

Sector Connect

February 2010 #35

One voice, representing providers' views, protecting providers' interests



LLUK working in collaboration with ALP

A Brave New World: Machinery of Government making it happen on the ground

alp ALP's Machinery of Government Regional Meetings · Manchester · Birmingham · London · Taunton

With just **four weeks** away before Local Authorities (LA) take full responsibility for the commissioning role for 16-19 funding. ALP is hosting a series of *Machinery of Government* regional meetings in March. This is an important event for all **ALP Members** and independent training providers with LSC contracts, to learn and grasp the impact of funding transfer and the ensuing changes this will bring from 1st April. With key input from senior influential speakers from *NAS, YPLA, SFA, LA* and senior personnel from the [React Programme](#) (Raising Expectation Action Programme), these regional MoG meetings chaired by *Paul Eeles*, ALP Director of Sector Reforms & 14-19, are an essential 'must attend' event. We do hope you will be able join us, however, if you are unable to attend in person, please pass information within in your establishment to ensure your organisation is represented. There are still **few** places left, to attend click [here](#).

A Brave New World: the new Ofsted Inspection Framework Conference

alp ALP is hosting a collaborative one day event in partnership with Ofsted with sponsorship support by LSIS on 24th March 2010 in the West Midlands.

The aims of the ALP event will be to focus on the key issues affecting Work-Based Learning provision across *Apprenticeships, Train to Gain, e2e* and *DWP* programmes and the challenges of improvement in a new inspection cycle and the imminent Machinery of Government changes. There will be five insightful breakout sessions facilitated by HMI Inspectors addressing a spectrum of issues affecting all providers.

ALP is delighted to confirm there will be keynote addresses from *Melanie Hunt*, Development Director (Learning and Skills) Ofsted; *Dr David Collins*, Chief Executive, LSIS; and *Paul Eeles*, Director of Sector Reforms 14-19, ALP.

This event is expected to **sell out** very quickly and it's strongly advised to [BOOK EARLY](#) so register **today**.

For further information and to confirm your delegate place, click [here](#)



Global learning for a world class workforce

LSIS Office, London –17th March 2010

alp A seminar hosted by [LSIS](#), in partnership with ALP to explore what globalisation means in practice for all work based learning providers and employers and what does it mean in practice for those charged with up skilling their workforce to compete in a global economy.

The aims of the seminar are to:

- *Raise questions, share knowledge, understanding and experience*
- *Explore what realistically can be done to get started or improve existing practice*
- *Agree priorities and help shape action plans for individual providers and the work based learning sector as a whole*

The seminar will be chaired by *Paul Warner*, ALP Director of Employment and Skills with supporting input from specialists with the expertise and knowledge in the global skills economy. The half day seminar is **FREE** to all **ALP Members** to attend, and £75+VAT for all others. For more information and how to register your place, please click [here](#).



Is your organisation ready for Functional Skills...?

Functional Skills Support Programme

Is the introduction and implementation of Functional Skills concerning your organisation? Free LSIS training and support is available.

The introduction and implementation of Functional Skills in English, Maths and ICT looms ever closer with Key Skills ceasing from September 2010 and ALP members will be aware of the key prominence given to Functional Skills in the new SASE based apprenticeship frameworks that are currently in development across Sector Skills Councils in England. LSIS has asked ALP to supply our members with information on the Functional Skills Support Programme (FSSP) for the post-16 sector that will be running its next round of **network events** in March. These **free** events provide an excellent opportunity for WBL practitioner networking and planning with the agenda including a range of regional speakers from across the post-16 sector. FSSP are also continuing to hold open training sessions on a number of topics over the next two months for practitioners preparing for functional skills roll-out. Open sessions last 2-3 hours and include **functional skills in the context of Diplomas, Apprenticeships and Foundation Learning** and also specific sessions on the **newly published functional skills regulatory criteria**. The aims of the regulatory criteria sessions are, to explain the key changes brought about by the regulatory criteria to the standards and the assessment of functional skills. Dates for the [March network events](#) and open sessions are now available. Go to the website to register your interest or call up your regional team for more details. **The LSIS Functional skills readiness tool** is now available to download on the [Functional Skills website](#) following trials with post-16 providers across the country. The tool is a questionnaire cross-referenced to the Common Inspection Framework and asks providers to rate their planning/delivery of functional skills. The process involves pre-consultancy gathering of information and views regarding readiness across the organisation, a half day LSIS consultancy visit and follow-up contact to agree, implement and monitor the improvement plan is available. Where necessary **free** bespoke training can be provided to support the improvement plan and support can be booked now by contacting the regional centre as shown below.

