

Completing the ILR for 2009/10 to Support Monitoring the Skills Strategy

Introduction

1 This document describes the fields in the individualised learner record (ILR) to which further education (FE) institutions need to give particular attention when completing the ILR for 2005/06 for adult learners studying and achieving full-level 2s, and level 3s.

Background

2 The Skills Strategy, published in July 2003, proposed that public funding for adult learning should give priority to enabling those learners who have not already acquired a level 2 qualification the opportunity to achieve one. The government has set a target to “reduce by at least 40% the number of adults in the workforce who lack an NVQ level 2 or equivalent qualifications by 2010. The LSC will lead on ensuring the delivery of this target through its own funding and contributions from others”. In order to be able to demonstrate the sectors contribution to this target the LSC needs to be able to monitor the number of adults studying and achieving first full-level 2s, and level 3s from your institution ILR data.

Data Required in the ILR

Summary

3 Institutions need to pay particular attention when completing the following ILR fields for adult learners studying and achieving full-level 2s, and level 3s:

- Prior attainment level field, L35
- Learning aim reference field, field A09
- Reason for full funding/co-funding of learning aim field, field A14

Prior Attainment Level

4 For the LSC to be able to measure its contribution to the government target it needs to be able to identify for all adult learners on full level 2 or level 3 qualifications which of them have prior attainment below level 2. To that end institutions are asked to complete the Prior attainment level field, field L35, for all adult learners on full level 2 and level 3 qualifications. The LSC will for 2005/06 be applying credibility checks to the prior attainment level field for these learners. Where for these learners an institution has at the first ILR return in December 2005, the F01 return, more than a few records with this field set to “not known”, code value “98”, the local LSC will ask it to improve the data before it sends the data at the full year return in September 2006, the F04 return.

5 This emphasis on completing prior attainment level for adult learners on full level 2 and level 3 qualifications is the first stage in a strategy to improve the quality of these data. The approach will be to closely align the LSC’s

need to use these data and institutions' need to use them and their ability to collect them.

Learning Aim Reference

6 The learning aim database (LAD) indicates level 2 qualifications, and separately level 3 qualifications, that may be offered free of tuition fees to learners who are not already qualified to level 2. Institutions are asked to ensure that when faced with a choice they use these codes when completing the Learning aim reference field, field A09, in their ILR return.

Reason for full funding/co-funding of learning aim

7 Under the terms of the "level 2 offer" learners who are not already qualified to level 2 and who enrol on a full level 2 qualification are entitled to free tuition. FE institutions are asked where appropriate to use code "22", meaning fees waived – level 2 entitlement, in the Reason for full funding/co-funding of learning aim field, field A14, so the LSC is able to assess the impact of offering free tuition fees.