

26 November 2009

Dear Colleague,

Provider Briefing on the Skills Investment Strategy for 2010/2011

On 16 November the Department for Business Innovation and Skills published the Skills Investment Strategy. The Skills Investment Strategy establishes the funding priorities and strategies that the Skills Funding Agency will manage in 2010/11, and will inform the funding discussions that you will have with the Learning and Skills Council in the coming weeks.

This is a critical document in this transition year as the Young People's Learning Agency and the Skills Funding Agency are expected to come into being on 1 April 2010.

I am writing to invite you to a briefing on the Skills Investment Strategy in the North West region. This will be led by David Cragg, Interim Chief Executive Officer, Skills Funding Agency.

This Skills Investment Strategy briefing will address the headline priorities and budgets for Employer Responsive (including Apprenticeships), Adult Learner Responsive and European Social Fund. We will describe the process for allocations this year, present the recent national Skills Strategy: *Skills for Growth*, and explain how the new Account Management arrangements will operate.

The briefing will also include a short input from the shadow Young People's Learning Agency about the 16-19 learning agenda and planning process for 2010/11. The shadow Young People's Learning Agency is working with local authorities to hold detailed events in December on the regional priorities and highlight significant changes to the process and timelines for the 2010-11 allocations. In January, they will be holding further briefings on the implications of the volumes and funds set out in the Grant Letter. The shadow Young People's Learning Agency events will be best suited for providers with a majority of provision catering for 16-18 year olds and whilst you are welcome to attend both events you should not feel required to do so.

As the Skills Investment Strategy briefing will set the context for the forthcoming discussions that will determine your allocations and contracts for provision funded

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by the Skills Funding Agency for 2010/11, we would urge you to attend this briefing in order to be fully informed.

This briefing is designed for all colleges and work-based learning providers and attendance is restricted to one person per organisation.

Information for the event is as follows:

Date: **Monday 14 December 2009**

Time: 10.30am – 3pm

Venue: Platinum Suite, De Vere Whites at the Reebok Stadium, De Havilland Way, Bolton, BL6 6SF

Directions to the venue can be found at:

<http://www.devere.co.uk/our-locations/whites/directions.html>

Please e mail Bev Watson at bev.watson@lsc.gov.uk to confirm your attendance.

I look forward to seeing you on the day.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Holme
Portfolio Director (North)
Skills Funding Agency