the LSIP and LSIF boards, ensuring impact is had in Portsmouth. This work represents true collaboration between all FE, skills, and LA partners across the Solent, for the benefit of businesses and residents in terms of skills and education development.

Notable impacts for Portsmouth will include:

1. New equipment and facilities refurbishment/development for all FE providers for all 4 projects, this includes TECH: TRUCK modifications for project 3.
2. Workforce industry exchanges for project 1, 2 and 4.
3. Staff training and upskilling for projects 1,2 and 4.
4. New Level 5 HND engineering programme (PETA)
5. Employer engagement events for project 1 (H&SDC)
6. Development of L2 and L3 Marine engineering and marine electrical programmes (SHCG (South Hampshire College Group)).
7. Development of immersive classroom for project 4 (SHCG)

Colleges and Training Providers

The strengthening of partnership working across Portsmouth and its travel to learn areas has continued in 2023. Visits by PCC to all our major colleges and training providers began in late Summer of 2023, with accompanying comms pieces shared to social media platforms. Updated information of provision across Portsmouth has been updated on the PCC website to ensure businesses and residents have an accurate picture of what skills and training is being offered.

The Employment and Skills Manager holds regular Skills Provider meetings with the key skills partners across the city and its travel to work areas. These meetings as opportunity to update them on key projects such as S106 Employment and Skills Plans and benchmark requirements, ensuring appropriate support is offered to developers to assist in completion of the plans. The Skills Provider group is also used as a platform to funnel information to and from the Shaping Portsmouth Skills and Employability group. Towards the end of 2023, the Skills provider group was used as a forum to discuss the LSIP and LSIF, and ways to harness impact for Portsmouth.

Shaping Portsmouth

PCC representation at Shaping Portsmouth is continued, with the Head of Economic Development & Skills on the board as a non-exec Director, and the Employment & Skills Manager as Co-chair for the Skills and Employability group.

8 programmes are currently live under the Skills and Employability group. These include Explore Your Future, Business Breakfasts, Business Workshops, shaped by Solent,



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Apprenticeship Bus programme, Made in Pompey, Skills, and Employability (Care leavers, rough sleeper, probation), and The Portsmouth Pledge.

'Explore Your Futures' goal is to inspire young people in Portsmouth, aged 14-19, by exposing them to a diverse array of role models from various backgrounds. Currently there is a video library of 42 career stories

'The Apprenticeship Bus' programme in February 2023 engaged with approx. 1,400 students from 10 senior schools, supported by 59 business partners. Planning for 2024 is in its final stages and will take place in February 2024.

'Made in Pompey' plans to see 600 individuals placed into apprenticeship, traineeship or supported internships, with approx. 140 already secured. The programme draws to a close in 2024. This is a collaborative effort with all FE colleges and training providers in Portsmouth.

'Choose employability' is focused on supporting each client in creating their tailored pathway to employability. Clients include Care Leavers, Homeless & Rough Sleepers, and the Probation Service. 7 care experienced young people have been put into employment.

'Shaped by Solent' engages with the three SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) schools Mary Rose Academy, Little Green Academy, and redwood park academy. Shaping was successful in recruiting x7 mentors from their business partnerships who were all paired with a school and who delivered their mentoring sessions within the month of October and November 2023.

Events

Future Portsmouth

Future Portsmouth 2023 was held in the Spring of 2023, at the end of Portsmouth & South Coast Business week. Sponsors for this PCC event was the University of Portsmouth, Solent Apprenticeship & Skills Hub, and the Hampshire Chamber. The theme for this conference was "Green" with a focus on sustainability, green technologies and Net Zero. Despite a record number of sign-ups for this event (approx. 150), attendees on the day only reached approx. 70. Feedback from the event was that whilst Future Portsmouth is a key and important part of the business community calendar, it is proving expensive for sponsors, the conference style is not as interactive as delegates would like, and the appetite for an early morning event is waning due to changes in peoples working patterns post Covid. It was also felt that due to event 'saturation' during Portsmouth & South Coast Business week and National Apprenticeship Week in the Spring, that businesses are having excessive demands placed on their time. The Future Portsmouth steer group met in October 2023, and decided upon some key changes including a new venue (free of charge from UoP), a



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different time (Autumn as opposed to Spring) and a change of style from conference to round table networking. Planning continues for this 2024 event.

