

Learner Destinations

This is a briefing document providing an overview of the development of a measure of appropriate learner destinations through the collection of robust information.

The aim of Learner Destinations

1 To improve understanding among key partners, of the impact of different learning routes on individuals' employability, career paths and rates of promotion through learner destinations information. It will also enable learners to make informed decisions about the most appropriate learning route to achieving their career goals.

2 Initially, the partners will identify what data they need and determine the most effective way of collecting it in order to reduce duplication and bureaucracy. Effective sharing of data is a crucial part of the development of sound information on learner destinations.

The importance of this new measure for local LSCs, learners and learning providers

3 The FE Reform White Paper, *Further Education: Raising Skills, Improving Life Chances* puts increased importance on the need for information about learner destinations and places it as a key performance measure of provider responsiveness to learners. A number of options for collecting this information at institutional level are currently being considered.

4 At local LSC level it is envisaged that the information will:

- Be used to assess performance of providers' responsiveness to learners
- Help to identify whether learning is fit for purpose and relevant to the learners undertaking it
- Provide evidence to be used within development plans
- Complement the Responsiveness to Employers measure.

5 For providers the information will be a valuable tool for comparison and benchmarking across national routes into different employment sectors, thus enabling reflection and improvement. It will also offer important information with which to guide learners in their career choices.

6 Learners will be able to use the information to inform their choice of learning route.

7 The agreed approach must be flexible enough to cater for the varying needs of providers and to fit as far as possible with their existing planning arrangements.

What local LSCs and learning providers need to do now?

8 In the coming months local LSCs and learning providers will have the opportunity to contribute to the development of the learner destinations measure through testing, consultation and piloting. Further information will be available on the website.

9 A survey of current practice into local learner destinations tracking has examined existing good practice. We will continue to work with providers to develop guidance on how learner destinations information should be gathered and used.

Next steps

10 The first phase of the learner destinations feasibility work will be completed in September 2006. Additional feasibility work will be undertaken to establish models for collecting and using national and provider level measures of learner destinations.

Further information on the new measures of success for the post-16 sector can be found at www.lsc.gov.uk/nms.

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