## **NFEC REGIONAL SEMINAR – Midlands**

**Friday 20thOctober 2017**

**Shrewsbury College**

There is a separate attendance list available.

1. Welcome and Introduction to the seminar

Kevin Whitehouse welcomed everyone to the seminar on behalf of NFEC. Introductions were made around the room. Andrew Lee welcomed everyone on behalf of Shrewsbury College.

1. Feedback from Apprentices on the Food and Drink trailblazer programme

Ryan McGeagh and Ben Mawdsley are 2nd year apprentices at Birmingham Metropolitan and Tulip Foods. They have been mainly shadowing other engineers in the workplace which is part of the sausage side of the business. They are undertaking a level 3 diploma in food and drink engineering and are covering a lot of lean techniques. The college has provided a clean room, supported by equipment donated by Tulip Foods so that automation, electrical, maintenance and fluid power units can be linked in their learning. They have completed 2 units so far, H&S and bench fitting; they are currently studying welding and are getting ready for end of unit test. They have an end test at the end of each unit and then there will be an end assessment to cover many units in one grouped exercise. Their study is by block release which means that they stay in Birmingham 3 times a year for 6 weeks at a time. They have also visited other companies as an apprentice group such as Multivac and Ishida. Their training as a multi skilled engineer will be transferable between companies.

1. T levels – dissemination and discussion of latest releases information

Kevin gave the main points which came from the executive summary of the Sainsbury review including that we are 28 out of 33 on the table for training, with 13000 qualifications which are not cohesive in gaining employment. There is an urgent need to ensure that unemployed young people are involved in technical training.

There will be one T level route for each occupation which should be able to draw from levy funds and be implemented by 2022, aiming to give technical education and skills. Kevin represented NFEC on one of the Royal Academy of Engineering meetings to brainstorm what should go into these qualifications. There is a route for Engineering and Manufacturing which is then divided into pathways such as design and development and maintenance installation and repair. Specialisms will then come out of the pathways.These will be full time programmes, important for colleges and will cover knowledge, skills and behaviour. There will be 3 months of work experience based on 960 GLH, 700 for the pathway, 200 for the specialism. The content knowledge will have a common core and then optional units.

Panels are to be set up to look at which awarding bodies will badge the qualifications and then to prepare the qualifications ready for delivery. The Chairs have now been chosen and Peter Winebloom is to chair Engineering and Manufacturing. The Route panels will be based at Industry level and then there will be Advisory and Development panels to develop the structure which is the level that NFEC are looking to represent. It is the intention that NFEC will issue requests to members for thoughts / feedback /opinions to ensure that our presence is useful. It could be that T levels are like pre- apprenticeship programmes which need to prepare people for a range of apprenticeships rather than a specific pathway only. These need to have the same importance as an academic route with A levels or that of becoming an apprentice.

We have received 2 documents from Peter Winebloom, via 2 links; an action plan and news article.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/education-secretary-announces-first-new-t-levels>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/post-16-skills-plan-and-independent-report-on-technical-education>

These were handed out and discussed. The first three routes have been announced but do not include Engineering and the introduction date may be 2024 for some routes. Awarding bodies have worries that these are based on the idea of entry to apprenticeships and how will they be able to bridge these into HE so that HE will buy into T levels, based on appropriate level of units being included such as maths and science. A recent survey said that 95% of learners want a qualification within their apprenticeship. The DfE are setting up Awareness in T levels sessions. The one for the Midlands was reported to be on Friday 3rd November at Henley Campus, City College, Coventry starting at 10 am. The venue for this has been changed to The Studio in Birmingham.

Meaningful placements will be critical but 3 months should allow for a company to plan some depth to the work placement and it could be seen as a 3 month interview for an apprenticeship.

1. Qualifications and Awarding Bodies

David Lee – Pearson

2 handouts were given out, including one on sector events being arranged to disseminate information on apprenticeship standards. The Engineering RQF qualifications started in 2016, with more routes planned to start in 2017 through to 2019. The QCF Nationals have been extended for a last registration date of 31/8/19.There are new level 1 introductory qualifications which prepare students for study. Level 2 Technicals have a 360GLH Diploma for 16 + and BTEC Tech Awards being for 14-16 schools programmes. This allows progression for someone with insufficient grades in GCSE and their technical award on to a level 2 technical pathway and hence onto level 3 qualifications after that. First teaching of the revised HNCs started in September 2017 with last registration onto the old HNCs will be December 2017. There is new Internal assessment and a different quality assurance module for the revised HNCs.You can devise your own units to meet local needs, which are Commissioned Higher Nationals and bespoke to employers and a college. These are still 120 credits and are written and owned by the college. The accompanying slide package is available.

