

FOUNDATION DEGREE GATEWAY PROJECT BRIEFING NOTE No. 3 June 2008

The Foundation Degree Gateway Project has now been completed. This final briefing note details project findings and recommendations and tells you where you can find the full report.

Key project findings

- Employers see positive benefits in staff taking Foundation degrees. They provide scope for staff to move on in an organisation and improve their career
- Foundation degrees can open up access to higher education to people who work with children and young people, but some employers are only interested in supporting study to meet current employment needs
- Foundation degrees have the potential to make a major contribution to the integrated qualifications framework



Recommendations for the future

Recommendation 1: There is potential for Foundation degrees to bridge vocational and higher education qualifications and this needs to be taken into consideration within the development of the Integrated Qualifications Framework.

Recommendation 2: The Children's Workforce Network should facilitate the development of children's workforce principles for Foundation degrees. These should be based around Every Child Matters and the Common Core of skills and knowledge for those working with children, young people, parents and carers, and reflective practice in leadership and management. *The guidelines could be made available to sectors and Foundation degree developers for those who work with both adults and children / young people for those elements of their provision.*

Recommendation 3: Sector bodies in the Children's Workforce Network should promote networks of Foundation degree good practice across the children's workforce, bringing together sector bodies and providers. These networks could support the development of the principles described in Recommendation 2, and raise the profile of sector endorsement and Foundation degree frameworks, as well as ensuring that sector bodies lead development for their sector.

Recommendation 4: Sector bodies should develop a communication initiative for the private, voluntary and independent sector on Foundation degrees so that these employers are better informed, and so that the development of Foundation degrees takes account of the reality of employment in these sectors.

Recommendation 5: Higher education institutions should be supported to build inter-disciplinary Foundation degree networks to break down internal barriers and take the lead in developing integrated approaches to working and learning.



Next steps

The Children's Workforce Network has developed an action plan which is being taken forward through the various CWN workstreams.

The project report is available through the Integrated Qualifications Framework website: www.iqf.org.uk