



Anne King – Gloucestershire First Meeting –
19th June 2008



Anne King & Peter King – speaking for Education & Skills issues:

1. Issues that education and skills are not adequate to meet the needs of small businesses – particularly in specialised areas such as computer science. Businesses are recruiting from overseas – or outsourcing work overseas – because of lack of skills, knowledge, work-readiness now (and getting worse going forward).
2. Employer engagement issues – now employers dragged in purely to tick education boxes and without opportunities to build sustainable relationships essential to developing local employment opportunities and communities.
3. AK mentioned new FSB guidelines (from National Education, Skills & Business Support Forum) for members on employer engagement. Will forward a copy to Jenny Pitcher when draft is finalised.
4. Complete lack of leadership and management training/education for micro-businesses – average size of UK business is 4 people.

Action Points from Meeting:

1. Glos First to arrange meeting between small business representatives and education, including representatives from all the education consortia in the county plus the EBPs.
2. Glos First asked for FSB assistance in reaching L2 skills goals in county.
3. AK wrote to Jenny Pitcher re Employment & Skills Board.¹ Board not yet appointed, anticipated one small business representative plus representative(s) from specific sectors – e.g. creative (who will also be small businesses). It is not entirely clear how the Boards are appointed/validated, but the Gloucestershire First one should be formed in September (according to Jenny).

¹ AK working on relationships between RSPs and Employment & Skills Boards nationally.