



Gloucestershire First meeting with FSB – 19 June 2008

1. As everyone is well aware, small/micro businesses account for largest percentage of employment in the private sector – average size is 4 people, but this sector does not see school leavers and graduates as having appropriate attitudes or skills for employment.
 - a. need Gloucestershire First to articulate to RDA & DCFS & DIUS that the output from schools and universities do not have the skills and attitudes required.
 - b. need to facilitate dialogue between schools, universities and small/microbusinesses in Gloucestershire about these issues.
2. Employer engagement: small & microbusinesses are generally not part of the conversation; and their engagement is driven by the education agenda and the benefits to the small & microbusiness (and hence to communities) are not considered.
 - a. Can we set up a meeting between the EBPs in Gloucestershire and FSB (possibly including LSN, the SEEN hub, etc. – and other schools) to see how small & microbusinesses might better engage with their activities.
 - b. involve small & microbusinesses in discussions about the funding of activities by EBPs and others.
3. National problem with leadership & management training for small businesses (especially micros) – which inhibits growth.
4. Business support limited in range to simple, standard formulae; but not good at signposting businesses on to someone who can help if the first port of call cannot help. There is a stark contrast between Gloucestershire and Gwent.



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