



14-19 Diplomas: A model for engagement with Higher Education providers

The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) commissioned a number of Lifelong Learning Networks (LLNs)¹ to pilot projects focussing on the engagement of Higher Education providers with the development of the 14-19 Diplomas. Projects were commissioned to align with the first five lines of learning being introduced to learners in 2008 as follows:

- Construction & Built Environment (MOVE – LLN for the East of England)
- Creative & Media (The Creative Way)
- Engineering (North East Higher Skills Network)
- IT (West London and South London LLNs)
- Society, Health & Development (Higher York LLN)

The LLNs involved were tasked with identifying and developing progression opportunities, increasing understanding within HEIs and making recommendations for the sector.

Project recommendations

- **Engage early!** Local 14-19 partnerships and HE should make contact at an early stage in developments. To enable this, HE providers could identify named individuals for consortia to communicate with.
- **Share contacts** - HEIs/14-19 partnerships should share appropriate links (especially employers). The role of further education colleges should not be overlooked
- **Share resources** - consortia should recognise that HE staff are willing to open up resources for sharing and have specialised knowledge on the Diploma contents which could be beneficial to local providers.

Key achievements of the 5 projects

- Increased awareness amongst FE/HE staff and IAG practitioners at a range of levels (through meetings and events)
- Provided a forum for discussion regarding the Advanced diploma and allowed both curriculum and admissions staff from HE and FE to develop their knowledge and understanding of the level 3 Diploma offer
- Acted as a catalyst to bring HE, FE, SSC (e-skills) and local consortia together to review progression opportunities related to new ASL and extended project development (*West London & South London LLNs*).
- Provided a platform to consider maths component for entry onto BEng programmes (*NEHSN*)
- Initiated dialogue regarding sharing of HEI resources
- 9 Progression routes articulated to a range of HE programmes¹ (*Higher York* and *MOVE*)
- 'Progression Accord' template offering guarantee of places on named HE programmes has been developed specifically for Diploma learners (*MOVE*)
- Initiated the development of a joint network approach to Progression Agreement development for IT Diploma learners (*West London & South London LLNs*)
- Statement regarding acceptability of Diplomas agreed by partners (*Higher York*)