



The information authority

Paper 06: Framework for Excellence 2008/09:
Provider Guide

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1. What are we asking the board to do?

This paper has been prepared for the members of *the information authority* Board to provide them with updated information on the data requirements for Version 1 of the Framework for Excellence. The paper sets out the changes to the Framework for Excellence since the Version 1 arrangements were last considered by the board at its meeting in March 2008. The paper is accompanied by the latest **draft** of the Framework for Excellence provider guide

The board are invited to:

- * consider the proposed developments and indicate any areas of concern they have;
- * advise on whether and how the burden on colleges and providers might be further reduced;
- * endorse the proposed developments, including the roll-out of mandatory, web-based surveys

The Board's views will then be incorporated into the implementation of Version 1 of the Framework, scheduled for June 2008 and subsequent planning activities

2. Introduction or Background

A full description of the proposed basis for the Framework was published in *Framework for Excellence: Raising Standards and Informing Choice* (LSC, March 2007) in partnership with the DfES, QIA and Ofsted. A pilot version of the Framework was published in *Framework for Excellence: How the Framework will Work* (LSC, June 2007), also in partnership with DfES, QIA and Ofsted. This Framework was piloted by 100 colleges and providers and the outcomes from the pilot have been used to refine the Framework specification of Version 1 of the Framework, to be launched in June 2008. In 2008/09 all FE colleges and most learning providers will be in scope for the Framework. A further developed version of the Framework, Version 2 to be published in June 2009, will be applicable to colleges and nearly all providers. All of these proposals are consistent with the FfE Business Case, including the benefits sought.

Four papers on the requirements for and use of data within the Framework for Excellence have been presented to the *information authority* board during the past year or so. Since the last paper to the Board in March 2008, further development of some of the indicators has taken place and there is a clearer understanding of what is to be in the June policy publications. This paper describes these changes and developments.

3. Description

The Provider Guide document sets out for providers the scope and requirements for the implementation of the Framework for Excellence in 2008/09.

Since the board last considered the Framework in March, of the ten performance indicators there have been no significant changes to eight of them.

Two of the performance indicators have been developed further for implementation in 2008/09. These are:

- Learner views – the mandatory survey will be a web-based survey undertaken at provider level during January- February 2009. The timing of the survey is later than originally proposed in response to feedback from providers indicating that this period would be more appropriate.
- Employer views – the survey will be available as a web-based or a paper-based questionnaire (**draft** questions attached as Annex 2). The methodology will be aligned as far as possible with that for the learner views survey.
- Amount of Training – this performance indicator has been developed out of the originally proposed Fees and Volumes performance indicator. Data for the Amount of Training Indicator is already collected by the LSC and requires no further data collection or submission by providers.

4. FE Sector Implications

The new developments to the Framework, namely changes to the Learner Views and Amount of Training performance indicators, should not increase the burden on providers. On the contrary, the web-based approach to the learner views survey and possibly the employer views survey is expected to lessen the burden compared to previous, paper-based methods.

5. Next Steps

Prior to publication, the guide will be further edited, including being shared with the Practitioner Panel, a college and a work-based learning provider to ensure that the final version is user-friendly.

Version 1 of the Framework for Excellence will be launched later in June 2008. We are aiming to publish the provider guide in late-June to support the colleges and other providers in their implementation of the Framework in 2008/09.

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Appendix 1

1. Framework for Excellence Provider Guide