



## Regional Skills Strategy & Priorities Statement

February 2010 – Discussion with the EERF Learning and Skills Sub-group




## Outline

- New Responsibilities for RDAs
- The new system
- Progress to date
- Tasks we must do




## New Responsibilities for RDAs (1)

RDAs sought and have been given new responsibilities for skills they are:

- Develop a regional skills strategy, implementation plan & an annual statement of priorities (with region's agreement).
- (For the region) Skills advocacy, partnership building and spearheading multi-agency action to identify and resolve demand / supply mismatches in skills.
- Ensure the region & sub-regions have appropriate skills infrastructure to deliver training.

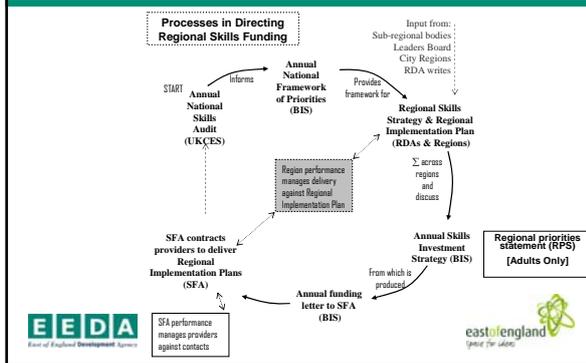



## New Responsibilities for RDAs (2)

- The skills strategy will be part of the integrated regional strategy (and its implementation plan). Done every 3-5 years.
- The strategy is agreed by the Regional Strategy Board on recommendation of its DIBs and sub-ordinate structures (that include partners). The strategy *guides* **all** funding in the region (all ages, all levels, all areas; it must link pre-19 and post-19).
- An annual Regional Priorities Statement (RPS) for skills progresses the strategy.
- The RPS *directs* the element of Skills Funding Agency expenditure for adults, including Train to Gain and ESF funding.




## The New System



## Managing Expectations

- The new system is different. There is scope for systemic change. The regional structure is more robust (and potentially more able to influence). For adult skills the region can *direct* state-funded delivery (75% of 2020 workforce is already in work).
  - But 1) BIS sets the Annual Framework of Priorities.
  - But 2) BIS has to agree the Annual Statement of Priorities.
  - But 3) Skills Funding Agency has to implement the strategy.
  - But 4) New policy is providing greater freedoms to providers.
- And the existing skills system has momentum and trajectory.
- Nevertheless, the opportunity for change is there .....



## Opportunities (1)

1) Collectively use the RPS to *direct* adult business and career development needs. And, collectively (through the DIB), require delivery to meet need.

2) The National Skills Strategy - scope for systemic change:

“Acquiring qualifications should not be seen as more valuable than acquiring new skills”

“We shall in future adopt a national scorecard approach in measuring skills progress”



the scorecard .....



## Opportunities (2)

The scorecard to have 4 elements around:

- supply of skills to match demand
- skills to have economic value for employers
- measure as earnings training outcomes
- industry-approved vocational qualifications

3) Regions and sub-regions work with Sector Skills Councils to make provision (the supply side) service demand/need.



### Progress to Date (1)

- Seat on the Transition Board with BIS and Skills Funding Agency (negotiation).
- Increased capacity in the Skills Team at EEDA (next slide).
- Production of the first 'mini' RPS – the '22 January Regional Priorities Statement' (to influence spending in 2010-11).
- Very quick turn-around was required - 1<sup>st</sup> draft done in a week with an update a week later. Very limited consultation but content was drawn from RES and EEIP.



### The 'new' skills strategy team

Head of Strategic Skills	Amanda Montague		
Skills Investment Manager	Ken l'Anson		
Senior Skills Analyst	Margaret Leek		
Skills Analyst	Sean Perera		
Skills Advocate Manager	Judith Kay		
Skills Advocate	Andy Markham		
Senior Strategy & Policy	David Wall		
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### Tasks to be done

- Now: Discuss the 22 January RPS as a start to a wider discussion of skills needs in your sector / area.
- Till mid-year: with partners develop iteration 1 of the skills strategy/priorities evidence base + its analysis.
- June/July: Deliver the regional skills strategy & implementation plan.
- Oct/Nov: Produce the RPS to direct expenditure in the 2011-12 year.

