

LSC Update to PiP June 2008

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1. Aims

The aim of this paper is to provide updates to PiP members which should function as tools for 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 – 9)

- The total actual number of starts for 2007/08 up to period 9 is 2058. We expect to move closer to our target figure, though it is now expected that actuals will be slightly below the planned total which is in excess of 2300.
- The 2058 breaks down to:
 - 1400 L2; of which 890 16-18s and 510 19+
 - 658 L3; of which 275 16-18s and 383 19+

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- Since Period 8 participation has therefore increased most significantly for the 19+ group (for both L2 and L3 there has been around a 25% participation increase). The delivery of 25+ apprenticeships has helped to contribute to this trend.

E2E (periods 1 – 9)

E2E starts are currently 300, of which:

- 134 female
- 166 male
- 80 have a learning difficulty

Train to Gain (periods 1 – 9)

TtG providers work across the Y&H region and are contract managed by one of the sub-regional offices. The following data therefore shows NY managed providers specifically and the Y&H overarching situation.

NVQ L2 (and NVQ 'L3 Jumpers')			
Periods 1- 9	Planned Starts (all)	Actual Starts	% delivered
NY managed	2768	1891	68.3%
All in Y&H	27948	16723	59.8%
Periods 1-9	Planned achievements (all)	Actual achievements	% delivered
NY managed	2233	629	28.2%
All in Y&H	23092	8115	35.1%

Across the region P9 saw a good number of starts (a total of 16723 starts to date, with 3241 starting in P9). However, data profiles and trends now suggest that actual starts will not reach the planned numbers for the year.

Achievement levels remain too low, and need to be increased. In *Our statement of Priorities* (November 2007) on page 29, an 'indicative' minimum level of performance of 65% is stated.

Skills for Life continues to be a challenging area.

- Only 35.9% of planned starts for Y&H have actually happened and for North Yorkshire managed providers the figures are lower (25.5%).
- Only eight providers across the region have achieved 50% or more of their starts profile

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 9) current overall Success Rates for Apprenticeships (L2 and L3) are as follows:

	L2	L3
National	63.4%	62.4%
Y&H	62.9%	62.6%
NY	60.8%	59.6%

This data clearly shows that North Yorkshire is lagging behind the region as a whole and that in both L2 and L3 we are lower than the national rates. It will be essential for providers to drive up quality in all areas at framework level. As mentioned in the previous briefing (1 May) it will also be essential that providers also improve timely success rates.

E2E

Current (Period 9) positive outcome rates (leavers entering either FE, WBL, or employment) are:

National: 52%

YH: 50%

North Yorkshire: 48%

The routes of those with positive outcomes, are as follows:

19% progress in employment without training

14% progress in FE

10% progress into WBL

5% progress into employment with training

It has recently been stated that the preferred progression route from E2E is into WBL. As the data demonstrates, for NY at present, employment without training has the highest volumes, so this will need to change.

3. Information Updates

A Service to Match Apprenticeship Vacancies with Candidates

This will be a national service which connects employers, providers and prospective apprentices. In the Y&H region, the web-based information service will be launched this autumn. This represents a key step in increasing the take-up of Apprenticeships and will move the national pattern of take-up from the current level of 1 in 15 to 1 in 5 young people undertaking Apprenticeships. The service will be a fantastic opportunity to reach and be reached by prospective apprentices. Candidates of all ages will be able to search for apprenticeship opportunities through the website. Young people aged 12+ will be able to access the system, with 16+ accessing the application function. This is a significant development, and to explain the service further, a dissemination event will be arranged. Regions who are taking part in the test bed stage (this does not include Y&H) will

commence roll out from September 2008. The Y&H implementation of this service will roll out from this Autumn.

Skills for Life

There is a programme of training events developed and offered by PDNet, the Regional Professional Development network for Skills for Life. (Full details regarding this will have been emailed to you). PD Net can be contacted on 01226 776000 (Ext 6102) or via email to v.callear@northern.ac.uk.

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/ Issue 32 (May 2008) includes an article on the value of using ICT for Skills for Life learners.

