

NFEC Spring Conference

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

Thursday 27 May

- 9.30 **Arrival and Coffee**
Conference Registration
- 10.00 **Welcome and Introduction – Bob Millington MBE**
- 10.15 **Julie Nugent, Director of Funding and Allocations - SFA**
- 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 the work of Providers?
- 10.55 **Leighton Ernsberger – Senior Policy Manager for QCF Implementation, SFA**
- Update on Funding Strategy in Support of QCF Implementation**
- Since the last Conference, there have been further developments. What is the nature of these developments and how are they going to affect providers? What are the key outcomes from funding trials that finished in March? At what point will the funding model move from a unit and qualification level to credit level?
- 11.30 **Coffee**
Visit educational exhibitors
- 12.00 **Liz Walters – Manager, LSIS Support [programme]**
- Effective Support for Providers in Preparation for Implementation of QCF**
- LSIS is working with other organisations in helping providers prepare for the implementation of the QCF. From experiences 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? From contacts with providers what strategies are they adopting in preparation for implementation?
- 12.35 **Lunch (and check-in for Residential Delegates)**
Visit educational exhibitors
- 13.45 **Workshop Briefing – Bob Millington**
- 13.55 **Workshop Session 1**
- The following workshops (each chaired by an NFEC Director) are being made available with the opportunity to rotate at other times during the Conference. They will either be led by practitioners, and/ or allow for

Friday 28 May

- 8.45 **Registration and Coffee - New Arrivals**
- 9.00 **Bill Twigg - Director of Development, SEMTA**
- 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 outside agencies, and providers in particular?
- 9.40 **Workshop Session 3 – An opportunity for delegates to rotate and attend another workshop of choice.**
- 10.20 **Coffee**
Visit educational exhibitors
- 10.50 **Dr Amy Trunkfield, Flue Gas Cleaning Specialist – E.ON Engineering**
- Sustainable Energy – Engineering Innovation Supporting Future Developments**
- E.ON is one of the worlds largest investor-owned power and gas companies. With annual sales of more than EUR 81 billion and around 88,000 employees. E.ON is investing in a wide portfolio of energy generation technologies, to ensure a sustainable future power supply. Coal-fired power stations will form part of this portfolio and post-combustion capture technologies are currently being developed to ensure a low-carbon future for these stations. How does the post-combustion capture technology work? What are the current challenges facing its deployment? How are these challenges being addressed by the R&D that is being carried out around the world, both in academia and industry?
- 11.30 **Ian Dunn – Acting Dean of Engineering and Computing, Coventry University**
- 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 universities can remain world class and also improve access to HE through routes such as vocational programmes in FE and Apprenticeships and it recognises an important role for 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

constructive discussion leading to suggestions for action by NFEC.

- **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
- **Competence-Based qualifications and Apprenticeship training** – SummitSkills, the SSC for the Building Services Industry, has developed a new range of integrated competence-based qualifications that include knowledge and performance elements. These will replace the NVQ and under-pinning Technical Certificates. A chance to share understanding in preparation for the subsequent presentation.
- **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.

12.00

David Cragg OBE – National Director of Development, Skills Funding Agency

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 replaced the LSC. How have these new organisations finally been structured and how will they relate to each other, to the SSCs and other agencies and to the FE Sector in a coordinated and coherent way?

12.40

Plenary Session – NFEC Directors

This to be kept very focussed and related to those actions that delegates would like to see NFEC take in relation to current issues and to issues that have emerged from the Conference. The structure of the discussion will encompass:

- Issues from workshops and conference
- Related agreed actions for NFEC
- Themes/topics that delegates would like to see covered at the 2010 Autumn Conference.

14.55 **Keith Marshall, Chief Executive, SummitSkills**

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

There is concern regarding the new suite of integrated competence-based qualifications developed for the Building Services Industry, particularly in helping those not able to gain an Apprenticeship directly from school. What will replace the current effective full-time provision for these candidates? Can providers assist the Industry in reducing the effect of "Cowboy" traders?

13.00

Lunch, Conference Close & Departure

NFEC endeavours to continually improve the value of your conferences – it will be a great help in this if you complete and leave with Bob Millington, before you go, your evaluation form for this event.

We look forward to working with you, at this conference and into the future.

15.35 **Visit Educational Exhibitors;**
Coffee

16.05 **Workshop Session 2** – An opportunity for delegates to rotate and participate in another workshop of choice.

17.05 **NFEC Chair Ray Kitchin and Directors**

Review of the issues from presentations and workshops so far. Identification of actions for NFEC. (**Succinct feedback** presentations from Workshop Chairs will be included.)

17.30 Close of Thursday Session.

19.30 **Conference Dinner** Residential delegates and invited guests

Dinner Wine sponsored by EAL