Portsmouth & Chichester Apprenticeship awards

PCC was a lead sponsor for the first Portsmouth and Chichester awards ceremony held at the Marriott Hotel in November 2023. This event was run by the National World publishing. Portsmouth businesses and apprentices were recognised in the awards, with PETA Training winning the award for Best Independent Training Provider 2023. PCC served as a judge for the categories.

Net Zero 360

The Solent Apprenticeship and Skills Hub launched their Net Zero training programme at the Victory Enterprise Centre. This event was launched formally with a communications campaign from PCC and Solent Apprenticeship and Skills Hub, with a supporting quote from Cllr Steve Pitt. A second programme event is being planned for 2024, once again utilising one of PCCs enterprise centres.

Neurodivergent Business Consortium

PCC continue to lend its support to the Neurodivergent Business Consortium. Both the Head of Economic Development and Skills and the Employment and Skills Manager regularly attend and have sat several times on the panel. These events provide valuable insight for PCC into supporting Neurodivergent individuals within the workplace and provide a way of funnelling this key information to Portsmouth businesses to ensure equal working opportunities are encouraged.

Section 106 Employment and Skill Plans

As of December 2023, PCC currently have 13 'live' major developments within the city that have an Employment & Skills Plan attached to them. All 13 sites have an agreed ESP (Employment and Skills Plans), and benchmark data is completed via regular review points with the Developer/Contractor.

PCC currently use the CITB Client Based Approach (2016) guidelines to set the requirements within the ESPs (Employment and Skills Plans). Work with colleagues in Economic Development, Planning & Procurement began in 2023 to review this and see if more suitable/relevant outcomes can be achieved via a different mechanism, for example, via the PCC Social Value Policy. PCC were notified in November 2023 that the CITB is making changes to their guidelines with an announcement of these expected in January 2024, and PCC will consider these before any changes are made.

To improve collaborative working and ensure all ESP sites are captured fully, various measures have been taken. These include(d): Regular meetings held between Economic Development and Planning teams around upcoming major sites, ESP information sharing to all colleagues in Planning, and 1:1s between the Employment and Skills Manager and the Head of Development Management.



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ESP case study

Cast studies continue to be required from ESP sites to highlight the positive impact ESPs have for Portsmouth residents. Please see below an example of a case study from Mogan Sindall and Portsmouth resident, Macey Blackman:

'Macey Blackman, a resident of Portsmouth, has become the Degree Apprentice Site Manager at Morgan Sindall, working on their current development in Cosham. Macey Blackman began her journey with Morgan Sindall as a T-Level student, working on another of their sites in Gosport. Macey impressed the management at Morgan Sindall so much, showcasing the potential that she had to become a leader, that they went on to offer her an apprenticeship opportunity in Cosham. "I have been down at Cosham for nearly 6 months now. It has been amazing to be at a project so early, I have learnt so much from shadowing the managers around me, seeing trades I have never had the experience of working with before. I have had experience in doing permits, getting dimensions from the architect, having a walk around with our engineer to gain a better understanding of the technical side of things. I have been able to take part in QA, daily briefings, prestart meetings, and leadership engagements. Overall, I have had the best experience with Morgan Sindall down at Cosham Fire Station, everyone is so welcoming here and they are all great at giving me a hand when I need it and look forward to many sites after this", quote from Macey Blackman.'

