##

## **NFEC REGIONAL SEMINAR – North East**

**Friday 17th February 2017**

**The STEM Centre, Middlesbrough College**

There is a separate attendance list available.

1. **Welcome and Introduction to the seminar**

John Lockey welcomed everyone to the seminar on behalf of NFEC. Thank you to Middlesbrough College for hosting the seminar.

1. **Current matters of Concern**

There were no real discussions at this point.

1. **Updates on Qualifications from Awarding bodies**

Pearson – Simon Bowker and Ian Moores

Simon gave updates on level 1 and 2 BTEC which are now available for teaching at certificate and diploma sizes, explaining the structure of units. Discussion took place on the support material.

Ian gave updates for the new HNC/D qualifications available for new registrations from September 2017. There is a general HNC/D with 5 pathways, as well as nuclear and aerospace. The Level 4 has 8 units of 15 credits each. This can be topped up to HND, requiring 7 units of 15 to 30 credits. It does seem that there may be difficulties with block release students meeting the quality calendar as it stands now.

These qualifications have been developed collaboratively with employers and colleges, mapped against the Engineering Council requirements whilst engaging with Sector Skills and SEMTA and trying to get them appropriate for Trailblazer groups to use. The assessment is using pass, merit and distinction criteria given on a point system. All pass criteria are required first and then analysis of these will give the basis for merit and then distinction. Engineering Design, Science, Project and Maths are core. Project will be marked by centres but set by Pearson. There are 2 extra core units for the HND.

The number of specialist units is reduced. Discussions took place on the relevancy of Engineering Design to many employed students especially from the Power industry. The unit is good but should not be core. This is not what Pearson was initially told but new units and pathways will probably be added in the next or year so. There is the ability in this RQF suite of qualifications to add a centre led unit to meet local needs but there is a charge for this. Units such as a Science unit can be transferred across from within the RQF framework (up to 30 credits worth) if required. There is a mapping document available for prior learning. This allows for mapping for QCF to RQF, with an end of certification to HND in September 2022 but registrations will need to be made by end August 2017, by phone not online.

Tyne Metropolitan College commented that they had 60 power students affected by the choice. Maths is not as hard as previous qualifications and Advanced CAD is back to 2D rather than 3D and surface modelling. There is a review being undertaken for this unit. If the qualification is not as hard as before, there are worries about progression to degree and what employers might actually require from their employees. It is thought that the demographics of the employers feeding into Pearson is important.

Slides are available to cover this summary.

City and Guilds – Simon Yorke

Simon introduced level 2 technicals which are now available. There are different pathways with sample assessments available.

C&G are looking to feedback on the level 2 and 3 in Machining and in Advanced Manufacturing. There are streamlined assessments with example exam papers online. The target audience is for apprenticeships, but they could be for Traineeships. Feedback on structure and support material can be sent to Simon on Simon.Yorke@cityandguilds.com.

EAL - Mark Jones

Mark explained the qualifications for areas such as Business Improvement Techniques, Construction, Plumbing and Engineering. Some have UCAS points allocated to them and they can be mapped into apprenticeship schemes. EAL have been working with 45 employer groups on apprenticeship qualifications e.g. Aerospace for the level 3 Manufacturing Fitters. EAL are on the assessment register for End Point Assessments. Please contact EAL customer services for any further information on End Point Assessment.

Slides are available to cover this summary and Mark can be contacted on mjones@eal.org.uk.

For any queries on trailblazers, please contact Andy Barton on abarton@eal.org.uk.

AQA \_ Dean O’Donoghue

Dean sent his apologies that he was unable to attend but slides were explained and are available in the links supporting these notes.

Any queries, please contact Dean on DODonoghue@aqa.org.uk.

OCR – Martin Webber

OCR now have an Engineering suite of qualifications available. This includes school programmes for 14 – 16 year olds with their Nationals level. There are 4 pathways, are the size of a GCSE and can easily be delivered in a year.

 The Cambridge Technicals at level 2 and 3 are more suited to 16+ college provision. 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 the level 3 Technicals with various option pathways for higher apprenticeships and university in mind. All are available for use now. Maths and Science are examined separately and the level is appropriate to meet HE requirements.

Slides are available to cover this summary and Martin can be contacted on Martin.Webber@ocr.org.uk

1. **Demonstration by One File of software and an app which can be for as an eportfolio**

Johnny Mathieson, One File, presented this software and app to the seminar. It is a Virtual Learning Environment with 8500 courses available and 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. Johnny demonstrated how to use the system as an assessor, based on a bank of available qualifications or having the ability to build your own in. Skype can be used. Information can be synced when internet is available to a live system. 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. There are dyslexia and colour settings available for learners with disabilities. It is possible to take photos and videos, 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. There is a register system as well as a report facility. 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. The 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 for taking evidence and for giving feedback to the candidate. It is possible to use OneFile for quality verification work. The cost to set up is £500 and then around £35 a license, but this cost reduces for more licenses taken on.

Johnny can be contacted on 07789 825284 or e-mail: JMathieson@onefile.co.uk.

1. The Composites Technician Trailblazer Apprenticeship – an opportunity

Brian Thornton introduced this subject and his slides are available separately. The Trailblazer initiative has given the opportunity for a specific composites apprenticeship. It is Industry led with Rolls Royce being the lead and Dean Jones from Roll-Royce as Chair. 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 and it is all supported by the National Composites Centre (NCC). 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. Unit 8 will be the end point assessment project. Other choice units will be added over time. Pearson will supply the Tech Cert as a BTEC level 3 and EAL will create the composites levels 2 and 3 NVQ qualifications. Work started in March 2015 but the assessment plan is now unconditionally approved with full level funding being available and registrations can now begin. At the end the learners will be Eng Tech ready.

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 little delivery in composites engineering, including the North East. 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, which would probably be at Burnley College as the closest centre to the North East. There can be flexible delivery of 8 x 1 days or 4 x 2 days or 2 x 4 days. There will also be supported delivery with the NCC. They are looking for student starts from 2017. 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.

Lunch was taken.

1. North East Automotive Alliance Update including International Advanced Manufacturing Park

Eddie Leng, Project Manager, developed the history and work of the NEAA. There is a big drive to get more local companies into the supply chain of the OEMs such as Nissan. For Nissan, there are £6million parts still being imported. Nissan are moving to becoming a super plant manufacturing over 600 000 vehicles of which 85% are exported and 27% of all UK electric vehicles are made here. The NEAA have set up groups to help other companies with best practise visits to the rest of the supply chain. There are 208 cluster participants in the NEAA including 5 colleges being members. Vision, mission and 5 thematics are the basis of the work of the Alliance. 500 new engineers will be required for this new business and into the local companies. There will be skills challenges associated with this. NEAA will do personal recommendations between companies to help develop business in the area.

1. Trailblazer Developments and end point assessment

 Bob explained many of the issues which have arisen between employers, training providers and Government over the past 3 years during the Trailblazers development.

GTA England and NFEC are organising one Trailblazer briefing session this year. It is to be held at Gaydon, Warwickshire on March 14th. A flyer has been sent out with links for registering attendance, please publicise and come along.

If you have comments or anything else, as a provider, you want covered please let NFEC and Bob Millington know on bob.millington@btinternet.com.

John thanked the speakers for their time, delegates for attending and Middlesbrough College for hosting.

John proposed that the next event could be another North mini conference in June, probably in the same hotel in Garforth.

A tour of the facilities took place.