

# successforall

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### Success for All has four key themes:

**Theme 1** Meeting needs and improving choice

**Theme 2** Putting teaching, training and learning at the heart of what we do

**Theme 3** Developing the leaders, teachers, lecturers, trainers and support staff of the future

**Theme 4** Developing a framework for quality and success

The Success for All newsletter is produced by the Department for Education and Skills and the Learning and Skills Council to keep you up to date with the change programme designed to transform the quality and responsiveness of the learning and skills sector. [Send us your feedback on the newsletter or views on Success for All to successforallnewsletter@lsc.gov.uk](mailto:successforallnewsletter@lsc.gov.uk)

## Have your say

### On Success for All

Consultation events on the LSC's proposals for implementing theme 4 will take place in all English regions over the next few weeks. Participants will be able to find out more about Success for All as a whole and to share thinking with sector and LSC colleagues. All providers are welcome. You can register online at [www.lewislive.co.uk/successforall](http://www.lewislive.co.uk/successforall) or call 020 8481 2032. A proforma for consultation responses is at Annex A of LSC circulars 03/01 (further education providers) and 03/02 (work-based learning only providers). The circulars are available on the LSC website at [www.lsc.gov.uk/documents](http://www.lsc.gov.uk/documents) Consultation on theme 4 closes on 25 April.

### On reducing bureaucracy

The Bureaucracy Task Force Regional Workshops will consult WBL-providers on bureaucratic burden at their sessions.

### On the HE White Paper

Consultation events for providers on the HE White Paper are also taking place in March and April. Register at [www.lewislive.co.uk/heconsultation](http://www.lewislive.co.uk/heconsultation) or call 020 8481 2090.

## Reviews are not inspections

The newsletter has been asked to clarify the relationship between strategic area reviews and area-wide inspections. Briefly, reviews do not inspect the quality of provision, but they will draw on area-wide inspection findings as one of the many information sources about local provision. The two processes are separate, but they should be mutually supportive. Action plans responding to area-wide inspections and taking forward strategic area reviews should therefore be complementary tasks. This applies both within and between neighbouring local LSCs.

### New this edition:

## Focus on...

A monthly feature on Success for All's key players and best practice. This month: **Nottinghamshire under review**

## Focus on...

### Nottinghamshire under review

**When the strategic area reviews start in April this year, Nottinghamshire LSC will be ready. Its review work under Executive Director Rob Valentine has been ongoing since the inception of the LSC and many lessons have been learnt.**

In 2000 the fledgling Nottinghamshire LSC inherited a proposal to combine sixth forms in North Nottinghamshire with vocational provision from North Nottinghamshire College, to create new post-16 centres in the towns of Worksop and Retford. The decline of the local coal mining industry in the 1980s and 90s had ravaged communities. They were left with all the problems associated with economic decline, including lack of aspiration and relatively poor take-up of post-16 education.

The College, the six secondary schools, the LEA and the LSC recognised that the challenges to improve the lives of people in North Nottinghamshire were two-fold and complementary: to regenerate the local economies and to drive up skill levels. The proposal to create two centres for post-16 education and training in a federation of the schools with North Nottinghamshire College emerged.

Before joining the Nottinghamshire LSC in 2000, Rob Valentine was Director of Education for Nottinghamshire LEA. He was therefore well placed to drive through proposals that he had helped create 'on the other side of the fence.' Four years on and the players involved have all signed up to a £20m PFI scheme which includes major rebuilding for the secondary schools and creation of the post-16 centres.

There's a long way to go, but they're well on the way. "What we're still learning from the review experience is that it's relatively easy to agree on shared values and learner entitlements," says Rob Valentine, "It's much harder to face the realities of making them operational. You have to get down to detail on what the new curriculum is, especially now that there's an additional emphasis on re-design of 14-16, and you have to find a way of achieving a consensus amongst the partners on ownership, funding and management. We've gone for a federated arrangement in which all the institutions have a stake, including in the teaching. This way everyone gets something positive from change."

Nottinghamshire is a county whose post-16 provision was in a state of 'planned revolution' even before Success for All. There are on-going 14-19 reviews in most areas

and countywide reviews of mainstream FE and adult and community learning. In the City of Nottingham an inspection of 16-19 provision in 2001 has given rise to an ambitious design for all colleges, schools and training providers to work on common curriculum design and delivery.

