

GTA England news

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GET Promotes GTA Model During Chancellors Visit

George Osborne MP Comments “This is the future of Britain”

With record numbers of young apprentices in Gloucestershire, Gloucestershire Engineering Training’s (GET) state of the art training facility was a perfect stop-off for Chancellor George Osborne to give the economic future a health check.



Chancellor George Osborne with tutor Alan Gribble and apprentice George Scott

The importance of record numbers of apprenticeships did not go unnoticed by Mr Osborne during his visit on 30th April. He was hugely impressed during his visit and said:

“This is one of the most impressive places I have been to in the entire UK...The training here is just outstanding. A few years ago apprentice numbers were down, now they are at a record high...This is the future of Britain”

GET, one of the members of the GTA Collaborative Contracting Consortium, made the most of the opportunity to promote the GTA model. Linsey Temple, CEO, GET said:

“Having the chancellor visit was a real boost for GET, not only as recognition for the excellent work the staff here do but also a major indication to the young people on programme about how much the government support and believe in apprenticeship programmes as a key contributor to the revival of the country's economy. Mr Osborne activity listened to the learners views on the apprenticeship programme and why they had chosen the apprenticeship route as an alternative to continuing in full time education.

He also asked what more the government could do to support businesses like GET to which I gave a number of examples such as access to capital funding for smaller businesses; a review of the funding rates specifically for the engineering sector including the payment structures (this is particularly a problem for smaller employers wanting to take on an apprentice); and financial support for more Group Training Associations within the UK. The GTA model is attractive to government as they are employer owned, sector focussed and proven to deliver high quality programmes with consistently above average success rates.”

GTA England are committed to political lobbying on behalf of the GTA England network and are due to meet with Matthew Hancock, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for further education, skills and lifelong learning. Look out for further updates.

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Operations and Quality Managers Forum

The dates have now been set and members are invited to join!

Working Towards Shared Services?

At our Members day on 8th May, Scott Baker from RSM Tenon provided feedback from the independent review of the financial health of GTAs, a piece of work commissioned on behalf of GTA England, funded by LSIS and The Gatsby Foundation. The key findings are as follows:

- The GTAs visited were found to have good to excellent financial management and leadership and deliver quality service to employers and learners.
- GTAs are well placed to fulfil the aims of the Governments Industrial Strategy by supporting employers in wealth creating sectors including engineering within the manufacturing and construction sectors, specialist manufacturing such as food or automotive, high tech industry such as aerospace and electronics, energy production including oil industry and wind generation, low carbon technology, new materials and composite technologies
- However, despite these very positive statements, the profitability and financial viability of the GTAs is poor. Taking an overall view of the data the GTA group in a poor financial position demonstrating:
 - Low or no profit to produce the surpluses required surviving in the short to medium term.
 - Revenues reduced over the last three years for the majority of the GTAs up to 40% in some cases
 - Diminishing cash reserves

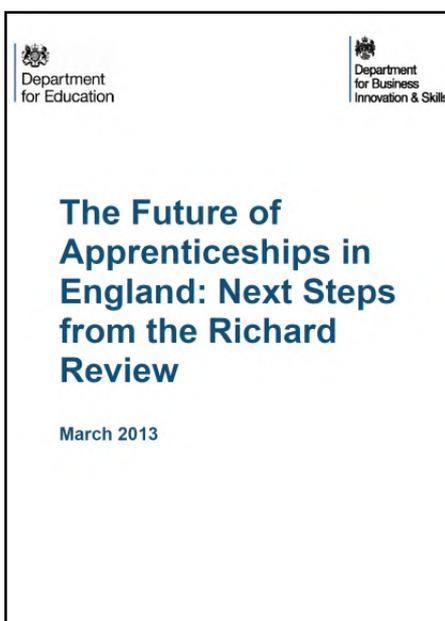
The report concluded that if this situation is not addressed and reversed in the short term the number of GTAs will reduce further losing quality provision from the market place.



A proposal at Members Day was discussed to consider exploring the potential to secure further savings through an approach to “shared services”. It was established that back office staff costs to turnover have been maintained around 35% over recent years. Those GTAs in the single contract are actively seeking to pursue a solution. The more GTAs that are open to this solution will make for a more cost effective solution.

RSM Tenon have committed to undertake a feasibility study in order to establish the optimum solution. In order to reach recommendations, a questionnaire was circulated to our members which has been submitted to RSM Tenon who are analysing the information to provide recommendations.

GTA England Response to Richard Review Submitted



Thank you very much to our members who contributed to the GTA England response to the report, *The Future of Apprenticeships in England: Next Steps from the Richard Review*. The GTA England Board recommendations were discussed at the GTA England Members Day on 8th May, and the response was subsequently submitted. **A full copy of the GTA England consultation paper can be found by following the link in the e-mail accompanying this months newsletter.**

The GTA England response, representing the GTA network, sets out a number of important points in respect of the recommendations, and demonstrates how GTAs would be well placed to help implement the recommendations set out in the Richard Review paper due to their unique relationship with employers.

