

NFEC Spring Conference – Advance Information

Thursday 27 & Friday 28 May 2010 – Holiday Inn, Coventry (M6, J2)

Thursday 27 May

Funding Allocations for 2010/2011 – Current Position and Planned Outcomes

Broad Funding allocations for the coming Academic Year are becoming clearer and there are implications that will have a significant effect on providers – importantly, Train to Gain, Apprenticeships and Programmes for the Unemployed. What are the latest developments and what will be the impact of allocations on providers?

Update on Funding Strategy in Support of QCF Implementation

Understandably, there was great interest in this topic at the November Conference and there have been further developments since then which can now be shared. What is the nature of these developments and how are they going to affect providers? What are the key outcomes from funding trails that finished in March? At what point will the funding model move from a unit and qualification level to credit level?

Effective support for Providers in Preparation for Implementation of QCF

LSIS are working with other organisations in helping providers prepare for the implementation of the QCF. From experience so far, what are the emerging key issues and how are these being addressed through the support being offered and what is the nature of this support?

Workshop Session 1

The following workshops are being made available with the opportunity to rotate and therefore broaden the experience that can be gained from them. They will either be led by practitioners where appropriate, or allow for constructive discussion leading to suggestions for action by NFEC. They will each be chaired by an NFEC Director.

- **Funding Issues** – Taking account of the presentations earlier in the day, what key issues have delegates identified in terms of both the Funding Allocations for 2010/2011 and the Funding of the QCF that NFEC need to be addressing?
- **Promotion of Private Providers and Colleges as the ;**
- **‘First Port-of-Call’ by companies recruiting Apprentices** – An opportunity to share and identify sound practice on how best to promote the FE Service to Industry as the prime source of potential recruits for Apprentices. This relates to the following presentation.

Friday 28 May

SEMTA’s Revised Organisational Structure

Following the successful relicensing by the Government in May 2009, SEMTA has restructured to allow further improvement in its services to employers. This includes consolidating NSAM and Metskill within the organisation. What is the nature of the new structure and how will it relate to the organisations now within it and to the various outside agencies, particularly providers?

Workshop Session 3 – An opportunity for delegates to rotate and attend another workshop of choice.

Renewable Energy – Engineering Innovation Supporting Future Developments

e-on is one of the world leading power and gas companies. With annual sales of more than EUR 86 billion and employing 93,000 employees. They have been leading on the development of renewable energy methods for many years. Last year e-on announced that it would, as part of a consortium, invest EUR 2.2 billion in building the first 630MW phase of the London Array off-shore Wind Farm in the Thames Estuary. What range of engineering technologies are being brought to bear on developments of renewable energy and what training is being planned to underpin them that colleges and private providers can support?

New Framework for HE – Higher Ambitions

In November last year, the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills published the New Framework for HE or Blueprint. It sets out how our universities can remain world class and also improve access to HE through routes such as vocational programmes in FE and Apprenticeships and it recognises in important role of FE in providing HE opportunities. What are the key aspects of this initiative and how effective will it be in broadening access? To what extent will the profile of FE need to be raised if the ambitions of this initiative are to be realised?

New Skills Funding Agency (SFA) and Young People’s Learning Agency (YPLA)

In March 2008 the thinking on how the LSC was to be reformed was published and in April of this year, the SFA and the YPLA replace the LSC. How are these new organisations being structured, how will they relate to each other, SSCs and other agencies and to the FE Sector in a coordinated and coherent way?

Plenary Session – NFEC Directors

- **Update on the implementation of the QCF -** View of awarding bodies (EAL, C&G, EDEXCEL & IMI Awards)
- **Evidencing PLTS –** This important element of the Diplomas and other programmes needs to be effectively evidenced. What techniques are being adopted to ensure learners are benefitting from their integration of PLTS? An opportunity to share developing good practice.

Revised Suite of Competence-Based Qualifications for the Building Services Industry – Implications for Providers

Providers have been expressing concern regarding the new suite of integrated competence-based qualifications developed for the Building Services Industry and how they will best be able to support it, particularly in helping those not able to gain an Apprenticeship directly from school. What replacement for the current effective full-time provision for these candidates is being developed? How can providers assist the Industry in reducing the 'Cowboy traders'?

Workshop Session 2 – An opportunity for delegates to rotate and attend another workshop of choice.

Day 1 Plenary Session

Conference Dinner

Residential delegates and invited guests

Dinner Wine sponsored by EAL