Train to Gain

SOUTH WEST REGION – TRAIN TO GAIN PROVIDER UPDATE

Issue 1/1 October 2009

Welcome to the October 2009 Provider Update.

Please continue to alert other colleagues within your organisation to the provider update. Information in this issue will be relevant to staff with responsibility for:

- Train to Gain
- Business Development
- Data
- Finance
- Governance (Principals, Vice Principals and Managing Directors)

Don't forget – you can also access previous updates via the Engage website:

Engage Website

1 DATA MANAGEMENT REVIEW

Recently you received a letter from Geoff Russell, Chief Executive of the LSC outlining findings from a recent data management review undertaken with seven FE colleges across England. This is a highly important document for ***all*** providers involved in the wider post 16 sector. The key findings highlight inconsistencies and sometimes inappropriate ILR reporting. Geoff Russell's points to note in the letter are of utmost importance, and gives detailed guidance of appropriate data management. Appropriate sanctions will be triggered where providers fail to follow the guidance set out by Geoff Russell.

If you have not received this correspondence, please contact your Partnership Manager in the first instance who will send you a copy, or Natalie Garner on 01452 450035, (**Natalie.garner@lsc.gov.uk**).

You can access the same information via the corporate LSC Train to Gain site as well as all the latest policy information and guidance.

Train to Gain Latest

2 PERIODS 13 – 15 ILR VALIDATION – A Reminder

Please remember that any changes you make to ILRs for 08/09 learners in periods 13 – 15 will also need to be reflected in your 09/10 submissions. If changes are not made on 09/10 returns too, these learners will appear as over-stayers. Any oversight will impact on your MLP rate, so just check with your data champions that you're on the right track!

3 ILR CODING CHANGES

There has been a significant increase in enquiries relating to recent ILR coding changes, particularly completion of field A51a. This has changed from a two digit to a three digit entry, and in order to attract full funding for learners, you must use a value of 100 – NOT 000. On-programme payments will ***not*** be triggered unless you use the correct value, and also note that if this field is left blank, it will assume 0% funding.

Don't forget to check your PFR on a monthly basis to ensure any errors are corrected and your payments are reconciled accurately. Any large variance could reflect poor performance against your profiled delivery, so make sure your partnership manager is kept informed of any issues or concerns you have.

Please make sure you're up to speed with all the changes via the link below:

ILR CHANGES
PFR GUIDANCE

Your Data champions will have received information about a new support service offered to all providers replacing SWDataQuery which is no longer available.

From Monday October 5th, 2009, you can access support and guidance on:

- Learning Aim Database (LAD)
- Provider Information Management System (PIMS)
- Learning Information Suite (LIS)
- Online Data Collection Website (OLDC)
- Statistical First Release (SFR)
- FE Success Rates and Reporting
- Individualised Learner Record (ILR)

Contact the Service Desk on: **0870 2670001**
servicedesk@thedataservice.org.uk

4 MINIMUM LEVELS OF PERFORMANCE

As you are all aware, Minimum Levels of Performance (MLP) will be applied to inform the 2010/11 commissioning round, and the threshold set is 65%.

The LSC will cease to fund provision that is below this threshold and will be based upon success rate performance delivered in the 2008/09 academic year.

The LSC will cease funding at sector subject area level (SSA), however where performance at SSA level is above the threshold overall, there may be pockets of underperformance within that. The LSC will set an automatic expectation of improvement in those areas in subsequent years.

As an example, where a provider delivers Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies SSA at all levels, (Skills for Life, Foundation Learning Tier, Full Level 2, Full Level 3 and others), the LSC will make a judgement at the aggregated SSA level. Underperformance at full level 3 would ***not*** result in automatic removal if the performance for the overall SSA is above 65%. BUT…. there will be an improvement indicator for the full level 3 provision in subsequent years.

5 FUNDING GUIDANCE – Demand-led Funding update v4.1.1

Please note that the latest update to the DLF guidance was published on the LSC website on 2nd October 2009. This updates the following guidance books:

- Funding Rates
- Principles, Rules and Regulations
- ILR Funding Compliance Advice and Audit Guidance for Providers (Annex L)

DLF Update October 2nd, 2009

6 FRAMEWORK FOR EXCELLENCE: Learner views Survey

In September, all providers in scope for the Framework for Excellence were sent guidance on how to approach the Learner Views survey. This letter included a projection of the number of in-scope learners you are likely to have, as well as an estimated number of valid responses necessary to achieve a robust Learner Views score. Please note, these are **NOT** definitive numbers but an estimated sample size which may now be inaccurate.

You can use the sample size calculator below to establish the number of learners who need to return completed surveys in order to receive a valid Learner Views score.

Please enter the population of your learners in-scope for the survey in row B4 of the Excel spreadsheet. It is important you use a random sample to ensure you have a full cross section of learners at your organisation. The second link will give you all the information you need to know about Learner Views.

FfE Learnerviews sample size Calculator

Learner views Overview

7 LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Employers across the South West region are continuing to take advantage of the management and leadership development opportunities available through the Leadership and Management Advisory Service (LMAS).

2,860 * employers across the South West region have now undertaken focussed personal development including, personal coaching, have undertaken professional qualifications and have attended group seminars to network with like-minded leaders and share good practice.

Employers from the manufacturing sector and the care sector have been most proactive in taking up management development opportunities. Businesses employing between 1 and 49 staff make up 86% of the overall number of companies accessing development training.

For further information, please contact Pat Perryman or Marion Sweet at the SWLSC. pat.perryman@lsc.gov.uk and marion.sweet@lsc.gov.uk

* as at October 2009.

8 TRAIN TO GAIN PROVIDER MANAGEMENT SUPPORT WORKSHOPS

At the provider events earlier this year, we highlighted the successes and debated the challenges we all face in the new academic year – 2009/10 to deliver the Train to Gain service. From your feedback, the SW LSC has planned a support programme in consultation with the Association of Colleges and the Independent Training Provider Networks based on the most important priorities you raised:

- Profiling & Managing a contract ***effectively*** within Maximum Contract Value (MCV)
- Understanding and achieving Minimum Levels of Performance (MLPs)

You will have received a personal invitation via your Aoc or ITPN leads, but I am happy to reiterate the following arrangements:

- 24th November 2009 Yeovil Innovation Centre, Somerset
- 26th November 2009 The Wessex Room, The Corn Exchange, Devizes
- 1st December 2009 The Hucclecote Centre, Gloucester
- 3rd December 2009 The Eagle House Hotel, Launceston, Cornwall

Rhiannon Keating is currently accepting bookings for these events, which are already proving popular.
Rhiannon.keating@lsc.gov.uk

Train to Gain Team

12th October 2009