

LSC Update to PiP August 2008

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LSC office North Yorkshire

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1. Aims

The aim of this paper is to provide updates to PiP members, which assist understanding and evaluation, and to assist dialogue and development. It is important for providers to benchmark their performance against regional and national levels; and to be aware of developments in order to prepare for the future.

2. Performance

Participation

16-18 and 19+ Apprenticeships (periods 1 – 11)

The data below demonstrates that 2007/08 has seen fewer starts in P11 than the previous year for 16-18s, and that 19+ figures have been greatly assisted by the flexibilities regarding 25+.

16-18 (AiL Month 11)

LSC Yorkshire and the Humber Region

North Yorkshire Area

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	2007-08
National	144,161.4
Y&H	14,045.2
North Yorkshire	1,857.0

16-18 (Starts Month 11)

	2006-07	2007-08	Variance
National	18,348	13,998	-4,350
Y&H	14,487	9,721	-4,766
North Yorkshire	1,422	1,230	-192

Given that 16-18 apprenticeships are a priority, this is a disappointing variance.

19+ (AiL Month 11)

	2007-08
National	101,602.4
Y&H	8,177.3
North Yorkshire	1,348.4

19+ (Starts Month 11) – includes 25+

	2006-07	2007-08	Variance
National	8,809	12,246 (of which 25+ are 2,624)	+3,437
Y&H	5,741	8,266 (of which 25+ are 1,995)	+2,525
North Yorkshire	1,052	1,104 (of which 25+ are 161)	+52

North Yorkshire has only achieved a positive variance due to 25+ starts, unlike national trends.

E2E (periods 1 – 11)

The number of starts for North Yorkshire is 340; for Y&H collectively it is 6514.

Train to Gain (periods 1 – 11)

NVQ L2 (and NVQ 'L3 Jumpers')

	Planned Starts (all)	Actual Starts	% delivered
NY managed	2,856	2,358	82.6%
All in Y&H	29,948	22,214	74.2%

	Planned achievements (all)	Actual achievements	% delivered
NY managed	2,279	903	39.6%
All in Y&H	23,216	10,918	47.0%

Overall, the TtG year has been characterised by a slower growth in actuals than anticipated, which remains the case based on P11 data.

It is hoped that once all achievements data is in, actual achievements will have grown considerably.

Skills for Life continues to be a challenging area, but there has been a good increase since P9 for North Yorkshire managed providers:

- 46.6% of planned starts for Y&H have actually happened
- North Yorkshire managed providers planned starts are at 46.99%.

However, there remain some providers with no Skills for Life starts.

In order to respond to the challenges of Leitch and meet the needs of those who live and work in the region, Skills for Life delivery within TtG will need to be improved.

Success Rates

Apprenticeships

The latest (Period 11) current overall Success Rates for Apprenticeships (L2 and L3) are as follows, and show that North Yorkshire has now virtually caught up with the regional percentage:

	Overall
National	63.5%
Y&H	63.0%
NY	62.9%

E2E

Current (Period 11) positive outcome rates (leavers entering either FE, WBL, or employment) are:

National: 52%

YH: 51%

North Yorkshire: 51%

3. Information Updates

Apprenticeships – 2007/08

Providers are reminded that any outstanding paperwork required for the processing of apprenticeship completions in 2007/08 be chased up. We are keen

to ensure that completion numbers are as high as possible, and can confirm that completions will be paid for even where there is insufficient cash in your contract. If you have any queries about this please speak to your usual LSC contact.

Apprenticeships – 2008/09

As you will be aware, the 08/09 contract year marks the beginning of the new Demand Led Funding methodology.

16-18 and 19+

- This methodology combined with the wider impact of the Machinery of Government does mean that 16-18 and 19+ have been separated and it will not be possible to vire funds between these two lines.
- Further to the Apprenticeship allocation which you have received for 16-18 learners, we are pleased to be able to commit to funding any growth which exceeds your allocation. During the year should your actual delivery suggest that your maximum contract value will need to be increased or decreased please contact your LSC Partnership Team.

