##  **NFEC REGIONAL SEMINAR – South West**

 **Friday 18th November 2016**

 **Petroc, Mid Devon Campus, Tiverton**

There is a separate attendance list available.

1. Welcome and Introduction to the seminar

Chris Miller welcomed everyone to the seminar on behalf of NFEC, and Bob Coombes welcomed everyone on behalf of Petroc. Introductions were made around the room.

1. Current matters of concern

 Some of the colleges, South Devon, Cornwall and Plymouth, have been involved with area reviews. As with the Midlands region, staff recruitment is an issue, for both assessor and lecturer posts. Internal networking has helped one college fill a position with an ex-student returning with a couple of years experience in industry. Recruitment for Hinkley Point is proving to be large competition with other large companies and engineers can earn a lot more in industry than working as a lecturer or assessor. Changes in teaching requirements are also meaning that new contracts can be given covering many levels of teaching including up to level 5. All jobs seem to have added quantity of work, administration and bureaucracy to the roles which is probably causing a large turnover of staff. It was asked if NFEC could do something to support colleges, helping them to work together to find part time staff but who could work across several colleges. With the increase in funding for Trailblazer apprenticeships, maybe this could be used to help fund tutors, assessors and administration staff. Involvement of LEPs, Science Innovation Audit and using HE as a way to get industrialists into education. It is hoped that networking like this will help colleges work together.

1. Remote and e-portfolio assessment app

Jason Ferrett, One File, presented this software and app to the seminar. This is an app which can be used on and offline to record training as essentially an eportfolio. Its purpose is to replace a paper folder for both students and assessors. It is able to track and manage reviews, assessments and observations. Free webinars are available to those using OneFile. Jason demonstrated how to use the system as an assessor, based on a bank of available qualifications or the ability to build your own in. There is a facility to receive learner work and to send out work to learners. Files are available covering information and options for teaching, learning and assessment plan, unit summaries, assessments, reviews, cancellations and witness statements including from employers. All elements can be covered including the technical certificate and functional skills. It is possible to import photos, word documents and videos even when the internet is not available. Feedback and comments can be sent to a learner’s account and there is provision of electronic signatories for assessor and learner. An Assessment Plan can be written for individuals as well as for groups of learners. OneFile will allow bookings of appointments and will email learners 24hours earlier to remind them. The number of cancellations can also be tracked. Tasks can be sent to learners either as activities or an assessment with staged date introductions being able to be set up. Learners can answer the tasks directly and save and quit with partially completed work. Storage and back up is the responsibility of OneFile. Th app Nomad was demonstrated on a tablet allowing assessors and learners to work whilst out on the road without internet connection. Voice recordings can also be made. It is possible to use OneFile for quality verification work.

Jason can be contacted on 0161 638 3876 or mobile 07766404476

or e-mail: jferrett@onefile.co.uk

1. The Composites technician Trailbblazer Apprenticeship – an opportunity

Brian Thornton introduced this subject and his slides are available separately, and he was joined by Dean Jones, Rolls Royce who is Chair of the Composites Trailblazer group. The Trailblazer initiative has given the opportunity for a specific composites apprenticeship. It is Industry led with Rolls Royce being the lead. Filton site is going to be the composites hub, hence the Rolls Royce interest in becoming the lead, as they will need an additional 40 to 80 trained employees in the next 2 years. Other SMEs and large companies are involved in the steering group. They are not trying to reinvent the wheel so are replicating and changing accordingly. It is going to be a 36-48 month programme based on a level 3 technical certificate. There will be 8 mandatory units, mainly incorporating materials, defects, design and processes. There is a minimum of 2 choice units. Pearson will supply the Tech Cert as a BTEC level 3 and EAL will create the composites levels 2 and 3 NVQ qualifications.

All types of industries including construction, rail, automotive and aerospace are now using composites and there needs to be much more specialized delivery, especially at Catapult type centres but with the involvement of colleges. There is significant growth in the manufacture of composite parts / material across all sectors with manufacturing and material suppliers throughout the country. There are pockets within the country where there is no delivery in composites engineering, including the West Midlands and South East, whilst partially in the South West. Composites UK will help colleges find out which companies require training and the programme is about to be promoted to companies. There is an opportunity for FE to get involved. The National Composites Centre, NCC, will provide a train the trainer programme as it was foreseen this would be a difficult subject for many colleges to deliver technically. It will allow someone to deliver the underpinning knowledge of the 8 mandatory units. It is an 8 day programme either at Bristol or it could be delivered at a regional centre. There can be flexible delivery of 8 x 1 days or 4 x 2 days or 2 x 4 days. There can also be supported delivery with the NCC. They are looking for student starts from 2017 and are challenging for £24k funding level 5. A level 2 qualification will be developed based on reduced content of the level 3. Large companies will never get their money back from the levy system so they may sponsor degree apprenticeships. A clean room would be required at a college delivering this but it is mainly classroom based. Specialist units are probably going to be taught in large companies using specialist staff.

If anyone is interested, please contact Brian on Brian.Thornton@nccuk.com, or 07770 633488 or 0117 3320360. He is willing to come into colleges to meet with Senior Management Teams to discuss the project opportunities.

1. Qualifications/Awarding bodies

Bill Lockyer - EAL

There have been lots of updates, especially with the growth in rail, and these are given on the EAL website and that of their sister site, SEMTA. There are many changes on qualifications such as the VRQs and the Engineering Technologies qualifications are graded with allocated UCAS points. Moderation is also part of these qualifications. There can be a restriction made on the direct claim system to ensure that the EQA has agreed the correct level of quality but these can be quickly lifted to allow timely claims. Delivery advice is available from EAL.

