

NFEC Autumn Conference

Thursday 24th & Friday 25th November 2011 – Holiday Inn, Coventry (M6, J2)

Thursday 24th November

9.15 **Arrival and Coffee - Conference Registration**

9.30 **NFEC Ltd AGM – Ray Kitchin - Chair**

10.05 **Welcome and Introduction - Bob Millington MBE**

10.15 **Anna Paige, Deputy Director - Quality, Support and Guidance Division - DfE**

Review of 14 to 19 Vocational Education

Professor Alison Wolf of King's College London was commissioned last year by the Secretary of State for Education to carry out a review of 14-19 Vocational Education. The report was published earlier this year and the Government responded in May. What are the key messages from Government arising from this response and how will they impact on 14 – 19 provision? This presentation will provide an outline of the rationale to the response. A unique opportunity to engage in informed discussion on a very important initiative and share your thinking.

10.55 **Keith Smith, Director for Funding and Allocations – Skills Funding Agency**

Funding of SASE-Compliant Apprenticeships

The new funding model for SASE-compliant apprenticeships came into effect in August. What are the key principles and elements associated with the new model compared with the previous models and associated rationale?

11.30 **Visit educational exhibitors; Coffee**

12.00 **Dr. Richard Hutchins, Strategic Advisor for the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnerships and Director of Jaguar Land Rover Programmes at Warwick Manufacturing Group**

Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) – Structure and Relationship with Providers

In October last year, the Government announced 24 partnerships that were ready to move forward and establish what are being called Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) and a further 13 have been announced since then. The intention is to allow local areas to take control of their future economic development. Coventry and Warwickshire LEP has been running for one year and is recognised as leading the way in a pragmatic, business-focussed manner. What are their priorities and how have they made progress in the new funding environment?

12.35 **Lunch (and check-in for Residents)**
Visit educational suppliers and exhibitors

13.45 **Workshop Briefing – Bob Millington**

Friday 25th November

8.45 **(New Arrivals Registration and Coffee)**

9.00 **Professor Alison Halstead, Pro-Vice Chancellor – Aston University**

HE White Paper – Implications for FE

At Conference in May this year and before the White Paper was published, Chris Morecroft, the then President of the AoC outlined what they were hoping would be included in the White Paper. Now that it has been published, what are the key elements within it and how will they affect the sector?

9.40 **Workshop Session 3 –** In accordance with the feedback from previous conferences, again workshops are being repeated from the first day of Conference to allow rotation.

- **Summit Skills FT Programmes – both the new and old qualifications –** Focussed discussion regarding the experiences of providers on the implementation of the new qualifications (are the old qualifications still as popular as ever?). What are the emerging issues in the light of experience regarding both “old” and “new” qualifications?
- **Funding of Apprenticeships –** Focussed discussion to share experiences and identify key issues from the presentation on the 24th that NFEC must address.
- **Extended Diploma in Engineering (NVQ Level 3) Leader: (Rep. from EAL) –** a chance to share initial experiences nationally and identify issues for NFEC to address.
- **Career Opportunities in the Oil Industry – Leader: Nic Burton (Aibel)** – There are many career opportunities in the Oil Industry for Engineers and trainee Engineers so openings for FT learners? An opportunity to find out more and discuss possible training programmes.

10.15 **Visit educational exhibitors; Coffee**

10.55 **Graeme Boag and Rhian Perrin, Higher Apprentices - AIRBUS**

Example of successful Delivery of Higher Apprenticeships in Engineering

The higher Apprenticeship in Engineering was introduced by SEMTA in 2008, providing opportunities for Advanced Apprentices to progress to a higher level of NVQ and gain a degree but also provider for direct entry for school-

13.50 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 be led by practitioners and be chaired by an NFEC Director. **Please prepare clear, concise feedback and at all times try to keep an eye on how NFEC might be able to provide support/influence.**

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14.40 Dr Jun Qiao, Strategy Manager for Off Shore Wind – Energy Technologies Institution (ETI)

Wind Power – How far has this Technology Developed?

The development of wind farms has grown significantly over recent times and numbers are expanding quickly both inland and off-shore. What range of engineering technologies are being brought to bear on developments of the manufacture and installation of wind turbines and what training is being planned to underpin them, that Colleges and private providers can support?

15.20 Visit educational exhibitors; Coffee

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

16.50 Ray Kitchin – NFEC Chair and Directors

Review of the issues from Conference so far and the Workshops. Identification actions for NFEC from Day 1. To include **succinct** presentations from Workshop chairs on identified issues for NFEC to address.

17.15 Close of Thursday Session.

19.30 Conference Dinner - Residential delegates and invited guests

leavers at 18 with equivalent qualifications. They are now appearing on Government radar as being an important alternative to direct entry to university. How well are they being implemented? A chance to hear of an example of good practice and to share some associated issues.

11.30 Mike Stokes, Vice Principal - Harlow College

Guided Learning Hours (GLHs) will they Stay or will They Go? A Progress-Based Approach to Learning - Exemplar

It was reported in the press early this year that the Government were supporting a move to scrap requirements for specific GLHs in favour of letting colleges decide how much teaching a course requires. This followed a revolutionary approach to learning by the Principal of Harlow College that was progress-based and not tied down by GLHs. How is the initiative developing and how close might Government be to rolling this approach out nationally?

12.05 Beverley Lilley, Heads of Quality Compliance - IMI

IMI SASE-Compliant Apprenticeship Frameworks – Update and Related Issues

The new SASE-Compliant Apprentice Frameworks for the Motor Vehicle Retail and Repair Sector were issued in August this year following the accreditation of a number of new VRQs and revised IMI ERR Workbook. What are the key features of these frameworks and three months in, what are the emerging issues that may need consideration in the future?

12.40 Plenary Session – NFEC Directors

This to be kept very focussed and related to what actions delegates would like to see NFEC take in relation to the themes and topics from the Conference. The structure of the discussion will encompass:

- Issues from workshops and conference
- Related agreed actions for NFEC
- Agree themes/topics you would like to see covered at the Spring Conference.

13.00 Lunch, Conference Close & Departure

We try to continually improve the value of your conferences – it would be a great help if you complete and leave with Bob Millington, your evaluation form of this event before you go. Thank you.