Payments

- Payment processes as a result of changes have altered, but it is confirmed that for Employer Responsive payments (which includes apprenticeships) the first three months of payments will be calculated from profiles, with a view to actuals and adjustments commencing in period 4.
- As you start to enter learners into the ILR it will be easier to get an understanding of the amount of funding being generated per learner. It is appreciated that the new methodologies do appear complex. You can access the LAD to look at details of individual learning aims which can then be applied using your provider specific numbers (SLN rate, provider factor).
- When the 6 week rule is applied what it means in practice is that payments will be made straight away, but will be reconciled to remove monies paid for learners within the first 6 weeks. Additionally, the new measures of success calculation does not. Additional Learning Support costs will be recovered also, whilst Additional Learner Support Costs will not be.
- Transitional funding arrangements for Apprenticeships continuing from 2007/08 into 2008/09 will mean that providers can make a claim if the introduction of Demand-led Funding has resulted in less money for the learner being earned, where the learner completes in 2008/09. The following briefing note provides some details about this and a worked example:
http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/national/Briefing_Note_ERM_and_Apprenticeships_Transition.pdf

Apprenticeships – July 2008 Draft Apprenticeships Bill

Skills Minister David Lammy MP and Schools Minister Jim Knight MP gave a joint statement to the House of Commons stating that the Bill will ensure all

Apprenticeships are of a uniform high quality and have the confidence of both apprentices and employers.

They said the Bill is designed to establish a statutory basis for the Apprenticeships programme and sets out the relationship between different parts of the Apprenticeship system. It will redefine the 'blueprint' and ensure schools provide advice about Apprenticeships where appropriate so that young people are properly informed about Apprenticeships as a career choice.

The draft Bill will now go through a period of consultation.

Literacy and Numeracy

There is a wealth of information and resources available to help support all aspects of literacy and numeracy. The following list provides a summary:

- **Skills for Life Network** provides regional and national information on all aspects of SfL. Membership is free and you may subscribe to the free fortnightly e-news updates which provide details of the latest Skills for Life news, developments, events, jobs and resources. www.skillsforlifenet.com
- The **National Research and Development Centre** for adult literacy and numeracy (NRDC) produce an on-line monthly newsletter, which can be accessed via the publications tab of www.nrdc.org.uk
- **The Move On website** offers information and excellent resources to assist the engagement and delivery of English and maths including practice tests and contextualised embedded materials. <http://www.move-on.org.uk/>
- **DIUS Embedded Learning Portal** contains versions of the **Skills for Life** Materials for Embedded Learning. These embedded teaching and learning materials are designed for use by teachers: vocational teachers and trainers, Skills for Life teachers, teachers working in community, employability and health settings and employability programmes. <http://rwp.qia.oxi.net/embeddedlearning/cfbtgeneralinfo.cfm>
- **The QIA Excellence Gateway** offers a wealth of information and resources to support all aspects of SfL along with links to other useful websites. <http://excellence.qia.org.uk/page.aspx?o=sfl> There is a Teaching and Learning Programme, which aims to support providers to improve the quality of teaching and learning <http://teachingandlearning.qia.org.uk/teachingandlearning/#>
- **LSN Functional Skills Support Programme** focuses on preparing and supporting schools, colleges and other providers for functional skills delivery. The site contains useful information, links and resources. <http://www.lsneducation.org.uk/functionalskills/>
- Although the **Key Skills Support Programme** has ended, you are still able to access the information pages and download copies of all KSSP publications and resources. <http://www.keyskillssupport.net/>
- The **Quick Reads** initiative is a major collaboration between leading authors, publishers, government bodies, educationalists, the BBC and others. Quick Reads are a successful tool to increase the confidence of readers. The books have been widely used in Skills for Life lessons, ESOL classes, throughout

colleges, prisons and workplaces.

<http://www.niace.org.uk/quickreads/user/lpabout.php>

- The **Read Write Plus** website provides updates including information about forthcoming conferences. <http://www.dfes.gov.uk/readwriteplus>. There is also an online magazine http://www.dfes.gov.uk/readwriteplus/Update_magazine
- **Skills for Life Improvement Programme** Newsletter (Issue 9 – August – was circulated via email).

