



NFEC REGIONAL SEMINAR – London/South East

FRIDAY 27th June 2014

College of North West London

Attendees listed at the bottom of these notes.

Kim Holland, NFEC Director and Regional co-ordinator welcomed everyone to the seminar and John Ryan and Tim Berry from CNWL welcomed everyone to the college.

Introductions

Bob Millington explained structure of NFEC with the role of the Directors with Jon Gill as chair. Bob will be standing down as a Director at the National Conference in December but will remain part of NFEC on trailblazer panels and providing other support, subject to mutual agreement with and the wishes of Directors.

Standard Items / Matters of Concern

PEO and its funding forms the backbone of most apprentice training and this was threatened a few years ago but changes were fought and the PEO remained although on a smaller basis, safeguarding engineering skills in apprenticeships. It was raised at the North East NFEC regional seminar on June 13th that an email was circulating stating that PEO funding was to disappear on 31/8/14. Enquiries have been made by NFEC to find out the true situation from EAL. It is not PEO on apprenticeship programmes which will be affected but the EFA funding of using PEO as a standalone qualification. NFEC recommends that if providers are teaching PEO under these circumstances they should ask their college finance office to check to see if they are affected. It looks like 31/12/16 will be the last date for registering new starts. Darren Quinn from City and Guilds and Adrian Lewis from EAL will look into this for 16-19 year old and 19+ preparatory courses let Kim Hollands know.

During SFA audits, personal learning records are going to be downloaded for every learner prior to reaching the centre. A warning is given that errors are being found on these coming from previous centres and you must still ask for proof of certificates as previously even though personal learning records are being used.

Discussion on Key Skills, led by Monica Marangiu, Head of English, College of North West London

Monica outlined the new reforms for the teaching of Functional Skills and GCSEs for 16-19 year olds from September. Any learners who do not possess a GCSE in Maths or English must be enrolled on a relevant level programme for Maths or English. English and Maths will be part of funding for all 16-18 courses. There are high levels of expectations from Government that, by the age of 19, all students will have a relevant GCSE.

It is thought that very few will take GCSE whilst on a vocational course. At the College of North West London, there are only 3 GCSE classes and the rest take Functional in English. Training has taken place so that teachers can teach both FS and GCSEs. Initial assessment takes place in July and then repeated 2 weeks after starting in September using a BK assessment tool as well as a writing and diagnostic test to ensure that students are put on right level. Functional skills will be the main route with students being developed over time to be ready to take a GCSE in English. So FS are being seen as a preparatory course towards a GCSE and help learners feel they can get confidence / success.

A focussed FS programme is not recommended as the best way to deliver this but some colleges are getting good results this way. Ofsted are looking for corrections being made in students work for spelling, grammar and tenses, as well as students being placed on the right level and programme whilst improving standards

Previously English/Maths were used as a type of streaming onto technician or practical route in apprenticeships but nowadays even though for apprenticeships, grade A – C on higher tier GCSEs must be gained on entry or during programme, many employers are more likely to want on learners to have these on entry. The new English GCSE will be more difficult with 40% assignment, 60% exam. It is thought that having employment may help to keep learners focussed as well as trying to teach English and Maths in vocational context may help especially on a BTEC type subject.

Trailblazer Update

Bob Millington is representing NFEC and its members on 2 of the initial 8 panels, using the responses from NFEC members on the Richard Review last summer as his datum. These 2 panels are Aerospace (Aircraft Fitter) and Automotive (mechatronic and maintenance fitters). There are going to be common skills to allow for transfer between branches of engineering wherever possible. The next new trailblazer panels announced on March include are likely to be Rail Engineering, Emerging Technologies, Automotive Repair, Food and Drink and High Value Manufacturing. Bob will also be trying to get onto the Automotive Repair panel when it starts shortly. Mark Maudsley from GTA England is also involved with Bob on these 2 trailblazers.