Projects

Upskilling Village

Attempts to successfully launch this project continued through 2023, with the aim of Willmott Dixon delivering construction and community skills via an Upskilling Village. Despite PCC ringfencing £10K of UKSPF funding to support the start-up costs of the project, there have been financial challenges in securing a suitable building. The planned 2023 start for this project was not met, and now a 2024 start is targeted. Willmott Dixon are due to be meeting with COPC (City of Portsmouth College) in January 2024 to discuss delivery of programmes via AEB (Adult Education Budget) as the construction skills will be taught via the college, as well as community support on offer such as mental health services. A new lead for this project within Willmott Dixon has been assigned as of November 2023 to give a more focused input.

Unemployment Programmes

12 FTE all funded externally. The service has retracted significantly in July 23 following the ending of one programme, but due to confirmation of a new delivery option they are now recruiting.

Work and Health

Work and Health was established in 2018 and after a difficult start has been a successful programme. It supports adults who have been out of work for at least 2 years and have



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multiple barriers to work, including physical and mental disabilities and challenges. This provision supports our most vulnerable adults for a period of up to 21 months.

The contract has been extended and currently runs to Dec 2024.

In September 2023 we have signed a contract variation for the Pioneer Pathway which allows some flexibility within the delivery.

In 2023 the programme has secured

188 new starts on programme

145 job starts

63 job outcomes (confirmed sustained employment)

Celebrate:

A candidate who has recently joined our programme who has learning disabilities and has hearing impairment was not sure what work they would like to do, so after having a few employment and assessment meetings we established that gaining a food hygiene certificate would be a great skill to add to their CV and make them more employable for any hospitality roles. I contacted our course provider (The Learning Place) who work in partnership with us at PCC and informed them that the candidate has learning disabilities and suffers from hearing impairment, so they agreed to reserve her a place at the front of the classroom and would give them extra help with the training and extra time to complete the exam at the end of the course (if needed). The good news is that the candidate passed the course with a high score.

The candidate ecstatic with the good news and rushed up the very next day to collect their certificate. They are very thankful to us for thinking of putting them on the course, as this would not have been something they would have pursued if we did not make that extra effort to help develop their skill set and hopefully make them more employable.

The PCC Work & Health team are the highest performers across the whole Seetec Pluss CPA; including all delivery partners and their direct delivery.

IPS (Individual Placement Support)

New programme which started in Sept 2022 supporting adults into work who are in drug and alcohol recovery which has already secured referrals and one adult into work in this complex high need service.

In 2023 the IPS programme has secured

80 Referrals

23 job starts



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11 job outcomes (confirmed sustained employment)

Celebrate:

"John was referred to IPS on 23rd June 2023 from Havant Inclusion.

I met him on 27th June where we started his vocational profile document. John has really turned his life around from being homeless and regularly using drugs and alcohol to pass his time. A year ago, he was arrested and convicted of common assault on an Emergency Worker while under the influence of drugs and was given a suspended sentence order. Since then, he has got back in touch with his family and now lives with his Nan and Grandad and attends the Orion Centre for addiction support.

When we met, John was motivated to find a steady full-time job but had only ever got previous jobs through 'word of mouth'. Together we worked on his CV, discussed interview skills, and I sat with him to research jobs and complete job applications.

John was eventually contacted back by an employer on 31st August and started his job on 4th September! The role is through Best Connections Group (local logistic agency) to work as a warehouse operative at LMC Logistics Warehouse in Havant. He works 8am-5pm Monday to Friday and is enjoying it.

John remains with me on In Work Support and is very happy with all the support he has received, and his recovery worker is delighted.

Focus

IPS contract has been extended to March 2025. The Re-Work team are embedded within the NHS teams; generating referrals to Programme.

NCS

In 2023 the NCS programme has secured

185 new starts on programme

24 adults into work

21 job outcomes (confirmed sustained employment)

Celebrate:

"My name is Nataliia. I am from Ukraine. I came to Portsmouth with my 2 children and a dog after the war had begun. I am 45 and in Ukraine I have been teaching English (grammar, translation, general English practice) at the University for more than 23 years. I have PhD in pedagogy but that did not help here to get any position to earn my living. At the meeting we discussed my CV, my soft and hard skills, analysed the market of work



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opportunities. The adviser suggested to reorganize my CV and apply different positions. After the CV had been reorganized, I applied several positions and was invited to the interview where I was suggested a full-time job. It took me a week to get a job after the meeting with the adviser. For the foreigners it is very must be advised real practical steps to get a job."

