

RLSP Provider Group
Tuesday, 9th September 2025 at 9.30am
Teams

	In attendance:	Actions
	• Jane Lewis • Simon Jenkins • Barry Walters • Angela Maguire-Lewis • Angeline Spooner-Cleverly • Rebecca White • Rob Hillier • Amanda Daniels • Richard Morgan • Helen Griffiths • Scott.McKenzie • Julian Dessent	
1.	Update on the skills and talent fund and consider the following pilot project application for funding: a. Wellbeing through the Public Plate JL informed the provider group this initiative aims to transform public sector catering in Carmarthenshire by piloting a new model of training for catering staff and community leaders. The goal is to shift away from outdated, low-cost bulk food provision toward fresh, nutritious, and gut-friendly meals that support both physical and mental wellbeing. Establishing the Swansea Bay City Region as a national centre of excellence in public sector food education. Also, it will be upskilling the workforce to meet modern nutritional standards and become agents of change in food systems. This project is addressing major health challenges such as obesity, malnutrition, and preventable diseases, especially among children. HG added highly supportive of efforts to improve children's diets however wanted confirmation that trainers are equipped to handle critical areas such as food allergies, hygiene, and preparation. RH commented it's important to acknowledge that, due to the nature of their contracts, school catering staff often have limited availability outside of their core working hours. SJ was concerned that its very Carmarthenshire based. It was agreed that JL would email the project lead for clarity on the above comments and email the group before it would be sent to skills solutions group.	

	Update on the College Funded Skills and Talent project SJ updated the group that the project, which began in March, has successfully completed its establishment phase, including staff recruitment, course selection, demand assessment, and marketing setup. All four colleges now have live website pages and have engaged in promotional activities such as employer events. Coleg Sir Gar and GCS have had soft launches to raise awareness, supported by active social media campaigns. SJ informed the group that enrolment has exceeded expectations. Looking ahead, the September intake is expected to focus heavily on construction, digital marketing, and Microsoft-related courses. A new Level 3 Care Management qualification is also in development.	
	PLA and part time funding – what are the gaps JL updated the group that she added this to the meeting as concerns have been raised from both colleges and industry regarding the withdrawal of several PLA courses from the approved list and their reallocation to part-time funding. The issue has been flagged for discussion, with an invitation for members to share any additional concerns they've received from industry. These points can then be raised in upcoming meetings with Welsh Government and Medr, where PLA provision is currently a major topic due to widespread complaints.	