Subject: Framework for Excellence - Pilot 2008/09 - Update w/e 5/12

Dear Colleague,

This week’s Framework for Excellence Pilot Update covers:

1) Pilot Guide
2) Development & Focus Groups
3) Finance form – reminder of action required
4) Learner Views Survey
5) Employer Views Survey

*******

Pilot Guide

The Phase 2 Pilot Guide is now published and available on the Pilot section of the Framework for Excellence Website. Please take the time to read it. Subject to changes and clarifications needed the Guide is likely to be updated by Mid-December. We will make sure that any changes are highlighted. If you have any queries about the Pilot Guide please contact ffepilot@lsc.gov.uk.

*******

Development & Focus Groups

The table showing the Development and Focus Groups together with dates and locations of meetings is available on the Framework for Excellence Website. This will be updated in the next couple of days. Note that meeting times will generally be from 10.30 to 14.30 to allow time for travel to and from the meetings.

We are particularly keen for as many pilot providers as possible to attend the groups. An overview of the Framework and the Pilot will be presented to each group as well as dealing with its specific topic area.

If you are interested in attending any of the groups please contact ffepilot@lsc.gov.uk

*******

Financial Management and Control Evaluation (FMCE) – reminder of action required

Pilot providers should be aware (and those in scope for Phase 1 are reminded) that the timescales for the completion and submission to the LSC of their FMCE form is 12th December.

Guidance instructions, blank forms and completed examples are available at the Framework Website. Please refer to your Regional Audit Manager if you have any queries regarding the form or completion requirements.
Providers should submit a signed copy of their completed FMCE to the relevant LSC Regional Audit Manager at their respective LSC regional office. Contact details can be found on page 16 of the guidance available via this link.

******

**Learner Views Survey - update**

You will be receiving a letter next week, which includes details of your log-in and password to the Survey site. In the meantime, please view the Learner Views pages on the Framework website for a Guide to undertaking the survey.

This outlines that you need to ensure that your learners will have access to their learner number (the L03 on the ILR) and your UKPRN. If your organisation is a Specialist College or another organisation that does not currently use the ILR then your learners will need to input some additional information, which they will be prompted to answer. If you have any queries please contact fflearnerviews@lsc.gov.uk

**Strategies to increase the accessibility of gathering Learner’s Views: report published**

A report of a research project to investigate strategies to increase the accessibility of gathering learner’s views was published this week. Click here for a link to the report.

The publication reports on the outcomes and actions arising from an investigation of current practice in the sector relating to gathering views of learners with learning difficulties and disabilities.

The research has helped inform the development of the Learner Views performance indicator for Version 1 of the Framework. As a result a number of steps have been taken to increase the accessibility of the Learner Views survey. These include:

- Simplification of the language used;
- A supported-response option, with support to colleges and providers on how to administer this; and
- Encouragement for colleges and providers with learners whose views would best be gathered over time.

******

**Employer Views Survey - update**

Pilot Providers who are in scope for Version 1 of the Framework will now be taking part in the Employer Views survey. For those not in scope for Version 1 we will provide you with the relevant information and timings in a forthcoming e-mail.

******

If you have any queries or feedback about the Pilot please contact ffepilot@lsc.gov.uk
Best regards,

Russell Burton
Framework for Excellence – Pilot Manager

Learning and Skills Council
Quality and Evaluation
Cheylesmore House
Quinton Road
Coventry
CV1 2WT

www.lsc.gov.uk <http://www.lsc.gov.uk>

The LSC, the organisation that exists to make England better skilled and more competitive