



fesussex
The consortium
of Sussex colleges

FE Sussex Strategy

2023 – 2026

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1. Purpose and Objectives

Our purpose: To support members in the delivery of high-quality further education to Sussex learners, tell the stories of Sussex skills provision, and create a supportive workplace for staff in the Sussex FE sector.

Objectives

- Generate and lead collaborative opportunities; provide communities of practice and deliver professional development for the workforce and leaders of FE Sussex members, in order to share effective practice and resources, benefit from economies of scale, and cultivate innovation.
- Support the mental well-being of staff and students working in the FE sector across Sussex, and so facilitate learning environments that enable learners to thrive.
- Influence national, regional and local skills policy on behalf of FE Sussex members.

2. Activities

2.1 Generate and lead collaborative opportunities; provide communities of practice and deliver professional development for the workforce and leaders of FE Sussex members, in order to share effective practice and resources, benefit from economies of scale, and cultivate innovation:

- Enhance communication within FE Sussex through newsletters, an updated website and a LinkedIn account.
- Facilitate CPD for curriculum managers on curriculum planning for local skills needs (requires members' subsidy).
- Determine the need for and deliver staff networks/communities of practice, for example in the following areas:
 - Safeguarding
 - Women's leadership
 - Exam officers
 - HR Directors/CPD Leads
 - SEND
 - Learners
 - Chairs of Governors
 - Business development
- Deliver skills and teaching awards and encourage participation in national activity.
- Seek and lead bid-writing and project management opportunities to enable FE Sussex members participation in externally funded collaborative projects.
- Research the feasibility and, if appropriate develop a FE Sussex joint recruitment agency procurement contract.

2.2 Support the mental well-being of staff and students working in the FE sector across Sussex, and so facilitate learning environments that enable learners to thrive:

- Develop and deliver a pan-Sussex mental health and wellbeing programme for leaders, in collaboration with members.

- Collaborate with members to develop a FE Sussex approach to supporting staff and learners' mental health and wellbeing.

2.3 Influence national, regional and local skills policy on behalf of FE Sussex members:

- Invite Chief Executive of East and West Sussex Council to attend members' meeting each year.
- Organise an annual parliamentary event for FE Sussex Board members and Chairs.
- Identify opportunities and organise events to showcase FE Sussex members provision, and highlight challenges facing the sector, to local MPs, parliamentary candidates and local councillors.
- Develop a programme of regular communications with key stakeholders, including the AoC South East, the Chamber of Commerce, HE providers, and the local authorities.
- Create a LinkedIn account to share successes of FE Sussex and its members with the wider stakeholder community.

3. 2023/24 Operational Plan

3.1 Generate and lead collaborative opportunities; provide communities of practice and deliver professional development for the workforce and leaders of FE Sussex members, in order to share effective practice and resources, benefit from economies of scale, and cultivate innovation:

- Monthly newsletters to CEOs/Principals and member colleges' Chairs.
- Two network events for each of the following groups:
 - Safeguarding
 - Women's leadership
 - Exam officers
 - HR Directors/CPD Leads
 - Chairs of Governors
 - Business development
- Draft LSIF bid and oversee delivery of a project with the following strands:
 - Sussex Skills Mobile App
 - Sussex Centre/s for Entrepreneurship and Business Leadership
 - VR & AR teaching
- Seek out and apply for funding opportunities to support delivery of the FE Sussex strategic objectives.
- Research income generating opportunities resulting from LSIF project activity.

3.2 Support the mental well-being of staff and students working in the FE sector across Sussex, and so facilitate learning environments that enable learners to thrive:

- Collate and share members' effective practice for supporting staff mental health and wellbeing, and share across FE Sussex colleges.
- Review the format and frequency of Sussex Safeguarding network meetings and work with participants to design and deliver activity that better supports their needs.

3.3 Influence national, regional and local skills policy on behalf of FE Sussex members:

- Chief Executive of East and West Sussex Council to attend a members' meeting.
- Parliamentary event to be attended by FE Sussex Board members, Chairs and student representatives.
- Create database of Sussex parliamentary candidates and develop an election engagement and influencing strategy, to include college visits, and an FE Sussex skills event.
- Develop a programme of regular communications with key stakeholders, including:
 - AoC South East
 - Sussex Chamber of Commerce
 - Local authorities
 - Sussex HE providers
 - South East FE (SEFE)
- Create a FE Sussex LinkedIn account, with connections to local and national stakeholders, including policymakers at all levels, and the publication of fortnightly 'blog' posts.

4. Funding

During 2023/24 the activity outlined above will be funded through membership subscriptions (£45,000 for the year) and the LSIF (amount to be determined by September 2023).

5. Membership subscriptions

- Full members' subscriptions for 2023/24 are payable at 0.02% of college 2021/22 turnover.
- Associate members, paying 50% of 0.02% of college 2021/22 turnover will have access to the following FE Sussex activity:
 - Two CEO/Principals meetings each year.
 - Participation in the HR/CPD, Safeguarding, Exams Officers, Women's Leadership and Business Development networks
 - Subsidised places on any staff development opportunities made available through externally funded collaborative projects.

As agreed at the 26 April 2023 members meeting, the level of membership subscriptions will be agreed annually.