E2E

Progression from E2E into WBL has been stated as the preferred progression route as referred to above; and we need therefore to support E2E leavers to make this next step. We are keen to hear about all good examples of progression into WBL – please email any case studies to stuart.williams@lsc.gov.uk.

The implications of E2E being subsumed into FLT and other considerations will be discussed by the LSC further, at the 18 July PiP E2E event. In *Learning and Skills: Policy Summaries 2008/09* the Foundation Learning Tier is described on pages 31-32.

HE

Higher York is a Lifelong Learning Network (LLN) whose role is to focus on progression into and through vocational education. It aims to create new learning opportunities; forge agreement across institutions on how qualifications are valued; and produce publicity to help people understand how they can progress through the system. It clarifies existing progression opportunities and engages in collaborative curriculum development in order to meet the needs of the vocational learner. The following information has been provided by Higher York to summarise current messages regarding progression and 'educating businesses.' Apprentices and potential apprentices need to understand the opportunities which gaining an apprenticeship will offer and employers equally need to understand the business benefits of progression for apprentices.

Higher York is working to expand the range of WBL opportunities available at Higher Education (HE) level, including Foundation Degrees. Foundation degrees equip employees with the skills and knowledge that businesses require. These courses can be completed through distance learning and on a part-time basis, allowing employees to continue working whilst they enhance their skills base. Foundation degrees can be developed with employers to target a specific skills shortage within a business.

Higher York is also working to increase awareness of the fact that learners no longer need to have A-levels to be able to study at HE level. A range of other qualifications including: Advanced Diplomas; International Baccalaureate, National Diplomas; Apprenticeships and NVQs, enable progression into HE.

Higher York has worked with colleagues at partner institutions to develop a variety of progression agreements:

- To facilitate progression from a range of programmes onto higher level courses by formalising what a learner needs to achieve in order to be able to progress.
- To increase the number of curriculum areas including Engineering, Business and Management and Society, Health and Development.
- To develop across a range of vocational and work based qualifications including from NVQs onto Foundation Degrees.
- If an employer is experiencing a shortage in graduates within a particular sector, progression agreements, together with the right careers information and guidance, are an effective way of illuminating a pathway into and through Higher Education.

For further information about Higher Education opportunities in York and business benefits please visit www.higheryork.org/community/, telephone (01904) 876350 or email contactus@higheryork.org.

Possible Flexibilities for 2007/08

Flexibilities are available for the current year subject to quality and other considerations; which include 25+ apprenticeships. It is noted that a key priority remains 16-18s and ensuring that a suitable mix and balance of apprenticeships are offered throughout the sub-region. Please speak to your usual LSC contact for more details.

Commissioning for 2008/09

Funding allocation letters for negotiated 16-18 provision were communicated on the 30 May. It is anticipated that 19+ negotiated provision will be communicated by 30 June. OCT outcomes will be communicated during July. Please speak to your usual LSC contact if you have any questions.

New Documentation for 2008/09

To reflect the new Funding methodology coming into affect in September 2008, the funding documentation which you can find on the LSC website under the funding policy section (www.lsc.gov.uk/providers/funding-policy) has been restructured as follows:

- All documents for 2008/09 are now under **Demand Led Funding**
- All documents prior to 2008/09, when multiple funding streams were present can now be found under **Legacy Documents**
- A **Strategic Overview** section contains overarching information, including an update of 'The 16-18, Adult Learner and Employer Responsive Funding Models' (version 2): http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/National/Demand-led_Funding_Models_revised_May08notrackchan.pdf

Please note that several funding policy documents are due for imminent release on the internet.