| Region | Number | E-mail Address | Regional facilitator name |
|-----------------|---------------|--|---------------------------|
| North West | 0127 065 4677 | northwest@fssupport.org | Barbara Calvert |
| North East | 0191 215 6800 | northeast@fssupport.org | Joan Vallely |
| York & Humber | 0148 447 8250 | yorkshireandhumberside@fssupport.org | Gail Lydon |
| East of England | 0148 040 9318 | eastern@fssupport.org | Jane Williams |
| West Midlands | 0121 678 7205 | westmidlands@fssupport.org | Heather Frier |
| East Midlands | 0115 854 1605 | eastmidlands@fssupport.org | Howard Parker |
| South East | 0182 336 5656 | southeast@fssupport.org | Annette Welfare |
| South West | 0182 336 5651 | southwest@fssupport.org | Rosie Brooke |
| London | 020 7612 6469 | london@fssupport.org | Lorna Hunte Jackson |

NAS offers a ROI calculator for employers investing in Apprenticeships...

The National Apprenticeship Service have recently launched a *Return on Investment Calculator* tool to help employers understand the returns you can possibly gain on investing in Apprenticeships.



The tool draws on the latest research from the *Warwick Institute for Employment Research*

(‘The Net Benefits to Employer Investment in Apprenticeship Training’ – November 2008) into the costs and benefits of Apprenticeships and estimates the average costs of employing and training an apprentice against the gains that come when their ‘additional productivity’ impacts on the business. The ROI calculator hopes to make employers aware of the impact of Apprentices on their businesses, however there are variables, and its analysis is based on the results of research across six sectors: **engineering, hospitality, retailing, social care, construction and business administration**. Members can access the ROI calculator on the [NAS](#) website.

LSC issue new guidance on Skills Funding Agency

LSC issued a further guidance note on the Skills Funding Agency’s process for funding allocations for the 2010/11 academic year in February.



The Guidance (issued 19/02/10) will inform ongoing discussions between colleges and training organisations and covers:

- *Adult Learner Responsive provision*
- *Employer Responsive provision - Train to Gain*
- *Employer Responsive provision - Apprenticeships*
- *Programmes for the Unemployed*

- Joint assessment of impact of allocations on colleges and training organisations
- Summary of key dates

For a copy of the guidance note click [here](#)

EDI sponsors major CBI Education & Skills Survey

EDI

Supporting learning
and performance

Accredited awarding body *Education Development International* plc (EDI) is working alongside the CBI in sponsoring the CBI/EDI 2010 Education & Skills Survey.

The survey will be of particular relevance during an election year, as it is watched by policymakers and business leaders alike. It gives employers the chance to speak out nationally about the education and skills issues affecting their business. The survey asks employers about skill levels and skills shortages, the education system and what would help their business compete during the recovery and beyond. *Jenifer Moody*, EDI Director of Education Development and Innovation, called on employers to take part. She said: *"This survey gives employers the opportunity to express their views on skill levels, whether the education system is delivering for their business and what they feel is most important for the future economy. By taking part in the survey, employers can voice their opinion to policymakers and influencers at this crucial time."* *Susan Anderson*, CBI Director of Education & Skills, said: *"It is great to have awarding body EDI on board with this survey. They bring valuable insight as a leading provider of vocational and work-based qualifications, and share the CBI's aims of raising skill levels in the workplace for the benefit of the future UK economy."* The survey can be completed on the CBI's website (www.cbi.org.uk).

EDI will be the Headline Sponsor for ALP 2010 conference on 14th/15th July in London, watch this space for more details...

Sector Strategic Issues Meetings (SIM) receives excellent feedback

ALP's new events management system is now fully operational and as well providing members with key information on events including Sector Strategic Issues meetings (SIMs) it also enables ALP to retrieve valuable feedback on the satisfaction of members who attend the events.

