POSTPONED PUBLICATION OF FRAMEWORK FOR EXCELLENCE IN 2009

The LSC together with departmental colleagues at BIS and DCSF have worked closely with colleges and training providers over the past year to develop the Framework for Excellence and place it at the heart of post-16 education and training assessment and commissioning. Significant progress has been made and we are confident that the Framework will, in future, support the new local authority commissioning arrangements as well as the new performance management framework, it will also inform both learner and employer choice.

Through ongoing discussions with the sector we have also taken on board and addressed comments and concerns, in particular with regard to the planned publication of limited Framework results in 2009. With this in mind, it has been agreed that we will not put individual provider results in the public domain in 2009. We will however, publish some national headlines that the sector will be able to use for comparison and benchmarking purposes.

LSC Chief Executive, Geoff Russell is writing to all principals and chief executives of those in scope for the Framework for Excellence to explain the rationale behind this decision. A copy of his letter will available to view on the framework website http://ffe.lsc.gov.uk/ by 17 July 2009.

We will continue to collaborate with partners to develop the Framework and to improve understanding of the Framework’s data and how it will be used ahead of full publication in 2010. This information will be set out in the Framework for Excellence: Unified Post-16 performance assessment policy document to be published at the end of July and the forthcoming Framework for Excellence: Provider Guide 09/10.

FRAMEWORK FOR EXCELLENCE 2009/10 – SURVEY UPDATE

The views of learners and employers are crucial to the development and success of the Framework for Excellence. Throughout the first year of implementation, we sought feedback from you and based on your comments have responded by:

- Integrating Framework for Excellence surveys, as far as possible, with colleges’ and providers’ own processes;
- Making sure the window for the collection of responses is as flexible and as wide as possible to align with colleges’ and providers’ own surveys;
- Providing access for colleges and providers to underlying response data, at as detailed a level as possible, in order to support meaningful improvement activity;
- Working with Ofsted and DCSF, created a single survey for piloting by schools with sixth forms in 2009/10, to include health and wellbeing questions relevant to ‘Every Child Matters’ outcomes.

A special ‘SURVEY’ edition of the Framework Bulletin will be sent to you later this week. This will update you on timescales and provide important information about how you can prepare for the surveys.
THE PILOTING OF FRAMEWORK FOR EXCELLENCE IN SCHOOLS AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Three school and local authority pilot launch events recently took place – we thank all those who attended for their constructive ideas with regards to the future development of the Framework.

The speaker and workshop material is now available at http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/National/School_Sixth_Form_Pilot_Event_Presentations.zip

Next Steps ...
User and development groups are now being formed – membership will be confirmed by end of July. Membership will be drawn from schools and local authorities selected to participate in the pilot including:

- Learner views and destination group.
- Success rate group.
- Partnership group.
- School Report Card & framework publication group.
- Special school and college group.
- Local Authority group.
- Information group – for parents, learners and advisers.


We will introduce regular Pilot bulletins for schools with sixth forms and Local Authorities involved in the pilot, these will be hosted on the Framework website.

Pilot news emails will be launched by September and will be sent to all pilot schools and Local Authorities to keep them informed of the progress of the pilot.

AoC/FRAMEWORK FOR EXCELLENCE CONFERENCES – RESCHEDULED

Given the recent merger of the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) into the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and the announcement of new ministers, we have decided to reschedule the two Framework for Excellence AoC conferences originally planned for July 2009 until October 2009.

Moving the conferences will ensure a more informative and worthwhile day for delegates. Guidance on new commissioning and performance arrangements are currently in development and the LSC therefore believe it would be more useful to discuss the Framework as part of this broader context.

The conferences will follow the publication of our policy document in the summer.

The revised dates for the conferences are as follows:

**Monday 5 October 2009 - Cumberland Hotel, London**
**Thursday 8 October 2009 – Sheffield Park Hotel, Sheffield**

For further information on the conference and details of how to make a booking, visit www.aocmsevents.co.uk/ffe2009
PROVIDER BRIEFING EVENTS – UPDATE

During June and July the Framework for Excellence team hosted 25 well-received provider briefing sessions around the country. The main purpose of the events was to help providers prepare to implement the Framework in 2009/10. The sessions provided a brief overview of the purpose of the Framework, set out the timetable for implementation, as well as provided details on what they will need to do, and by when (for example, submission of learner survey data). Copies of the presentation will be sent to all delegates before the end of July. They will also shortly be available for download from the Framework for Excellence website. http://ffe.lsc.gov.uk/

COMING SOON: SUBSCRIPTION TO WEBSITE UPDATES

Over the coming weeks, we will be updating our website so that users can subscribe to receive a daily email alert if a specific area of the Framework for Excellence website is updated. This includes if text is revised, or any guidance notes are uploaded. To ensure that you receive timely information, particularly in relation to the surveys, we would recommend you sign up for this service.

To subscribe, please click on the icon when it is available.

FEEDBACK

Thank you for your continued support of the Framework Bulletin; your views on any issue relating the Framework for Excellence are extremely welcome. Please email us at: frameworkforexcellence@lsc.gov.uk.

SUBSCRIPTION

If you would like to receive the Framework Bulletin by email each month, please forward your contact details to frameworkforexcellence@lsc.gov.uk, and mark with the subject heading ‘Bulletin’. 