Any questions please email David on [Davidlee3@pearson.com](mailto:Davidlee3@pearson.com)

Rachael can help directly with apprenticeship and resources on 360 online[rachael.beasley@pearson.com](mailto:rachael.beasley@pearson.com)

Martin Webber – OCR

Cambridge Nationals have been developed for 14 – 16s and to help progression to A levels, technicals and apprenticeships. There are 4 pathways, each the size of a GCSE and can easily be delivered in a year. Delivery guides and resources are available to help delivery with a model assignment brief for mandatory units. Cambridge Technicals at level 2 and 3 are more suited to 16+ college provision, and these started first teaching in September 2017. Resources with model assignments are available to help support delivery as well as which books are recommended for use. All qualifications line up with RQF. For level 2, there are 360 GLH and 180 GLH qualifications available. For tech level and applied general, there are 5 mandatory units included such as application of engineering principles, mechanical engineering – machine operations, fundamentals of mechanical, electronic/electrical and fluid power engineering, engineering systems control, including coded language and plcs. These lead to 3 pathways as Design Engineer, Production Engineer and System Engineer. All level 3 Technicals meet the current guidelines for applied general and tech level with various option pathways for higher apprenticeships and university in mind. All are available for use now. There are certificates (3 and 6 units), diplomas ((9,12 and 18 units). There are 4 core units as well as options. The extended diploma with 18 unit is the equivalent of 3 A levels. Employers have fed back that they value the qualifications. There are also GCSE, AS and A level available in Design and Technology

Slides are available to cover this summary and Martin can be contacted on [martin.webber@ocr.org.uk](mailto:martin.webber@ocr.org.uk) .

Simon Yorke – C&G

Simon sends his apologies for not being to attend but sends this information:

The apprenticeship standard qualifications used by the MOD (RAF and Royal Navy) are now live for both the aerospace pathways and Maritime pathways of the Engineering Technician Level 3 standard. This is relevant to those providers working with the MOD.  
Some pathways within the individual qualifications will be added to these in the new year.The Foundation competence qualification that sits within all general pathways of the Engineering Technician standard is also live and can be found by searching 1271 on the C&G website.Technical qualifications are available for both pre 16 and post 16 learners by searching for 1145 on the C&G website.  
There are a number of events programmed in January to update centres on changes and qualifications relating to both full time technical education and apprenticeships. These can be searched for and found on the Eventbrite website.  
  
In addition C&G have set up a Twitter page which we would love you all to follow:  
@engineering\_cg.

Any queries please contact Simon Yorke directly on[Simon.Yorke@cityandguilds.com](mailto:Simon.Yorke@cityandguilds.com)

1. Current matters of concern

Kevin asked how the colleges had been affected by area reviews. Birmingham Metropolitan was already a large college with several campuses so have not been affected directly but they have returned to college names such as James Watt College, Matthew Boulton College and Stourbridge College now rather than using the title campus.

South Staffs and Walsall Colleges were close to merging at one point but this didn’t happen in the end. Shrewsbury College and 6thform College are now Shrewsbury Colleges Group. A newly formed Telford College has been made up from TCAT and New College. Hereford and Ludlow merged about 2 years ago, with 3 campuses in Ludlow, Hereford and Holme Lacy. They also have links with Worcester University.

Staff recruitment is still a challenge and market rates are having to be paid to attract people into the profession. Many colleges have also increased their class contact hours to help cover shortages.

Andrew Lee asked if other colleges were finding that the Fabrication and Welding qualifications to be inappropriate for local companies. No-one has specific knowledge but it is known to be a problem.

Jill gave details of National Conference which will take place at the MacDonald Ansty Hall Hotel in Coventry on November 30th to December 1st. Speakers with Johnny Rich, Linda Stone, StylliCharalampous, Clair Mowbray, Mark Aberdein, Louise Doyle, Andrew Parsons, Nicola Rinardi and Simon Moorhouse. Full details are uploaded to the NFEC website on the Conferences tab.

A tour of the College facilities took place and a demonstration of the newly installed Industry 4.0 FMS system by Babak Jahanbani and Sameer Ali from Festo. Kevin Whitehouse thanked everyone for attending and for Andrew Lee and Shrewsbury College for hosting this seminar.

The date and venue for the next Midlands seminar will be circulated shortly.