Although it is still relatively new early analysis of events feedback suggests a general high level of satisfaction from members. A case in point was the recent Automotive SIM meeting held in London where feedback was very positive and members commented that it was useful to have a key note speakers from the respective Sector Skills Council and National Apprenticeship Service who were happy to update providers on the many important issues currently on the agenda including QCF implementation and new SASE apprenticeship developments.

The March 2010 timetable of Sector Strategic Issues Meetings is as follows

- *Business Administration - 3rd March 2010 10.00 – 1.00 followed by lunch. London*
- *Hospitality - 11th March 2010 10.00 (coffee) 10.30 – 1.00 followed by lunch. London*
- *Engineering - 19th March 2010 10.00 (coffee) 10.30 – 1.00 meeting concluding with lunch. Nottingham*
- *Land Based - 25th March 2010 10.00 (Coffee) 10.30 – 1.00 Lunch provided. Coventry*

Members can register attendance at the ALP website. The SIM events all include Sector Skill Council (SSC) key note representation and are chaired by the respective Sector *Skills Champion* who will encourage provider members to debate key issues that may be impacting on the sector as well as network and share good practice. For further information on the SIM meetings please contact [Terry Fennell](#)

Department of Health seeks feedback from Independent Providers

Department of Health (DoH) seeks feedback from independent providers on programmes to support every child matters and healthy initiatives for learners and staff.

The Government's **Healthy Further Education Programme** would like to hear the opinions of Independent providers on whether the current model and approach is an appropriate one for non-college based FE settings. The programme has been set up with the sector to improve the health and well-being support available to all FE learners and staff. Further details on the guiding principles, aims and objectives of the programme can be viewed on www.excellencegateway.org.uk/hfep where current practices and products, currently being used and piloted by colleges, are also shown. The Department of Health now have a supportive infrastructure helping these providers to meet *Every Child Matters* commitments and new *Ofsted Inspection Framework* focusing on learner support. At this point in the roll out of the programme the DoH wants to know if the current framework would also be helpful to **other providers** within the further education sector.

To assist their understanding the DoH is asking three simple questions

1. *To what extent, is the current framework and its associated tools appropriate for use by independent providers?*
2. *Do current practices and support tools need to be adapted to increase the utility/accessibility?*
3. *What additions are necessary to make the framework 'fit for purpose' within 'typical' independent provider settings with regard to improving the health and well being of learners and staff?*

Sam Mellor from the *Healthy FE* programme would like to hear from providers and welcome individual provider comments on the generic e-mail address Healthyfurthereducation@dh.gsi.gov.uk. If you would like to get a more in-depth understanding of the current tool click [here](#) and enter user name: **healthyfeqa** and password: **qahealthyfe**.

WorldSkills London 2011 is guest of honour at City Hall.

The London Skills and Employment Board (LSEB) which is chaired by Mayor of London, *Boris Johnson* hosted a special reception to highlight the benefits to businesses of supporting WorldSkills London 2011 when it is held at ExCeL 5th-8th **October 2011**. During the reception at City Hall, *Adam Smith*, Gold medal winner (Cooking), Team UK at WorldSkills Calgary 2009 and WorldSkills, UK Alumni member shared his experiences of competing at the international skills event. Adam, who works as a sous-chef at the Ritz Hotel in London also completed a demonstration on how to make a ravioli pasta dish. This was followed by a 'have a go' session in



Be part of it



which LSEB members tried making the dish under Adam's guidance. *Boris Johnson*, Mayor of London said: "London is consistently voted the best city in the world to do business in, and our strong skills base is a key factor behind this. In 2011 it will be our honour to host the WorldSkills Competition when we will not only show the world our brilliance in staging great events, but also the great pool of talent in our country and in our capital." For more information and be part of it click [here](#)

European Skills Promotion Organisation (ESPO) General Assembly – London May 2010



UK Skills are delighted to host the annual ESPO General Assembly 2010 and welcome all European members to join us in London, the city that will play host to the next WorldSkills competition in October 2011.