The updated '16-18, Adult Learner and Employer Responsive Funding Models' document includes key headline information along with details about provision, to summarise:

- The Leitch ambition for 400,000 Apprentices in England by 2020, over 250,000 starts and 190,000 successful completions.
 - The Government's aspirations, is for 1 in 5 young people to be undertaking an Apprenticeship (compared to the current position of 1 in 15) by 2020.
 - Apprenticeships will need to be a mainstream option for young people aged 16 to 18.
 - Additional learning support: Research has been undertaken and changes are outlined in the guidance and should be noted. A two-tier system for Apprenticeship funding of ALS will continue into 08/09; with ALN and ASN.
 - Minimum levels of performance: Paragraph 162 states that MLPs will continue to rise, and that just meeting the MLP does not guarantee funding – the LSC will seek to procure the best possible quality of provision.
 - In *Our Statement of Priorities* (November 2007) the MLPs are listed on page 29.
 - The Employer Responsive model section has been revised entirely, to include a number of policy updates including further clarification of NVQs and Programme Led Apprenticeships.
- **It should be noted that further updates to the funding models document are expected.**

Framework for Excellence

A regional provider briefing is planned for the 3 July, and you should have received an invitation for this – if you have any questions please speak to your usual LSC contact.

The Training Quality Standard

The website for the Training Quality Standard (formerly referred to as the New Standard) contains a useful FAQ section and resources:

<http://www.trainingqualitystandard.co.uk/>

If you have not looked at the website or considered whether to apply for the Standard, we encourage you to do so. There is support for small training providers (with revised costings), and achieving the Standard will mean that a provider is rated as 'outstanding' for Responsiveness to Employers in the Framework for Excellence (subject to certain time constraints).

ESF

The ITT launched in November 2007 included six specifications for activity purely in North Yorkshire. Contract negotiations are going forward on three ESF funded projects, namely Adult Engagement, NEET and IAG, which are 'Response Fund' programmes. It is anticipated that contracts will be finalised in the next month and activities will commence as soon as possible.

A number of Regional 'Employer responsive' specifications are in the contract negotiation process at present, including the Train to Gain Enhancement fund which funds programmes not fundable through TtG. As these contracts are

established we shall be working closely with colleagues in the region and our partners to ensure that North Yorkshire benefits from the provision made available.

In the LSC's spring commissioning round the ESF 'Skills for Jobs' and 'Support for Offenders in the community' specifications for North Yorkshire have been re-tendered. In addition a specification for a 'Community Grants' (similar to Global Grants in the old ESF programme) to appoint a regional 'fund manager' has been issued. This fund will allocate and manage grants of up to £12,000 to organisations from the voluntary and community sector.

The closing date for submission of tenders for these specifications was June 6 2008, through the Bravo system. Assessment of bids will be done during June and contract award panels and negotiations will follow on closely from that. It is intended that contracts will be finalised as soon as possible during the summer to facilitate activity in the autumn.

Not all available funding in the current programme has been committed so we anticipate that there will be further ESF commissioning in the next six months or so. Specifications will be developed to respond to established priorities and needs in the region. The co-financing consultation group for North Yorkshire (or its agreed successor group) will have the opportunity to contribute to the discussion of these priorities, and the Area Learning Partnerships also assist with the shaping up of specifications.

To find out more about ESF, please refer to the York and North Yorkshire Partnership Unit: <http://www.ynypu.org.uk/>

Voluntary and Community Sector – North Yorkshire Learning Consortium

Over the past few years the LSC has been strongly encouraging learning providers in the voluntary and community sector to form consortia to enable them to develop capacity and assure quality of delivery. In North Yorkshire, in accordance with national guidance, the LSC has directed Neighbourhood Learning funding to support the sector in moving towards a consortium model and this year has seen the establishment of the North Yorkshire Learning Consortium. The Consortium is currently supported by the LSC to enable the sector to achieve the twin aims of capacity building and delivery of learning leading to employment in disadvantaged communities. The LSC supports the Consortium's role as the strategic body for the sub-region representing the learning and skills interests and aspirations of the voluntary and community sector. For further information please refer to the NYLC website: www.nylc.co.uk

Skills Street

'Skills Street', is a campaign taking place in Skipton near Leeds, which aims to highlight the ever-increasing importance and benefits of improving your skills, by taking a typical street and measuring residents' skills levels and offering advice. The campaign was launched on the 7 June.

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 by 15 July 2008

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