Review in Newark, with a population of 35,000 and four providers of 16+ learning, is at the consultation stage. John Gray, Principal of Newark and Sherwood College, explains the background. "Pressure on resources and a shared wish to improve quality on a sustainable basis led the schools and the college to come together about four years ago in the Newark Learning Partnership. We took the initiative to ask the LSC and LEA to carry out the local review published last summer. The advent of Success for All and Making a Difference has reinforced this need." Now there is a proposal for Newark to unite providers in one centre for 16+, an umbrella organisation that will achieve economies of scale and wider choice.

"When we start the Success for All strategic area review process, we'll have the advantage of having covered about two thirds of the ground already," says Rob Valentine. "This is thanks to Nottinghamshire's two local authorities and the schools and colleges involved. It's their enthusiasm for improvement and commitment to change that have brought us this far."

Pam Tulley, Director of Education for Nottinghamshire, is also optimistic "We're all determined to create greater opportunities for learners and a better economic future for Nottinghamshire, which is what Success for All is all about. People want to put aside institutional and historic differences to get the best deal for all. If they do well, Nottinghamshire will do well. LEAs and providers, acting with LSCs, now have a tremendous opportunity to make a difference".

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## Theme 1 Update

### Lessons so far

The strategic area review simulations carried out in Essex and Nottingham produced some useful early lessons. Participants strongly identified the tension, inherent in the review process, between simply improving the system as it is and taking a radical approach to provision to ensure it meets local needs. A flexible system of review will be vital to addressing differing needs across counties and regions. The phrase 'a safe place to develop options' was mentioned, referring to the need for participants to feel empowered to think radically and not always in their own interests.

### Data and information update

Making sure the right tools are available to carry out strategic area reviews is a top priority for the LSC data collection and analysis team. The aim is to make all the necessary information available by July 2003. This will be done by: updating the review toolkit (see [www.lsc.gov.uk/documents](http://www.lsc.gov.uk/documents) under 'strategic area reviews'); outlining the availability and usefulness of analysis software; identifying and sharing best practice; identifying training needs and solutions. A user group has been established to advise on information and data requirements.

## Themes 2&3 Update

### Standards Unit hears from Hodge

The new Standards Unit will be officially opened by Margaret Hodge, the minister responsible for Success for All, on 13 March. The Unit's first teaching and learning frameworks will be piloted in September. The Leadership College is due to open the same month. Mrs Hodge has told staff, secondees and consultants working in the Unit that she expects it to make a rapid difference to the quality of teaching, training and learning and to the professionalism and effectiveness of the post-16 workforce. Details of the secondees from the sector working in the Unit will appear in the next edition of the newsletter.

### Focus on Policy

The DfES/LSC Focus on Policy seminars got off to a flying start on 31 January with Working Together to Implement Success for All. Senior DfES and LSC policy makers, including Janice Shiner DfES Director General Lifelong Learning and Ken Pascoe, LSC Operations Director listened carefully to delegates' views. Among the topics discussed were how to improve student choice, employer responsiveness and the nature and use of development plans. A summary of the issues raised can be found on [www.dfes.gov.uk/learning&skills](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/learning&skills) The second seminar, Meeting Skill Needs – Matching Supply and Demand, was on 27 February. We will have a short report on this in our next issue.

## Theme 4 Update

### Specialist providers and HEIs

The LSC will be making separate arrangements to consult specialist providers about development plans and headline targets. Work is already under way with Ufi Ltd and there will be a meeting with higher education institutions in March. There will also be discussions with local authorities, adult learning services and specialist colleges for learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

## Implementing Success for All

### Getting it right

Various advisory groups are helping to implement Success for All. A strategic stakeholder group is advising the Department on both Success for All and the review of funding for adult learning. The LSC is getting detailed advice on strategic area reviews from a cross-sector group chaired by Nick Lewis, Principal of Broxtowe College, Nottingham. It is getting advice on the framework for quality and success from three specialist groups: a work-based learning group chaired by Graham Hoyle of the Association of Learning Providers; a further education group chaired by Lyne Sedgemore, Principal of Guildford College of Further and Higher Education; and an adult and community learning group chaired by Donald Rae, Assistant Chief Education Officer, Derbyshire County Council. To see exactly who is who on the various advisory groups, go to [www.lsc.gov.uk](http://www.lsc.gov.uk)

## Policy Development

### National Skills Strategy emerging

On 26 March the DfES will publish a report on the developing National Skills Strategy.

