12 May 2009

Dear Colleague

Framework for Excellence – 2008/09

I am writing to you to provide information about the arrangements for the dissemination of the first set of individual college and provider Framework for Excellence scores and grades.

As you know we are not calculating an Overall Performance Rating for 2008/09. All scores and grades for the Performance Indicators (PIs) applicable to your organisation, and for which there is available data, will be accessible through the LSC’s Provider Gateway (PG) as a single interactive Framework for Excellence web-based report from 15 May. The interactive report will contain links to ‘help files’ and a ‘drill-down’ capability to explain how the scores and grades were calculated.

Detailed supplementary reports showing: response rates, the calculation process, and the outcomes of the Learner Views, Employer Views and Learner Destinations surveys will be posted on the Provider Gateway Document Exchange at the beginning of June.

The Provider Gateway can be accessed by visiting http://thegateway.lsc.gov.uk/ and logging with your PG username and password. If you do not have access to the PG, please contact your organisation’s user-approver. If you have access to the PG but require assistance, or your organisation does not have access, please contact your LSC regional user-approver. A list of LSC regional user-approvers is available from the PG support site’s contacts page: http://thegateway.lsc.gov.uk/contact/user-approvers/.

Please note, access to the Framework for Excellence application will require a change to your PG permissions, which your user-approver will need to add to your PG account.

A Framework for Excellence 2008/09 Outputs Guide will also be published on the Framework for Excellence website: http://ffe.lsc.gov.uk. This guide will contain the final scoring grids and assessment criteria that were applied to produce the 2008/09 scores and grades.

If, having read the guidance, you have any outstanding questions about your scores or grades, please contact your LSC local partnership team in the first instance. They will direct questions to the Framework team where necessary and will co-ordinate responses back to you.
Any queries must be raised by 2 June 2009 to ensure that they are resolved prior to publication.

In mid-June we will publish the grades for two of the Framework indicators – Success Rates and Learner Destinations, alongside the Ofsted grade for Overall Effectiveness, on the public pages of the Framework for Excellence website. We aim to deal with any queries, particularly those related to these PIs, prior to publication. If you raise a query and this is not dealt with to your satisfaction you can complain in accordance with the LSC’s complaints procedure details of which can be found at www.lsc.gov.uk/ComplaintsProcedure.htm.

Any grades that are subject to an outstanding query or complaint will not be published.

General information about the Framework is available on the website at http://ffe.lsc.gov.uk. The site will be updated over the next few weeks as 2008/09 is completed and we prepare for implementation and further development in 2009/10.

In the meantime, if you have any questions arising from letter, please contact your LSC local partnership team.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Verity Bullough,
National Director – Funding, Planning and Performance