Aero and Automotive Trailblazers seem to be working well, with the foundation level 2 being similar to the current PEO. Gateway assessments are available and there is S for skills and P for Performance in the wording. End of Apprenticeship assessment cover development skills, technical certificate and behaviours. Very often job descriptions are included in the titles of the various qualifications. The Trailblazer Electrotechnical apprenticeship is available and this SASE framework will not be available from April 2017. Some textbooks are now available. Slides will be available separately on the NFEC website.

Please email Bill on blockyer@eal.org.uk if you have any queries.

Bridget Stait – Edexcel

Current BTEC level 2 Firsts will be available until December 2019 but the new level 2 Technicals are already available, from September 2016. These focus more on practical skills with a smaller number of choice units and a synoptic project included. For the revised level 3 qualifications, there will be 60% assessment set by centres with 40% external assessment as detailed on each unit specification. There are “getting ready to teach” events and on line slots available as well. The revised HNs, including in Nuclear and Aeronautical, will be available from September 2017. The HNC includes as core an externally marked project, design, science and maths.

Trailblazer titles include aerospace, toolmaker, manufacturing engineering and control technical support engineers. If there are any queries, please email Bridget on bridget.stait@pearson.com and include Bryony Leonard on any Trailblazer and apprenticeships queries on bryony.leonard@pearson.com

Hugh Mc Phillips – The Welding Institute, South West Branch

There are now 7 colleges working as satellite centres in SW, with 120 private TWI members. If colleges are interested in helping please contact Hugh on getstraining@googlemail.com and he can tell you more details about their work.

Martin Webber – OCR

OCR are now involved in STEM and Engineering with their Cambridge Technicals and Cambridge Nationals. Their Coventry office focuses on the FE sector.

The Nationals are GCSE sized and are available for mainly 14-16 year olds, leading towards technical A levels or apprenticeships. Their content includes business, sustainability, systems control, engineering design and engineering manufacture. There is an Award (60 GLH) and a Certificate (120 GLH). Resources are available on the OCR website. The project approach is intending to show links and mapping to employers’ needs.

Cambridge Technical level 2 will be ready for Sept 2017 and has externally assessed content. It focuses on 16+, Certificate and Diploma, including a range of skills in CAD, materials, design and manufacture and mechanical/electrical principles. There are 3 pathways - design engineer, production engineer and systems engineer. There are 5 mandatory units and the external assessment takes the form of short answers and multiple choice.

Cambridge Technical level 3 is already available. They are not part of the apprenticeship schemes, being general in their approach and meeting the technical and applied general criteria. Certificates and Diplomas are available with UCAS point tariffs associated with them. The Extended Certificate (360 GLH) is equivalent to single A level so can be taken alongside 2 other A levels. The Extended Diploma (1080 GLH) has 18 units.

The slide package is available separately. If there are any queries, please contact Martin on martin.webber@ocr.org.uk.

1. Discussions on Apprenticeship Trailblazer Initiative

Documents were shown electronically to help with discussions. Weston College are involved with Aerospace and Machining with level 2 GKN apprentices. They feel it is strange that wood construction forms quite a large part of the content. The “PEO” side has been good but there have been issues with the tech cert and its contents and they are still not sure how the end point assessment will happen yet. A forum with employers and local providers has been set up to try to support each other. There have also been issues with SMEs and the release of their apprentices.

One change to one document shown on levy matters is that it is now 24 months, not 18 months, for the expiry of an electronic voucher. EAL are looking at getting into end point assessment as are the IET. The Project Management trailblazer has no recognised qualification.

There are concerns over the lack of qualification in some trailblazers, graded competences, lack of information on end of point assessment and on real scope or ranges. There are so many changes happening, it is difficult for providers to keep up with them so that they can tell correct and factual information to interested parties such as employers, parents and potential apprentices. Media campaigns have raised awareness with parents and schools about apprenticeships but providers still don’t know the specifics to tell them all of the details. Some content is too specific to the employers who have developed them. Some positives are that there are more employers involved, with potentially more money for providers to provide the training, and there is an awareness in trailblazers. A report from the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) and Association of Employment and Learning Providers (AELP), published this month, will be circulated by NFEC. Some of the issues raised in this report such as behaviour categories, end point assessment with professional bodies and external bodies, preparing level 3 students for vivas, titles of trailblazers, information details and timescales were all highlighted.

The annual National Conference is to be held on Thursday 8th December and Friday 9th December at the Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre, Sheffield. Speakers include:

• Denis Healy, IMechE

• Shagufta Sharif, WISE

• Una Bennett, SFA on apprenticeship funding models

• Adrian Anderson, UVAC on degree apprenticeships

• Paul Goss, Bridgwater College on providing training for industry

• Kerry Featherstone and Chris Freeman, AMRC

• Steve Caunter, South Devon College on preparing FE for the next technological revolution

• Colin Herron, Zero Carbon Futures

• Christian Warden, SEMTA

* Paula Cresswell, Birmingham Metroploitan on the Skillman project

NFEC is looking to hold an annual design competition, based on the level 3 project requirments but will allow students to compete with others designing from the same brief on a regional and a national basis. This will have the backing of the IMechE. South Devon College recently held an event for 375 school children, with 60% girls, trying hands on activities for a day. This had local employers involved as well as support from their Mayor.

Date and Venue for next seminar

The date suggested was Friday 7th April and to be hosted by Weston College.

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