3. The LSC’s Business Cycle for Measures of Success and Framework for Excellence

3.1. Introduction

3.1.1. The LSC’s Framework for Excellence has been developed to enable the most effective planning, resourcing and quality assurance of learning and skills provision. It will involve significant use of data from the measures of success programme as an integral part of the assessment of providers’ performance and planning for quality improvement.

3.1.2. The paragraphs below briefly summarise how the measures data will contribute to the production of local LSC annual plans, provider development plans and self assessment.

3.1.3. The Framework for Excellence will be piloted from 2007. Further information will be available from the LSC Website and updates on how the LSC will make use of measures data will be available on the LSC measures of success web pages www.lsc.gov.uk/ffe

3.1.4. During the LSC business cycle (figure 1) for 2006/07, LSC area teams will produce a local LSC annual plan. This will involve looking at data on achievement, learner success and other performance data and assessing how effectively providers are planning to improve the quality of their provision. The measures will be used as part of this assessment to inform the LSC’s understanding of the risks presented by individual providers to the achievement of the local LSC plan. Qualification success rates will be a key source of evidence for the provider assessment.

3.1.5. The annual planning process will also lead to the agreement of a development plan for each provider, which will include a section on key areas for improvement. The measures will be vital in identifying improvement areas which are likely to match those highlighted in the providers self assessment report (SAR). The development plan will include improvement indicators which are specific to each provider and may, in time, include targets informed by some of the measures, for instance Value Added (VA) and Distance Travelled (DT) measures.

3.2. Provider Self Assessment

3.2.1. The key role of providers’ SARs in measuring the effectiveness of their development and action plans was set out in the LSC’s For Action document: Quality Improvement and Self Assessment, issued in May 2005. The aim of self assessment is to support the providers own work on quality improvement and to measure progress against their own mission and goals. The measures will be vital to making these judgements and LSC funded providers will be expected to use this information as it becomes available. Once the measures are established providers will be able to view trend data enabling them to assess their own performance over time and review how
effectively they have delivered their own action plans to improve performance.

3.2.2. Some of the current minimum requirements for inclusion in SARs will be informed by data from the measures. For instance, the requirement to make judgements on all areas of provision, including non-accredited learning will require reference to the use of RARPA process standards, which apply to all LSC funded, non accredited learning.

3.2.3. Integral to self assessment is the development of a quality improvement plan which aims to sustain strengths and address key areas for improvement. Here the measures will be vital in identifying areas of particularly good and poor practice compared to national benchmarks. LSC staff will be looking for evidence that areas of provision which the measures highlight as below national average performance are addressed in the quality improvement plan. In the 2006/7 planning cycle providers will be expected to use Qualification Success Rates and VA and DT measures alongside other information to determine the focus of their quality improvement plan.

Figure 1: The LSC business cycle