The ESPO meetings will take place over three days and will include the following:

- ESPO Board Meeting – 27th May 2010
- ESPO Competition Development Committee (CDC) Meeting – 28th May 2010
- ESPO General Assembly – 29th May 2010

The meetings will take place at the *Crowne Plaza Hotel* in the heart of London's Docklands, a stone throw away from ExCeL, the venue that will host **WorldSkills London 2011**. In addition to the meetings UK Skills have also pulled together an exciting programme which will allow you to experience first-hand the magic that London has to offer from a private capsule flight on the London Eye to a West End Theatre Show. For info about the May event click [here](#)



Providers of the Future Showcase Event

22 April 2010

Think Tank Science Museum, Birmingham

Following the achievement of the **Learning Innovation Grant (LIG)** Programme, which supports the Government's Harnessing Technology Strategy in the uptake of technology and the use of e-learning by independent providers within the learning and skills sector. The Association of Learning Providers is hosting a one day conference to share the experiences of training providers who have transformed their business operations through technology.

The keynote speaker, **John Davitt**, writer, broadcaster and a digital toolmaker, will share with delegates his inspirational approach to using technology to fit learning needs.

To register today and learn more about e-learning go to:

www.learningproviders.org.uk/events

Call 0117 986 5389 Email enquiries@learningproviders.org

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In Brief...

We have introduced a new 'In Brief' section within Sector Connect highlighting breaking news which we feel will keep members better informed.

Apprenticeship Week

Kicked off early this month, promoting the Apprenticeship Grant for Employers (AGE) targeting employers to engage 16-17 year olds, for more info go the [Apprenticeship](#) website.

Are you claiming funding correctly?

For Guidance: A reminder about changes to the Individualised Learner Record (ILR) in 2009/10. Some providers are not correctly completing field A51a - proportion of funding remaining. This is a reminder that the field length is now **three digits** instead of the two used in 2008/09. This can cause serious problems if not correctly completed. [Read more](#) to download guidance notes

Tower cranes registration scheme becomes law

New laws to improve the safety of tower cranes on construction sites were laid before Parliament today, paving the way for the start of statutory registration scheme. The regulations, developed by the *Health and Safety Executive* (HSE), will come into force on **6th April**. They include a register of conventional tower cranes which is being set up in response to increasing concerns about crane safety.

Quality Assurance & Intervention

The remit of the Quality Assurance and Intervention team is to fulfil the LSC's statutory responsibility for assuring the quality of provision it purchases. The team works closely with external stakeholders, such as Ofsted and LSIS, in developing and implementing strategies to improve provider performance and achievement and to eliminate underperformance from LSC-funded provision. For more info click [here](#)

IAG and Coaching - free workshops

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) and London Development Agency (LDA) are jointly funding workshops to help providers develop their expertise in the delivery of high quality in-work Information Advice and guidance (IAG) and coaching. For more details click [here](#)

Ofsted looks at Train to Gain...

The February edition of Ofsted's *Talisman* (#82) features a front page review of *Train to Gain* and includes prominent articles on *Apprenticeships* and may be of interest to *ALP Sector Connect* readers. To access online version view [here](#)

Apprentices poach tips from Marco Pierre White

Fifteen apprentice chefs from across the country attended a master class this month with Michelin starred chef, *Marco Pierre White* at his London restaurant, *Wheelers*. The fifteen budding chefs spent the morning in the kitchen at *Wheelers* learning how to prepare a range of dishes, from the restaurant's a la carte menu, from *Pierre White* and his team. An 'ex apprentice' himself and the youngest chef ever to have been awarded three *Michelin* stars, *Pierre White* is a keen advocate of Apprenticeships, and recommends aspiring chefs to seriously consider taking one. So much so, he is now starring in a new advertising campaign for Apprenticeships. The viral campaign consists of three films showing how *Pierre White's* life could have been without his Apprenticeship. The films feature him operating a burger van- a world away from the haute cuisine restaurants he usually inhabits. The films can be seen at: www.apprenticeships.org.uk



Member Feedback

If your organisation would like a copy of [Sector Connect](#) to be sent to fellow staff members, please contact the ALP Office via email enquiries@learningproviders.org with the appropriate contact details.

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