JETS:

1184 Programme starts

641 Job Entries

This programme started in October 2020 and closed 21st April 2023. Overall figures above. Remote DWP (Department for Work and Pensions) Programme; also delivered throughout Covid.

RESTART:

3328 Programme starts

1385 Job Entries

This programme returned to the prime contractor FEDCAP in July 2023 through mutual termination. TUPE process complete.

Adult and Community Learning (The Community Learning Service CLS @ The Learning Place)

10 FTE (14 staff) are all externally funded.

The CLS aims to deliver a curriculum to support residents to take their first steps towards employment, encouraging the upskilling of those without a qualification; helping to break inter-generational low aspirations through Family Learning; and promoting the development of digital skills and encouraging older residents and those with long-term health challenges to maintain a healthy and stimulating lifestyle.

The CLS is externally funded with the main income and funding received from the ESFA (Education and Skills Funding Agency). Data, funding, and reporting is all linked to the 2022/2023 academic year. The CLS falls under the remit of Ofsted and its overall effectiveness was Good across all aspects of the service.

Community and Family Learning

The 2022/23 academic year showed a return to pre-pandemic learner numbers.

The CLS, together with its sub-contractor City of Portsmouth College, delivered 3072 instances of learning to 1726 learners across the city. Of these 1838 instances and 937 were directly delivered by the CLS team. This demonstrated a return to pre-pandemic levels,



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although there are less learners engaging with family learning; reasons for this include recruitment challenges with more working parents and a lack of accommodation in schools. When working with families, the CLS strives to encourage aspiration for parents and their children, alongside fostering a love of learning and an understanding that parents are their children's prime educators.

The development of progression pathways and increased digital skills courses has provided opportunities to consolidate and further develop confidence in those looking to improve their digital skills whether it be for social or employability purposes. There has been an increase in courses that are linked to employability such as Advanced Spreadsheets. This move will continue to support those wishing to reskill into new areas of employment. The strong partnership with the National Careers Service continues, 54 learners taking the option of impartial independent careers advice appointments. All community learning courses strive to encourage learners to acknowledge, develop and value their transferrable skills and to recognise their worth in the workplace. CLS has been a key partner with Education in the Teach Portsmouth events, encouraging residents to upskill with a view to employment in schools.

Confidence Building - *I love The Learning Place. All of the staff have been incredibly friendly, helpful, and supportive. My life is improving so much. Thank you.*

Family Learning English - *I loved x's teaching style; she keeps everything fun and relaxed but gets everything across. Thank you for helping me to understand how the children are taught now, because I really struggled before this course to help my little girl.*

Family Learning Storybooks - *Our tutor was amazing, very fun and informative. Extremely friendly and welcoming. The crafts we learnt will be treasured and repeated many times in our family for years to come.*

Accredited Learning (Adult Skills Budget)

All accredited provision is directly delivered from The Learning Place, a dedicated adult education centre. The CLS has continued to develop its wider accredited curriculum which has been successful in establishing a firm learner pathway into employment in schools; including L2 qualifications in Safeguarding, Support Work in Schools and Colleges and Understanding Children and Young People's Mental health. Functional English and mathematics still represent the core of the accredited offer.

This year has seen the CLS overachieve on its ASB funding by 12.8%. This represents 165 learners obtaining 236 qualifications and is the strongest performance in the last ten years. Of the 165 learners, 73% had previously completed a community learning course or workshop, showing the importance of this as a progression path to develop learners' confidence and skills. This year has seen an increase in both male and ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) learners.

Support Work in Schools and Colleges - *I felt this course fulfilled my expectations. I thoroughly enjoyed coming in every week and X's teaching style is amazing. She made sure*



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we were all included, and my work was of a very good standard thanks to X's support and encouragement.

