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BUILDING EFFECTIVE WORKING RELATIONSHIPS EVENT 11/12/06

Question and Answers


Q1 *Is there any system in place through Train to Gain to support learners with Dyslexia?*

A There is funding available to assist learners with Dyslexia and this can be accessed via the brokerage service or contact Jenny Lee, National Adult Dyslexia Co-ordinator, 01833 640011.

Q2 *We have had problems getting learner registration numbers for organisations outside the Tees Valley area, from Durham and North Yorkshire in particular. Is there anything that can be done to resolve this?*

A Lesley Monaghan, Interim Workforce Development Manager, Business Link North East will follow this up with Business Link in Durham and North Yorkshire and agree realistic timescales for the future.

Q3 *Under Train to Gain full health and safety assessments have to be carried out in the workplace by the learning provider, which can appear bureaucratic to the employer and act as a barrier. Is there anything that can be done to address this?*

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A Providers should undertake a full health and safety assessment before commencing delivery on the employers premises. Providers should not be working on premises that do not meet the minimum legal requirements for health and safety.

Employers can work with and through Business Link who may provide support and advice in this area.

Q4 *Please can you clarify the role of the Sector Skills Councils in Train to Gain.*

A The Sector Skills Councils have a number of different roles. One role is to define the qualifications that are most suitable for their particular sector. Another important role the Sector Skills Councils have is to drive up employer demand for workforce development.

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Q5 *Will Adult Apprenticeships be available as part of the Train to Gain service?*

A Apprenticeships funding is now available for 16-25 year olds. A £25 million budget has been allocated to the LSC for the next academic year to fund Adult Apprenticeships for people aged 25+, for full framework provision. The implementation details for the programme are still being finalised.

Q6 *Will providers have a 'dedicated' broker contact, or could it be different brokers for different employers?*


A This is still being worked up by Business Link North East, however, brokerage resource will be allocated on a sector/priority group basis and as such relationships with relevant providers will develop naturally.

Q7 *Is there any funding for ESOL through Train to Gain?*

A In line with Government policy and as stated in the LSC's Annual Statement of Priorities 2007-08, guidance on funding for Skills for Life ESOL provision from August 2007 is due to be published on March 31st 2007, in line with the LSC's usual business cycle. This guidance will be included as part of the LSC funding document 'Funding Guidance for Further Education 2007/08' and will inform changes to be implemented. The funding document will be published and available on the LSC website.

Q8 *Will contracts be varied before January 2007 for Train to Gain?*

A Variations will be from 1st January 2007.


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Q9 *Does the LSC have a view on the fact that some providers are top-slicing up to 40% to sub-contractors for a management fee?*

A The LSC cannot place a restriction on management fees. Providers can apply to deliver activity through Regional Response Funds and so avoid any need for the payment of management fees.

Q10 *Past performance – how is it impacting on whether providers get a contract?*

A To date 10 providers have contracts on hold due to performance issues in ETP and interim Train to Gain, 71 contracts are currently in place.

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Q11 *Contract variations from January, will providers be able to add additional 'subject' areas for training deliver i.e. in other sectors outside of the current contract?*

A We will look to make the contracts as flexible as possible and allow providers to manage their allocations accordingly, this will include additional subject areas.


Q12 *Business Improvement Techniques (BIT) – will there be an increase in the funding for this?*

A There is an increase in the rate paid for BIT to £1800 and this will be back dated to 1st August 2006, full details are now included in the Learning Aims database.

Q13 *In the funding guidance Version 2, learner eligibility - do employers have to state in an employees contract of employment that they will give time off for training?*

A The guidance states that “Employers must grant learners paid time to train during working hours detailed within their contract of employment”. This does not mean that the time of to train should be detailed in their contract of employment, but that any training time should be within their contracted hours.

Q14 *What is the definition that allows a provider to claim the higher funding rate?*

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A For providers to claim the higher rate of funding providers must deliver “...at least 20 hours of learning consisting of underpinning knowledge and understanding as well as the support and assessment of the qualification”

Q15 *National Employment Service – do they issue employer numbers in the same way the Business Link Brokers do for non-national companies?*

A The national employer service has a key role to play in the delivery of Train to Gain for employers with more than 5000 staff. NES has National Account Managers who act like brokers who will issue employer numbers. The first point of contact is Louise Hart 02476 82 5815 or louise.hart@lsc.gov.uk