

# Measuring Success

## newsletter

**This edition provides the latest information on the new measures of success programme. This includes an update on the Provider Gateway, the Quality Mark, and the new Employer's Guide to Training Providers.**

### VADT Update

At the end of January, providers, local authorities and local LSCs will be able to access the Learner Achievement Tracker via the Provider Gateway. At this point we will be releasing Work-Based Learning Distance Travelled (DT) data and unamended Value Added (VA) data for schools and colleges. In early March 2006 we will release DT data for colleges and amended VA data for schools and colleges. All the data we release will be for learners who completed in 2004/2005.

The LSC will be piloting the LAT from January 2006 until summer 2006, to ensure that the software released in autumn 2007 is fit for the purposes of reflection and quality improvement purposes.

To accompany the release of the LAT, the LSC will also release an updated version of the Quality Improvement Pack.

The updated pack will be available online by the end of January 2006 on [www.lsc.gov.uk/nms](http://www.lsc.gov.uk/nms) (then click on Staff Development Resources). The updated pack will replace the current version, which was released in July 2005, and include new sections with further information about:

- Provider Gateway
- Learner Satisfaction
- Case Studies: to support VA and DT, RARPA and QSR
- New Measures of Success and the Business Cycle
- Further Information and Glossary

The hard copy of the Quality Improvement Pack updates will be disseminated via Local LSCs. These are expected to arrive at providers at the end of January/early February 2006. If you have already received a hard copy of the QIP released during summer 2005, please keep the binder your original pack arrived in as the updates will be shrink wrapped paper updates to put in the original binder.



## Quality Mark and New Measures of Success

### A new standard

With the publication of *agenda for change*, the LSC is committed to the development and implementation of a new standard for colleges and providers.

This standard will recognise colleges and other providers who are able to demonstrate excellence in delivering training solutions to businesses, and will be an essential part of the quality infrastructure developed to support Train to Gain.

In November 2005, the LSC appointed the Centre for Enterprise (CFE) to develop this new standard, which has been provisionally entitled Quality Mark (QM).

The project is being developed by the LSC, with input from CFE. Accountability is through a steering group with members from employer organisations, colleges, providers, DfES and other key sector stakeholders.

### Integration

A key objective of the QM project is to ensure integration with other strands of *agenda for change*, Train to Gain (formerly known as the National Employer Training Programme), and associated LSC programmes and initiatives such as Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVE), Skills Academies, Employer Guide to Training Providers, and new measures.

The *agenda for change* prospectus provides the background to this work for developing the QM. The challenge is to develop and deliver a robust, fit-for-purpose and rigorous set of standards that promote excellence.

### Regional to national transition

The research that supported the development of the *agenda for change* proposals indicated that none of the existing regional models fully met the requirements of the LSC and that a single national approach would have more impact on employer and stakeholder understanding. We are working closely with regions to ensure a smooth move from a regional to a national approach.

The QM will be further developed in the New Year, and this will include testing the standards with a range of providers including colleges, CoVEs, work based learning and other training providers.

The intention is for the QM to be launched in April 2006, alongside Train to Gain. A roll-out programme will be developed and agreed with regions, and we anticipate the QM to be available nationally by August 2006.

## Employer's Guide to Training Providers

### Marketing opportunities

Training providers have the opportunity to take advantage of free marketing, by ensuring they are featured on the Employer's Guide to Training Providers, available on the employer's section of the LSC website.

The Guide is an online tool that aims to help employers find the right training provider for their business. It provides advice and guidance for employers on how to choose a training provider along with an explanation of some of the terms an employer is likely to come across when contacting them.

Employers can also use the search engine to specify their desired area of learning and preferred geographic area, in order to produce a list of relevant training providers.

### Train to Gain

When Train to Gain rolls out from April, the Employer's Guide to Training Providers will become an integral part of the service.

We intend to develop and increase the profile of the Guide, positioning it as a key resource to help both employers and skills brokers identify provision that will most effectively meet the needs of an individual business.

Skills brokers will not just be signposting employers to LSC-funded provision, but will make recommendations across the range of an organisation's training needs.

It is essential that providers make sure the details featured on the database used by the Guide are completely up to date, as those with out-of-date or inaccurate information on the Guide could be missing out on an opportunity to attract employer-funded learners and demonstrate their responsiveness to employer demand.

### Employer response

The details in the Employer's Guide to Training Providers are taken directly from the Learndirect learning directory:

**<http://www.learndirect-advice.co.uk/provider/?view=providers>**

Providers should check that their entry contains the information that they would want an employer to know and also take a look at the section: 'questions to ask a provider' in the Guide itself (**[www.lsc.gov.uk/National/Employer/Goodtraining](http://www.lsc.gov.uk/National/Employer/Goodtraining)**) to consider how well-equipped they are to respond to an employer who uses this Guide.

The Guide will be further developed in the New Year, with a pilot in the South West region to introduce an employer feedback element.

Employers will be able to use the Guide to rate different training, which will highlight to other users the provision they have found valuable. If this facility proves successful, it will be available nationally by the end of the year and will form an element of the new LSC Quality Mark process.

*More information on the new measures of success programme can be found on the new measures of success pages of the LSC website ([www.lsc.gov.uk/nms](http://www.lsc.gov.uk/nms)) and the Success for All ([www.successforall.gov.uk](http://www.successforall.gov.uk)) websites. Comments or enquiries relating to the measures are welcome and should be sent to: [newmeasures@lsc.gov.uk](mailto:newmeasures@lsc.gov.uk)*

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## Further information

The Measuring Success newsletter is produced by the LSC, the Department for Education and Skills, ALI and Ofsted to keep you up to date with the development of New Measures of Success. These are key components of the *Success for All* theme, 'Developing a Framework for Quality and Success'.

The aim of the programme is to measure the success of learners and the performance of education and training providers more accurately and fairly. This will highlight the sector's existing strengths and identify areas for improvement. We will issue newsletters every two months to keep you informed of developments in the new measures of success programme. Electronic versions of each issue can be found at [www.lsc.gov.uk/nms](http://www.lsc.gov.uk/nms) or [www.successforall.gov.uk](http://www.successforall.gov.uk).