It is expected that the government will confirm their broader approach and future implementation timetable plans by Autumn 2013, including the timeframe for developing the new standards and qualifications that will underpin future Apprenticeships. As a national network with a collective voice, it is hoped that the GTA England response will help to shape this in a favourable manner for our members.

Identifying Opportunities - North West Training Council to set up new social enterprise with The Greenbank Project

North West Training Council is working in partnership with The Greenbank Project to manufacture Power-Hockey Wheelchairs to enable disabled young people across the North West to have the opportunity to participate and enjoy sport.

Based in Sefton, Liverpool, North West Training Council has over 50 year's experience of providing apprenticeships and training to young people in engineering and construction in Merseyside and across the North West. Having considerable expertise in engineering, they joined forces with The Greenbank Project in 2011 to design and produce a new model of the electric wheelchair which includes firing mechanisms, a variable speed control and unique flexible V at the front of the chair that allows young people to dribble the hockey ball or football. Their students from Jaguar Land Rover have also been involved in creating the prototype.



A specialist compressed air mechanism shoots or passes the ball. The chairs are also designed to enable players to bump into each other to allow for safe tackling.

Paul Musa, Chief Executive of North West Training Council said *"We are delighted to be working with The Greenbank Project who provide invaluable support and opportunities to disabled people in Liverpool, and have the chance to contribute towards enhancing lives for disabled young people in the North West."*

Greenbank first developed a specialist power-hockey chair in 2000 to enable children with Muscular Dystrophy & Cerebral Palsy to play hockey.

It has been a dream of Gerry Kinsella, Chief Executive of the Greenbank Project to have Power-hockey recognised as a sport in its own right and to one day receive recognition as a Paralympics sport.

Together, with Greenbank, North West Training Council aim to set up a social enterprise to enable North West Training Council to manufacture low cost Power Chairs to make the sport accessible to as many young sports people with disabilities as possible.

The Greenbank team will develop the sport through running an outreach programme. The programme will introduce children to the sport in schools. It will also create clubs in the community where the children will be able to participate in this highly competitive sport. The project will also work to oversee the future of the sport and campaign for it to be a nationally recognised sport and form part of the Paralympic Games.

Do you have any interesting projects that your GTA is currently involved in that you would like to share? Please get in touch with mark.maudsley@gtaengland.co.uk



Envisaging the future landscape for further, adult and community education

As part of the GTA England Peer Support and Training Programme 2013, we ran a workshop, conducted by Manny Gatt from the 157 Group. In difficult financial times, it has never been more important to look towards and prepare for the future.

The workshop was well received and considered the report *Future Education in 2020: Making the System Work*, which provides snapshots of possible future scenarios. The possible responses to scenarios, including revisiting organisational purpose and adopting different business strategies and models, were looked at. This was specifically tailored for the GTA network to consider the next steps for GTAs should be moving forward.

A summary of the Delphi approach and the outputs from the day can be accessed by following the link in the e-mail accompanying this newsletter.

Invitation to Join Operations and Quality Managers Forum

The dates for the first meetings have now been set!

Following the success of the first practitioner network for Teaching, Learning and Assessment, delivered by Ofsted associate Judith Hamer on 19th June, we are pleased to confirm that we have now set dates for further practitioner network workshops, this time aimed at Operations and Quality Managers.

The thinking behind this has come from collaborative working within the collaborative contracting consortium. Managers have begun to work together and share good practice, which saves development time and enables them to get feedback from people in a similar role. A model for self-assessment has been developed with the participation of a Grade 1 provider with a consistent track record in leadership and management.

The workshop will be kicked off with an input from guest speaker Harry Tallon, Vice Principle (Quality and Standards) Accrington and Rossendale College, an Outstanding provider, at the first meeting on Wednesday 21st August 2013

The theme of the event is applicable to all GTAs and is aimed at using self-assessment to drive quality improvement, including:

- Designing the process
- Getting buy-in/ describing the benefits
- Adjusting other processes to fit
- In-year evaluation of progress

Future topics identified by the Practitioners Network and from our discussions with members include:

- Management of learner progress and sustainable timely achievement
- Developing observation and quality auditing of stages of the learner journey, eg recruitment, induction, reviews
- Moderation of observations of teaching, learning and assessment, and use of outputs for risk-based planning

There will be more topics, and we would like to hear from you if there is anything that you would really like to see covered.

We are able to propose the following dates for the initial meetings (to take place at MGTS, Coventry):

- **Wednesday 21st August (to tie in with the year start and allow time for implementation)**
- **Thursday 3rd October**

If you or your colleagues would like to join the forum, please contact Jane Nutting jane.nutting@gtaengland.co.uk.



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