



NFEC REGIONAL SEMINAR – South West Monday 25th January 2016

Petroc, Barnstaple Campus

There is a separate attendance list available.

1. Welcome and Introduction to the seminar

Robert Coombes welcomed everyone to the seminar on behalf of Petroc and as Chair, welcomed everyone on behalf of NFEC. The Engineering building was opened in September 2015 as part of a major college refurbishment. Bob's role has changed to a HE focus and Tim Baker is now responsible for FE. Bob feels that this is good time for him to step down from the regional NFEC coordinator role and this will be his last meeting as Chair.

2. Current matters of concern

There have been a lot of emails on with information on trailblazer and work experience and it is these which are giving most concern at Petroc.

3. The Welding Institute in the South West, World Skills and Current Trends in Welding regulations

Hugh McPhillips explained the history of The Welding Institute. Currently the SW branch is inactive and Hugh is trying to regenerate a SW branch. He is asking if colleges would like to become a satellite centre. They will need to host 3 meetings a year on their premises and TWI will reimburse food costs. Private and industry members would then be invited to come together to work with each other. This can be a positive experience for students if they are involved. There is free membership for anyone in their first year and there are a lot of available resources. Hugh is looking to set up a network of centres. Speakers can be from a college or TWI.

He then introduced AWFTE (Association for Welding, Fabrication, Training and Education) which represents college lecturers and private training providers. You can join as an individual member or as a college.

Hugh has taken part in World Skills competitions as a judge and watched local competitors be selected to go to the Skills Show and other national events. It is from these that selection for World Skills takes place. There are some differences between the marking at National skill criteria level and those used at international level. Essentially competitors have 8 hours to complete their task to a 1mm tolerance. There is very positive feedback on experiences from students taking part in these competitions.

There are e-learning packages for welding and fabrication as well as other subjects available from skills2learn.

There is a course specifically to cover the CE Marking EN 1090 Construction Products Regulations. This is all about traceability, with monitored assessment and verification of performance to ensure consistency of product. There are 4 execution classes – class 1 farm buildings, class 2 buildings, class 3 bridges and class 4 special structures such as nuclear. Collaboration between small companies is recommended to help meet this legislation.

4. Qualifications/Awarding bodies

Tracy Harker – Logic Certification

QCF to RCF updates are being sent out to those on distribution list, please let Tracy know if you want to be on this list (tracy.harker@logic-cert.com). SMART metering is popular at the moment and there are no prerequisites for this course. There is now a level 4 qualification in Gas Safety Modules and a 17th edition top up short course available. Logic Certification will be holding a National Forum day in Kegworth on 30th June.

Bill Lockyer - EAL

There have been a lot of developments to the EAL website with more information being easily linked. The qualifications in Engineering Technologies are revamped VRQs in levels 1, 2 and 3. These will be ready for 2016/7 curriculum and includes extensive delivery advice on teaching and for SOWs, assessment methods, e-portfolios and are compatible with mobile, tablet devices and VLEs.

A level 1 award to Introduction to Welding Fume Hazard Control has been introduced. For KS5 and schools teaching, there are levels 2 and 3 in Plumbing and Electrical Technology, which again have teaching materials developed for them, ready for use. New rules apply which is just one failure allowed or students must resit the course. There are Traineeship awards available.

Any queries on Trailblazer qualifications can be sent to: Trailblazer@eal.org.uk. Instead of range and scope statements, there are skills and performance statements so the trailblazer qualifications do look very similar to their PEO equivalents. There are knowledge and understanding questions at the back of the documentation. The Electrotechnical trailblazer qualification is available but its shelf life is only 3 years at the moment and is therefore due for review in 2017.

There are many short courses CPD available and RPL can be considered with many qualifications. Flexible solutions is available for a bespoke company specific requirement. Short courses for Domestic Installer and level 3 electricians are developed. Other courses available are a Level 2, pathway 4: Engineering Maintenance and Installation for Maintenance, level 4 Award in the Design and Verification of Electrical installations, this being a single unit with 30 GLH and total qualification time TQT of 100 hours with a centre marked, EAL set exam. EAL are trying to link real life projects/normal work into the assessment process for students.

Publications are now starting to be developed e.g level 2 Electrical Installation Work by Peter Roberts and Mark Baker.

5. West of England Sector skills statement for Advanced Engineering & Aerospace from the annual business skills survey data

Pearl Mills, Business Engagement Manager (Skills), West of England Local Enterprise Partnership explained how they were working to engage with Advanced Engineering and Aerospace industry as part of 7 priority sectors (not 5 as on the slides with Health and Life Sciences and Construction being added).

A survey of employers in the area has been carried out with a 12.7 % Advanced Engineering response rate. They want to work in partnerships to meet the skills themes, listed below, to focus the sector priorities and what work needs to be carried out on these findings.

- Improve career education
- Relevance, quality and local responsiveness of education and training provision
- Increase apprenticeship starts and improve access to higher and degree apprenticeships
- Engage SMEs and supply chains to boost productivity and build capacity for growth
- Promote pathways for employment to enhance equality and diversity in the workforce.

Details for each of these are given on the slides.

6. Apprenticeship Trailblazer Initiative - Update on Trailblazer Developments and related issues

Bob showed documents which have been provided by Bob Millington and the main points of an NFEC response to the technical and professional education reform were discussed. It was suggested that for work experience if an employer is sending an employee to college one day a week then a full time student could replace them for that day in the workplace.

GTA England and NFEC are planning 3 briefing sessions this spring. Information at the moment is:

- Midlands event on 17th March at TMUK Burnaston, 8 - 11.30 employers briefing session, 12 - 4.30 provider's briefing session
- North - 5th April
- South - 16th April

Details will be sent out when available.

Bob Coombes proposed Chris Miller as his replacement as SW Regional Co-ordinator. This was agreed and accepted. Jill Mustard, on behalf of NFEC, thanked Bob for his work and welcomed Chris to the role.

A tour of the facilities at Petroc took place.

Date and Venue for next seminar

Friday 22nd April has been suggested with either Plymouth or Petroc, Tiverton campus as a venue. This will be confirmed.

Bob Coombes and Chris Miller thanked everyone for attending and thanks were given to Bob and Petroc for hosting this seminar.