Functional English - *As a single mum of 31 I was worried about time, but my personal situation was understood and made me more confident to start and do this course.*

Essential Digital Skills - *I am very happy with completing this course as it is very beneficial for my job role.*

Apprenticeships

The CLS is PCC's in-house apprenticeship provider for Business Administration, Customer Service, Team Leader, and Teaching Assistant apprenticeships at levels 2 and 3. In response to local employment challenges provision has been extended to support the health and social care sector, although this has led to increased support to enable apprentices to achieve their functional skills. Apprenticeships continue to allow staff to develop qualifications alongside their role, supporting staff development, progression, and retention.

As apprenticeships take approximately 18 months to complete, the 2022/2023 achievement rate for apprentices is 68%, which is slightly higher than the previous year, and reflects the high withdrawal rates seen by apprentices during the pandemic. The academic year has seen 51 apprentices start an apprenticeship which is the highest number on record and represents a 127% increase on the previous year.

The CLS apprenticeship team continues to work closely with Portsmouth City Council's Learning and Development team to identify opportunities to expand the breadth of apprenticeships on offer to support staff, employers and meet local demand.

Business Admin level 3 - *'from the bottom of my heart I would like to thank you for your extraordinary encouragement and support'*

Multiply

This is a three-year project and is part of the Government's Levelling Up Project to increase maths skills in residents without a level 2 qualification. The CLS is part of the city's delivery response and PCC's internal provider for Multiply. This project is currently mid-way through Year 2. Multiply has been positive for the CLS and has seen 416 learners engage in 604 learning activities, all of which have mathematics running through them and are aimed to support the development of maths confidence and work towards a mathematics qualification. The project has seen 34 learners enrol onto accredited provision in the 2023/2024 academic year.

Multiply Chocolate Fractions - *This refreshed my mind on lots that I had forgotten or struggled with at school. Maths has always been my weakness. This will be helpful with my son's homework so we can learn together. I will not feel so anxious at the thought of it now.*

British Nationals Overseas - Hong Kong (BNOHK)



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This stream of work is funded through the Home Office and provides the opportunity for people from Hong Kong to access education. This project has supported 57 learners and 168 enrolments in the 2022/2023 academic year including ESOL courses, CV writing and accredited Food Hygiene. The group has undertaken a series of visits to Portsmouth Football Club, Southsea Castle, and the historic dockyard. This initiative is designed to support integration of British Nationals resident in Hong Kong who might consider Portsmouth as their permanent UK home.

Trip feedback - *It increased our sense of belonging when learning all the landmarks and historic spots introduced by the guiding computer system with information in details. We all were excited and felt proud of being part of Portsmouth especially as we are new migrant settled here.*

Overall, the 2022/2023 academic year was strong for the CLS team across all its projects. The new academic year is off to a positive start, with indications being that numbers will mirror 2022/2023.

The service is also supported by centrally funded Marketing and Communications officer, who supports across Planning and Economic Development and Skills. As well as managing communications and marketing across the wider service this officer leads on the maintenance of the following websites:

Portsmouth City Council - business pages

[Business - Portsmouth City Council](#)

Situated in the corporate website this outlines the services provided by the wider service

Invest Portsmouth

[Home - Invest Portsmouth](#)

The shop window for Portsmouth from an inward investment perspective

Rediscover Portsmouth

[Home - Invest Portsmouth](#)

Focused on residents and individuals this is a service run by PCC which promotes high street businesses and events particularly high street retailing, independents to large companies and the provision available locally, supporting online placemaking, links to CRM and company records and connection to business support updates via the business bulletin

The role also supports the independent websites run by

Portsmouth Enterprise Centres

[Portsmouth Enterprise Centres | Start up and grow](#)

The Learning Place (Adult and Community Learning)



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[Community Learning Service – Website dedicated to community projects across Portsmouth City](#)

Signed by (Director)

Appendices:

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location