

Date 10th June 2009
Subject Skills Pledge Club

1. Membership Qualifications

- a. The meeting agreed the previously discussed proposal to have three grades of membership and a basic application form was reviewed. PW is to investigate making this web-enabled or at least attached for download from an enhanced website (draft attached).
- b. Suitable variations on the logo were circulated and approved. PW to arrange for these to be finished and circulated (draft attached)

2. New members

- a. The meeting welcomed two new members – Lisa MacCormack from the NOVA Partnership and Jim Green from Open Road Visions

3. Performance data

- a. It was noted that the current data is incomplete and that there had been a number of complaints that applications and not been fully processed and that applicants were not aware of their status.
- b. PW to follow up the LSC National Office to discuss how a data cleaning exercise might be completed in the near future

4. An update on Apprenticeships

- a. Paul Butler gave an update on the progress that was being made on developing the National Apprenticeships Service following its' launch in April (slides attached)
- b. A number of interesting and relevant developments are being planned and members were able to discuss the implications of these and to examine some options.

5. An update on funding for Train to Gain and Apprenticeships

- a. Demand for both of these products has been very high and was in danger of outrunning the funding streams made available for them. Accordingly the LSC had been forced to 'rein in' the aspirations of some providers in order to meet the budgets in this year.

- b. Control will remain tight in the future but extra funds are being made available for the 16-18 age range as this is seen as the key area to support in order to prevent skills loss when the economy recovers
 - c. There will be some extra funding available via procurement exercises in the autumn and details will be circulated to learning providers when they become available
6. Development of the Skills Pledge 'toolkit' (copy attached)
- a. The toolkit was again reviewed and a discussion around further development and dissemination was held. It would be useful if it could be made available through the web and PW undertook to investigate this.
7. 'Letterhead' Slogan
- a. The slogan **"Committed to rewarding and developing staff. Committed to the future"** was agreed as suitable for a slogan to be used in conjunction with the relevant logo.
 - b. This will be circulated for use by Club members in the near future
8. AOB
- a. It was suggested and agreed that at each meeting one of the founder members would give a presentation on behalf of their organisation outlining their experience and recommendations for other members.
 - b. A vote of thanks for the contribution of Valda Edmunds of BAA was proposed. Valda has been on long-term sick and has now left her position with BAA. We send our best wishes for her recovery and future well-being.
 - c. The future of the Skills Pledge after the dissolution of the LSC in March 2010 was discussed. It was felt that the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) would be the likely sponsor after that date and Paul Butler suggested that Laurie Kay, Regional Employer Services Director for the SFA, should be appraised of the work of the Skills Pledge Club

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, 9th September at Redwing House