The development process is that an Industry standard, a 2 page document, is to be written first; this standard lists what the apprentice in any given occupational area should be able to do as well as their expected behaviour and attitude (which is also to be assessed). The Employer Occupational Briefs (EOB) are in the process of being developed and include the Employer Units of Competence and associated VRQs but as NFEC has predicted in our response to the Richard Review, they will evolve from the current respective National Occupational Standards (NOS) already in place. The Automotive start is due in September 2014 but (given this very tight timescale) will include some old

and some new elements within the qualifications whilst the Aerospace programme is due for September 2015 start and should result in a reflection of all changes required by the industry. The Employer Units of Competence (EUC) which form part of the EOB, which are similar to NVQ units, are then developed and then this is used as the basis for the VRQs. NFEC has fought against a synoptic final test at the end of a long and complex apprenticeship, and there will now be summative assessments throughout. There will also not be grades awarded for practical competence, just pass/fail. The technical/academic side will be graded pass, merit and distinction so apprenticeships can be graded based on the technical certificates not the practical competence. A synoptic theory and practical exam will be taken at the end of year one, the foundation year, for the off-the-job training to show the competence of the apprentice. If they do not pass, they will either be withdrawn from the Apprenticeship or go back to retake year 1 until they do. Year 2 training is seen as traditional NVQ and tech level. There should be some sort of assessment in years 2 and 3 before a year 4 synoptic test. There were queries on how any retaking of years would impact funding. Behaviour is vital and will be a condition of success, even if skills and knowledge are of an acceptable level. Attitude is part of assessment, the Automotive panel has been working on this to make it objective, developing a matrix and NFEC are asking for this to be shared to all other panels.

There is a requirement for common grading across awarding bodies so they are working together on producing the qualifications to meet the requirements within the EOB. There has been still little involvement with SMEs. There is still much to be thought through to ensure effective engagement of SMEs. Current industrial requests are for a similar pathway as that in Germany with 1400 hours GLH for mechatronics covering approximately 13 mandatory units, 2/3 choice units and then a VRQ being requested.

It is thought that apprenticeships which will benefit the Country the most are most likely to attract more funding. There will be a Maximum Government Contribution (MGC) – in other words, a cap. This will vary between schemes depending on GLH. From this Contribution, 67% will be from Government, 33% will be from industry. In addition, there will be a Small Business Incentive (10% of the total training income), an incentive to recruit 16-18 year olds (20%) and a Successful Completion Payment (10%). This means that Government will pay 2/3 of the total i.e. for a programme capped at £27,000, £18 000 with £9000 from the employer. There will be 5 funding bands. Band 1 is highest government funded grant available. It is believed that Engineering will be in band 1 and the provider will receive £27 000 over the 4 years but this figure depends on the level each Trailblazer Group has valued their apprentice at.

All money will go to the employing company (maybe paid through the PAYE system) and the company will ask for tenders from training providers/colleges and companies can choose where they send their apprentices. There will be commercial type contracts between employers and providers. There are queries over the checking of quality in the Industrial companies if they are delivering learning.

NFEC asking for 2 funding routes: Let companies who want to deal with the funding have the money but for those who don't - allow SMEs to work with the colleges and training providers and have their apprentices managed for them as previously. (**Post-Meeting Note** – now a possibility that the government will channel funds to the employer who can, if they so wish, pass it to the provider to manage – yet to be clarified.)

The SFA will fund qualifications even if they are not approved by Ofqual if that is what the employer wants.

Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) will hold the budget for capital equipment and providers will have to bid for it from them.

There are 2 phases to the apprenticeship, the Foundation section based on the PEO, followed by a Development Phase which includes work-based learning towards NVQs and associated VRQs. EAL, C&G, Pearson and AQA are all strongly involved so far.

NFEC is planning to host specialist Trailblazer update sessions, to disseminate the latest information but only when there is sufficient information ready on key matters such as curriculum changes, assessment strategies and funding/routing of funding. It is hoped to hold these on industrial premises in the South, Midlands and the North.

For the phase 2 of trailblazers, there will be 4 out of the 29 with links to Engineering, including rail, emerging technologies and automotive repair. Phase 3 will be rolled out during October.

Please email Bob Millington if you have any issues you would like to have put forward to the committees.

NFEC On-line Forum

The new NFEC forum online is now up and running, please have a look and get discussions going. This is for use across regions so is not restricted to the region of your organisation.

