

West Yorkshire Lifelong Learning Network

Director's Report

1. Strategic Advisory Forum

1.1. The main business of the SAF was to provide the group with the opportunity to contribute to the external evaluation of WYLLN currently being carried out by Lilian Black. Feedback was provided on the fourth year extension and there was an opportunity to comment on an early draft of the HEFCE Monitoring Report. The major discussion item was additional student numbers, addressed separately in this report.

1.2. Kaye Fisher will comment verbally on the SAF at the Board Meeting.

2. Additional Student Numbers

2.1. Following an analysis of the returns to date for 2008/9, there is some uncertainty as to the total number of FTEs available for distribution. This is due to the timing of exam boards and institutions being able to report on student outcomes. It is expected however that full data on student outcomes will be available by the end of September. Currently the Network has 28 ASNs available for distribution and these have been allocated as detailed below in accordance with the decision made at the last Board meeting to prioritise sector group supported curriculum developments.

Sector Group	Delivery Institution	Course
Health	Wakefield College	FD Management for Children's Care
Construction	Leeds College of Building	HND Building Services
Construction	Leeds College of Building	HND Building Services Top-up
Construction	Leeds College of Building	HNC Civils
Construction	Calderdale College	FD 3d Interiors
Construction	Calderdale College	FD Architectural Design
Construction	Wakefield College	HNC construction
Construction	Wakefield College	HNC Civils
Digital	Wakefield College	FD Commercial

		Photography
Digital	Wakefield College	FD Web Design
Business	Wakefield	FD retail
Business	Calderdale	FD Retail
Business	Calderdale	FD Business

The 28 available ASNs have been divided as follows:

15 – Wakefield College

5 – Leeds College of Building

8 – Calderdale College

2.2. HEFCE has recently announced another round of bidding for additional student numbers; there will be 6000 FTEs available for the academic year 2010/11. Partners will recall we had originally had a provisional allocation of 700 FTEs, which was withdrawn prior to formal approval by the HEFCE Board. A successful bid will enable partners to implement many of the curriculum developments the WYLLN has funded. The HEFCE processes for allocation of ASNs are set out the Circular letter 05/2008.

When discussed at the SAF, there was overwhelming support for making an application to HEFCE.

3. IAG Activity

3.1. The round 4 IAG commissioning activity has been awarded to the University of Bradford. The project will produce interactive support tools a programme of tutorial activities and a guidance pack, for use with FE learners in preparation for the transition into HE. These will be available to all WYLLN partners following a marketing and dissemination event in July 2010. All WYLLN partners are invited to take part in the development of the products by being involved in the focus groups what will start taking place in September 2009.

4. Diploma Progression Agreements

4.1. The decision made at the May meeting of the 14-19 Steering group was to commit up to £120,000 to support the development and delivery of WYLLN progression agreements and the establishment and/or enhancement of partnership working between Diploma consortia and HE providers across West Yorkshire. Submissions received from WYLLN partners and Diploma consortium totalled over £300,000. It was agreed to prioritise the funding towards the first three diplomas - Construction and Built Environment; Creative and Media; and Society, Health and Development, and the first level 3 diploma lines to be developed by the Diploma consortia in Wakefield and Kirklees local authority areas.

5. Communications and Marketing

- 5.1. With the Communications and Marketing Manager (Rachael Brough) taking up maternity leave, a Communications and Marketing Plan has been agreed, which will be implemented by the rest of the team. While some of our current activities will continue, such as the fortnightly News Digest, there will be other changes, for instance we do not intend to publish a January Newsletter. The main focus of the plan will be to raise the level of awareness of the activities and achievements of the Network. Board members will be aware of the Yorkshire Evening Post supplement and in Rachael's absence a PR Consultant has been appointed to proactively identify opportunities for news stories and build a database of media contacts in West Yorkshire, interview individuals on how specific WYLLN activities have impacted on their business or career, write case studies based on these interviews and liaise with partners to ascertain where WYLLN stories are relevant for their internal publications.