

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

23 NOVEMBER 2023

LOCAL SKILLS IMPROVEMENT FUND (LSIF) DIGITAL SKILLS AND INNOVATION IN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PROPOSAL

Report from: East Kent Colleges Group, Mid Kent College and North Kent College

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Summary

The Local Skills Improvement Fund (LSIF) can be used for capital and revenue expenditure to support investment in college facilities and equipment, and to fund the development of new courses and curriculum.

The aim of this presentation is to provide information on the funding application made by the Further Education colleges in Kent to provide training scenarios and showcase the types of assistive technologies that can support the health and social care needs of different client groups.

The application is one of three LSIF projects led by the Kent FE colleges which focus on the priority sectors in Kent: Construction, Engineering and Health & Social Care. East Kent Colleges Group is leading the Health & Social Care project.

1. Recommendation

1.1. The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note that subject to success in our bid, the following project activities are proposed:

- Creation of six demonstration spaces across the Kent and Medway Further Education Colleges to provide training scenarios and showcase assistive technology.
- Creation of different assistive technology platforms supported by a training offer to upskill the existing and future workforce.
- The enhancement of the existing curriculum and the development of new programmes that encompass contextualised digital skills, health and care technologies, and leadership skills.
- CPD to upskill the Further Education teaching and learning workforce.

- A sector collaboration event to support the engagement of employers and stakeholders in the project.

2. Background

- 2.1. Representatives from each college have been brought together by Jonathan Shaw to develop a proposal that addresses the recruitment and retention of staff, and the need to improve digital skills and innovation to provide more effective and efficient care. For reports to formal Member meetings, it may be necessary to set out information, which will be published in a confidential appendix. Only information fully within categories defined in legislation as “exempt” can be contained in a confidential appendix.
- 2.2. Key stakeholders and employers have been involved in the development of the proposal and have acted as ‘critical friends’ in the following areas:
 - Curriculum and course development
 - Sector collaboration and engagement
 - Strategies to encourage employers and staff to take up future training opportunities to upskill the workforce

3. Financial implications

- 3.1. There are no financial implications to the Council arising from this report.

4. Legal implications

- 4.1. There are no legal implications to the Council arising from this report.

Lead officer contact

Jonathan Shaw KFE Strategic Director, MidKent College

Appendices

Appendix 1 Local Skills Improvement Fund Information PPT slides

Background papers

None