The **National Audit Office** (NAO) have reviewed the Skills for Life strategy to assess progress made by DIUS, LSC and partners in improving adult literacy, numeracy and English language skills. Published in June 2008, the report highlights some significant achievements and some areas for improvement. In particular, the report looks at progress against the PSA targets and progress since the last NAO and PAC investigation into Skills for Life. The report recognizes many strong areas of delivery, and to facilitate development lists key areas for improvement:

- Presently insufficient take up of Skills for Life through Train to Gain which needs to be addressed
- More learners need to be engaged through Jobcentres and prisons
- A step change is needed in numeracy to achieve the increase in volumes required

To read the full report, summary and press notice, please visit the NAO website: <http://www.nao.org.uk/pn/07-08/0708482.htm>

You may wish to note that **National Skills for Life Conferences 2008** are being arranged as follows:

31 October: London, Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre

12 November: Birmingham, International Conference Centre

25 November: York, Royal York Hotel

Conferences will be available for booking nearer to the time and always prove very popular and useful days.

Diplomas

North Yorkshire has moved forward significantly with the development of Diplomas this year. With the first Diploma course in North Yorkshire starting in September 2008 and 8 Diploma lines of learning available from 2009, new learning opportunities are developing fast. NYCC produce a newsletter to update on 14-19 in North Yorkshire, and the summer edition is now available. For a copy, please ask your usual LSC contact.

National Learner Satisfaction Survey 2007

The National Learner Satisfaction Survey (NLSS) 2007 findings are now available. WBL findings can be found at the following website:

http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/National/NLSS_WBL_Report_final_July08.pdf

Framework for Excellence

The following guide provides a detailed description of the Framework for Excellence as it will be implemented in the academic year 2008/09:
http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/National/Framework_for_Excellence-Provider_Guide.pdf

Managing Information Across Partners (MIAP)

The MIAP website, www.miap.gov.uk contains information about the introduction of the Unique Learner Number (ULN) and the Learner Record. This is a significant development since ULNs will be a compulsory field on the 2008-09 ILR.

All 16 year olds entering post 16 learning will have a ULN assigned to them by their school, and all for all older learners providers will have to request one. Once a learner has one it will stay with them for life.

Single Equality Scheme – promoting equality of opportunity for learners

On 26th June Harriet Harman announced that the Government will be bringing before the house later in the year a Single Equality Bill which will simplify the equality legislation and bring it together under one Act. Which will if agreed by the house, require all public bodies to have a Single Equality Scheme.

It should be noted that whilst non-public sectors are not required to produce schemes, we are recommending that they should produce schemes as “best practice”:

- OFSTED reports show that 60% of Y&H providers have scored grade 1 and 2 in the Equality and Diversity strand compared with a national average of 80%. One of the reasons, for the low scoring is to do with the evidence and quality of the paperwork, bringing the schemes into one will reduce paperwork and hopefully ensure more people are familiar with the principals and practice of Equality and Diversity.
- New contracts issued to providers for 08/09 have a reference to EDIMs in schedule 3. Providers are asked to analyse data to improve participation and success of underrepresented groups and challenge stereotyping and set appropriate EDIMs.

Providers should consider:

- Will you develop a Single Equality Scheme?
- What Equality and Diversity Measures are in place and how you are progressing towards achieving these targets?

It should also be noted that it's important for providers to record as evidence any Equality and Diversity actions undertaken.

For further information please refer to: <http://www.lsc.gov.uk/aboutus/equality-diversity/ses.htm>

ESF

A brief overview of the 2007-13 programme, an overview of the 4 themes (youth, adult, employer and other (offenders, community grants)) and information about some of the providers we will be contracting with can be found at the following website: <http://www.fit4funding.org.uk/>

4. Improving this report

We are keen to ensure that you are receiving the information which is most helpful to you. So if you would like to suggest any particular additions to this report, please email melissa.taylor@lsc.gov.uk.

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