EngTech Now

Philip Horsham gave a presentation on the EngTech Now programme. This included the benefits for employers, providers and individuals and the EngTech Now team are wanting to work with providers around the country to promote this. This presentation is attached separately to these notes and you can contact Phil on 077390 35402 or philip.horsham@engineeringtechnician.org.uk

Following lunch, Tim Berry kindly conducted a tour of the Engineering facilities at College of North West London.

Feedback from Awarding Bodies

EAL, Adrian Lewis – there are no real changes since the February seminar. There is now a dedicated area for rail qualifications including track maintenance and signalling. They are now able to offer flexible awarding solutions where providers can use some of their own material as well as other qualification to create bespoke awards.

City and Guilds, Darren Quinn - C&G 3268 welding qualification has been developed to include Level 1 & 2 Award & Certificate size qualifications for Fabrication, Cutting and Brazing/Soldering. These will be available for new registrations from 01.09.2014. C&G 7689 CAD is being redeveloped

for parametric modelling, 2d and 3d Cad and will be available from Oct 2014. There are also new units and assignments on their website and should anyone require help , please contact Darren on darren.quinn@cityandguilds.com.

Pearson, Adam Barrigan – the third specialist Engineering Award called the *Pearson BTEC First Level 1/2 Award in Engineering Materials and Manufacturing* has now been accredited and is ready for first teaching in September 2014. This qualification will be submitted to the 2017 performance tables list. This qualification is now the third specialist engineering award developed as successor to the principal learning in engineering which is being withdrawn 31st August 2014. The other two awards are already accredited and appear on the 2016 DfE performance tables list. They are called *Pearson BTEC First Level 1/2 Award in engineering design and product investigation* and *Pearson BTEC First Level 1/2 Award in Engineering Electronics and computer control technologies*. All three qualifications are generating a lot of interest due to the flexibility and accountability in the progress 8 measure as they each count for 1 GCSE. These awards complement the existing BTEC First Award, certificate, extended certificate and diploma in engineering that also appear on the 2016 DfE performance tables list.

The final DfE technical guidance for 16-19 Vocational qualifications has been published on 18th June for all AOs. Future level three qualifications:

- Should be either Tech level or Applied general performance list
- Needs to be a declared purpose
- Size of qualification must relate to its purpose
- Must be publically recognised by employers, HE, professional or trade bodies
- A significant proportion of the content of each qualification must be mandatory
- A significant proportion of the content must be subject to external assessment
- Must include synoptic assessment
- All L2 and 3 voc quals must be graded
- Have employer involvement
- Must provide clear evidence of progression
- Have a good track record

Logic Certification, Tracy Harker –Ofqual are monitoring awarding organisations more closely, there are changes planned from January for the claiming of APL and 24+ is likely to become 19+ shortly. Logic can now offer qualifications for heating incentives and metering for renewal heating incentives, both of 5GLH

Next regional seminar

A date of Friday 7th November is suggested, but this will be confirmed with a venue. Please email Kim Holland or Bob Millington should anyone wish to host the seminar or add a topic to the agenda.

Jill Mustard thanked everyone for attending, to John and Joanna for organising the event, to Tim for the tour and the exhibitors for coming.

ATTENDANCE LIST

Name	Organisation	Other info
John Ryan	College of North West London	
Andrew Wood	Cussons	
Barbara Rogers	Kingston College	
Dave Porter	Boxford	
Bill Roffey	College of North West London	
Tim Berry	College of North West London	
Monica Marangiu	College of North West London	
Hazel Lambert	P.A. Hilton Ltd	
Jill Mustard	NFEC Operations Manager	
Dilip Solanki	Deltatecnix	
Alan Kirkham	IPS International	
Kim Hollands	NFEC Director – London/SE regional Co-ordinator (Chair)	
Bob Millington	NFEC Director	
Philip Horsham	Eng Tech Now	
Adrian Lewis	EAL	
Adam Barrigan	Pearson	
Darren Quinn	City and Guilds	
Tracy Harker	Logic Certification	
Alex Combes	Pearson	