

Agenda Item 10

Operational Development – FECs and HEIs Joint approach

Purpose: To develop a foundation degree for use within the framework which is informed by national occupational standards.

Process:

1. Identify participating HEIs (and FEC partners) that can validate the award and intend to offer it within a Higher Apprenticeship Framework. (This could include those HEIs (FEC partners) that intend to validate at a later stage and still want to be involved within the development programme)
2. These institutions need to ensure that it is within the planning cycle of the University and can be validated this year
3. The participating institutions will then meet to develop the degree. The following is suggested:
 - Identification of employers to advise at all stages on the development (see also employer contacts re the Higher Apprenticeship)
 - Confirmation of credits per module for each HEI and agreement of how differing models can be integrated into a coherent framework
 - Agreement of structure of content, for example common core with options or other models, flexibility to offer different pathways
 - Identification and consideration of modules already in existence which could be integrated into the framework. Use of FDF framework for a foundation degree already developed
 - Development of new modules to include the competencies
 - Identify modes of delivery
 - Develop assessments/guidelines on assessment which are directly related to the workplace
 - Develop guidelines for APEL within the framework
 - Agree appropriate approaches for IAG and in liaison with Construction Skills and employers and develop material for guidance
4. Validation could include members of the development group at each HEI. This would add strength to the whole procedure.

Please note that at this stage identification of funding is not the remit of this group – this needs to be addressed by the advisory group. The advisory group will be kept informed of developments and assist in an advisory capacity at all stages.

Jill Ward

March 2011