To facilitate consultation across the sector, the LSC will roll out the Great Skills Debate from the beginning of April. Workshops will bring together education and skills-training providers with players from industry and business to discuss and feedback into the emerging strategy, to be launched in late June.

### Transforming Secondary Education

The DfES has launched a new strategy to move schools away from the old one-size-fits-all system to tailor-made teaching and learning for every pupil. Called Transforming Secondary Education, the strategy should increase attainment and motivate more young people to stay on in learning, making strengthened standards and wider opportunities in the post-16 phase increasingly important. Other links with Success for All are an emphasis on improving quality and on schools and colleges working in partnership to meet the needs of young people. Details are at [www.teachernet.gov.uk/makingadiff/](http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/makingadiff/)

### Widening participation

The LSC has published its proposals for widening participation. Called Successful Participation for All, the consultation document builds on the recommendations of the 1997 Kennedy report, Learning Works. You can find the proposals at [www.lsc.gov.uk](http://www.lsc.gov.uk) Consultation closes on 9 May.

## What you asked John

Among the issues raised at the 'Ask John' Harwood online session on 13 February was one from Rowland Foote, Vice Principal at Dudley College about getting closer to business. Rowland Foote felt that employers are losing faith with the time it is taking to deliver exactly what the Government wants.

In his response John Harwood confirmed that more closely aligning education with business needs is very much in line with the LSC's Workforce Development Strategy and also proposals set out in Success for All. "The challenge for all in the sector is to seize the opportunity this presents. It is our strong desire to ensure joint working does make a difference and a lot is happening in a number of areas where colleges, employers, the LSC and the RDA are working closely together to the benefit of all parties" said John Harwood. He highlighted the collaboration between LSC and the

RDAs in the West Midlands where they worked together to produce the Framework of Regional Employment Skills Action (FRESA). John Harwood continued "We clearly need to share best practice more widely in order to galvanise action across the country – this we will do over the coming months. One of the LSC's major priorities for this year is 'closing the skills gap' – ensuring provision best meets employers' needs. We cannot do this alone. It requires a collaborative and open partnership between all involved in the sector – I remain committed to driving out bureaucracy and much work is progressing to ensure we achieve this ambition. It can't be achieved overnight, but through 2003 you will see and feel the difference."

The full text of the session is at [www.lsc.gov.uk](http://www.lsc.gov.uk)  
The next online session is on 31 March at 12.30 at [www.dfes.gov.uk](http://www.dfes.gov.uk) with Jane Williams of the Standards Unit.

## Calendar

The Success for All calendar for colleges and providers is updated in each issue of the newsletter.

\*Seminars are by invitation. The calendar as at the beginning of March is:

2003	Developments	Communications/consultation
March-April	Consultation on the proposals for implementing the quality and success agenda set out in LSC circulars 03/021 (FE) and 03/02 (WBL)	Success for All regional consultation events for colleges and providers. Events for WBL providers will also cover the theme of Trust in the Future
March-April	Consultation on the proposals in the HE white paper	HE White Paper regional consultation events
21 March		Focus on policy seminar: Teaching and Learning, Priorities for Development*
26 March	DfES launches consultation on National Skills Strategy	National Conference – Learning and Skills: Delivering Results
March-May	Consultation on LSC proposals for widening participation	
March-May		Consultation closes 9th May
31 March		'Ask Jane' Jane Williams, head of Standards Unit, DfES answers your questions online at 12.30 at <a href="http://www.dfes.gov.uk">www.dfes.gov.uk</a>
31 March	LSC publishes analysis of response to consultation on strategic area reviews	
April	LSC issues guidance on strategic area reviews and reviews begin	
25 April		Consultation on the framework for quality and success closes
28 April		Focus on policy seminar: Measuring Success – including floor and improvement targets*
April-May		Great Skills Debate regional workshops
19 May		'Ask Margaret' – Margaret Hodge, minister for lifelong learning, answers your questions online at <a href="http://www.dfes.gov.uk">www.dfes.gov.uk</a>
31 May	LSC circular reporting on the quality and success consultation and confirming arrangements for three-year funding and development plans	
May-June	LSC performance reviews used to identify colleges and providers eligible for three-year funding	
31 May	2003/04 funding confirmed for colleges and providers	
May-July	Colleges and providers continue discussion with LLSCs on development plans and headline improvement targets	