1. Introduction to Framework for Excellence

1.1. The Framework for Excellence is an exciting initiative which has the potential to shape all learners’ and employers’ choices in the post 16 education sector.

1.2. The new and radical approach to managing performance across the learning and skills sector is driven by the LSC Agenda for Change and the Further Education White Paper. It also builds on the work carried out on Measures of Success and aims to steer the sector towards self-regulation.

1.3. The Framework is designed to be simple and easy to use. The basis for it is a scorecard of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that can be brought together to describe the three key dimensions of a provider’s performance:

- responsiveness
- effectiveness of provision (quality)
- finance.

1.4. Providers will be scored on each Dimension and then receive an overall rating which they will be able to compare against a national average.

1.5. The key objectives are to:

- make learning provision more responsive and demand led,
- increase the proportion of good and outstanding provision
- reduce bureaucracy.

1.6. It also aims to:

- Inform the choice of customers - employers and learners – about where to shop
- Provide public accountability to other stakeholders including the LSC and Inspectorates
- Set a standard for excellence
- Allow common processes and comparisons between providers and types of provider
- Support self-improvement
- Support a move towards self-regulation

1.7. It is anticipated this radical move to access providers will be up and running as a working model by June 2008, with the pilot set for the summer of 2007.

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