7. Provider Gateway

7.1. What is the Provider Gateway?

7.1.1. The Provider Gateway is a secure internet website designed for the exchange of confidential documents and data between the LSC, providers and the Inspectorates.

7.1.2. The Provider Gateway hosts key documents, such as provider’s self-assessment reports, college performance reports, and provider development plans. It will also be the primary means of delivering indicators which support the Framework for Excellence to providers and key partners.

7.1.3. Access to the Provider Gateway is available to all providers funded by the LSC, including colleges, schools with sixth forms, work-based learning, and adult and community learning providers, as well as the LSC, Inspectorates and local authorities.

7.2. What is the vision for the Provider Gateway?

7.2.1. The Provider Gateway is a secure, password-protected website for all LSC-funded providers and the key partners which:

- provides a single easy-to-use source of data related to quality improvement and institutional accountability such as providers’ self-assessment reports
- gives providers the opportunity to upload their own information and access other data designed to support their efforts to improve the quality of their provision, including progressively more information and data which supports the Framework for Excellence
- allows access to data at different levels of aggregation for the LSC, the Inspectorates, local authorities and other relevant stakeholders

7.3. What are the benefits of the Provider Gateway?

7.3.1. The main benefits of the Provider Gateway are that it:

- reduces bureaucracy by the ensuring that the collection of data and access of documents is streamlined and that both are submitted once and used many times
- gives providers access to:
  - benchmarking data
  - an alerting service when new documents are added to the Provider Gateway
  - a document tracking service for data and document submissions
- allows Inspectorates:
- access to information from and about providers, including self-assessment reports and local LSC provider briefings prior to notifications of inspection, which will facilitate improved planning
  - to share more efficiently college performance reports, provider performance reports, and other inspectorate documents with providers
  - gives other stakeholders such as local LSCs and local authorities access to the data they need to contribute to assessments and quality improvement strategies

7.4. How are stakeholders involved in the development of the Provider Gateway?

7.4.1. In order to steer the development and implementation of the Provider Gateway a user group has been established comprising representatives of providers, the Inspectorates and the LSC. This group assists in monitoring progress of the Provider Gateway, user-acceptance testing, advising on future development, and evaluating the benefits of the Provider Gateway.

7.5. Timelines

7.5.1. The Provider Gateway was inaugurated in August 2005, when further education colleges were given access. In March 2006, independent specialist colleges, work-based learning providers, local authorities, and schools with sixth forms were also given access. In July 2006 access was extended to adult and community learning providers not already represented by colleges or local authorities.

7.5.2. Future development of the Provider Gateway will incorporate not only further data and documents which support the Framework for Excellence, but also the hosting of other secure systems which support providers. The focus of development will be on enhanced usability and improved support for users, plus user-friendly staff development resources.

7.6. Access

7.6.1. If you have a query about access to the Provider Gateway contact your local LSC – a list of local contacts is available from the ‘Training/Help’ link in the Provider Gateway. This link is available from the home page of the Provider Gateway which can be accessed without logging in. The URL is https://gateway.lsc.gov.uk/

7.6.2. If you have any general queries about the Provider Gateway please e-mail provider.gateway@lsc.gov.uk

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