

## Who we are and what we do



**Oxfordshire Education Business Partnership (OEBP) is a unit within the Oxfordshire's County Council's 14-19 Service, in the directorate of Children, Young People and Families.**

**Our aim is to connect business and education to prepare young people for a bright future'**

Our activities are designed to give school pupils a greater understanding of work and business, so that they are better prepared towards adulthood and their journey to work. Our business partners help us to deliver these activities and we encourage local employers to support schools more generally.

OEBP's activities are financed through a variety of income streams and currently we are not core funded by the local authority. Between 2001 to date, OEBP has been contracted by LSC to deliver specific work related learning priorities to Oxfordshire's secondary schools relating to KS4 (year 10-11). OEBP has been able to provide these contracted services to schools either free of charge or at subsidised rates.

OEBP's work is currently divided into seven categories:

1. work experience LSC contract
2. events and enterprise
3. professional development for teachers
4. vocational learning
5. Subscription/consultancy service
6. Paid for activities
7. Other projects e.g. NEET, The Pitch ,The Enterprise Journey, V To Trade (OXFAM)

Demand for our services has largely been dictated by the following factors:

- obligations for education business link activity placed on schools by the DCSF
- schools' own programmes for careers and enterprise activity
- the priorities of the Learning and Skills Council, the local education authorities and others

### Annually we:

- Provide Enterprise Activities to over 3000 students
- Arrange over 50 Personal Development Placements to teaching staff
- Engage with over 300 businesses
- Every year we provide 8,000 assured work placements, including fully matched places
- Work with over 34 schools
- Maintain and develop an extensive database of over 10,000 employers

Work Experience safety is of paramount importance and our service offers assurance to schools that places are suitable and safe for young people.

### Our partners and stakeholders include:

Oxfordshire County Council and associated directorates and services  
Employers  
Schools  
LSC  
The Oxford Trust  
Young Enterprise  
Industrial Trust  
Business Link  
Oxfordshire Economic Partnership  
Chambers of Commerce  
NEBPN/EBLOS

OEBP is part of a national network of education business partnerships (NEBPN) [www.nebpn.org.uk](http://www.nebpn.org.uk).

In Oxfordshire we work closely with other education business link organisations through a consortium called Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Business Links Organisation (MOBEBLO)

We employ 11 members of staff, 6 full time and five part time. All members of staff are local authority employees.

Our office is base is The Charter, Abingdon. We are looking forward to a planned move to new County premises in Abingdon this summer.

Our landscape is changing with major 14-19 education reform. We are expecting a transition in funding to move from LSC to LA 14-19 Service/consortia. Currently we are strategically placed to input and influence how future services may be delivered and how funding may be secured. There are seven 14-19 partnerships that will be delivering up to 17 new diploma lines in Oxfordshire and the challenge will be to align our services and activities to meet the current and future needs.

The changing landscape and education reform puts a higher and more voluminous emphasis on employers to support work related learning in a much more diverse way. The need to change is also driven by the fact that many employers are demanding a more uniformed and strategic approach to employer engagement. Given that there is a high expectation from employers to provide work related learning, it would seem crucial and timely that OEBP embraces this role and engage partners and stakeholders to drive this change forward.

OEBP wants to develop business activities that are relevant, sustainable and viable.

## Our Vision:

Developing and brokering a first class education business partnership in Oxfordshire

The areas of business that we are developing will seek to address the needs of our stakeholders by creating a more effective and collaborative approach to employer engagement.

We will develop this vision by talking to, and learning from, our stakeholders and by understanding the needs of education providers, employers and young people.

This vision can only be delivered by OEBP in partnership and co-operation with all of our stakeholders and will require a commitment from everyone to work towards a common Vision which is ultimately to benefit young people.

We are now in the process of developing operational and strategic plans to develop and embed employer engagement into our core business.

**Big Breakfast Challenge – Employer Engagement Event – not to be missed. 7<sup>th</sup> May Unipart House, Oxford. Watch this space!**

Oxfordshire Education Business Partnership – partner update  
Feb 08  
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