

EQUALITY IN THE WORKPLACE

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The learning and skills sector in the North East is being targeted with a new publication aimed at encouraging employers to embed good race equality practice in the workplace.

All FE colleges, sixth form schools, local authorities and work based learning providers across the region will be receiving the new Race Equality in Employment Standards in a bid to ensure race equality in post 16 learning.

There is evidence that work needs to be done in the North East to ensure that the post 16 learning workforce reflects the ethnic population profile. Figures published earlier this year show there were 11,004 white teachers and support staff in the post 16 sector in the region compared to only 203 from black and ethnic minority groups and 224 white senior administrators and managers compared to two.

Chris Roberts, Regional Director, LSC North East, said: "The LSC has a statutory duty to promote equality of opportunity and a moral and economic duty to ensure that everyone has the chance to fulfil their potential. The North East has a diverse population and it is important that we do all we can to ensure equal opportunities for all. Promoting race equality in employment is a crucial tool in ensuring that every individual, regardless of their race or background, can prosper. The LSC has been working closely with the Black Leadership Initiative (BLI) to promote equality in the workplace. The BLI has been working with colleges and other providers on

strategies to recruit, retain, develop and progress staff from black and ethnic minority groups and in the New Year, we will be working together to offer free, customised support for all providers in the region to promote race equality.”

The BLI has been involved in highly successful projects including secondments, work shadowing opportunities, mentoring scheme and career development workshops.

A conference is also taking place in February aimed at identifying the equality and diversity priorities for learning and skills in the region.

ENDS

Editor's Note:

The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for planning and funding high-quality vocational education and training for everyone. We have a single goal: to improve the skills of England's young people and adults to world-class standards. Our vision is that by 2010, young people and adults in England have the knowledge and skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce. Established in 2001, we work nationally, regionally and locally from a network of offices across the country.

The Black Leadership Initiative (BLI) is the programme delivery unit of the Network for Black Professionals

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