QCF Champions Cascade Project Report

Organisation name: Blackburn College

Project title: QCF Champions Dissemination
Programme

Provider type: General FE College including Tertiary

Region: North West

Dates and location of the action planning support or professional development training:

1. 28th April Woodlands Conference Centre - Lancashire Training Providers Network meeting

2. 25th May Nelson College

3. 11th June Lancashire Workbased Learning Forum Beneast, Guildhall Street Preston

4. 29th June Preston College

5. 27TH July Burnley College planned visit

Participants

1. 8 attendees: Edge Hill University x 1, Nelson and Colne College x 2, Westfield Centre x 1, Runshaw College x 1, Lancashire County Council WBL x 1, Lancashire Workbased Learning Executive Forum x 1, Workforce Development Manager Lancashire County Council

2. 13 attendees: 4 x Care Department plus 9 employers and a member of staff from LA

3. 9 attendees: Quality Manager, Beneast; Curriculum Manager, Apprentices Business Services, Preston College; Manager, Burnley College Training; Support and Development Manager , Lancashire Workplace Learning Executive Forum' Apprenticeship Manager Blackpool and Fylde College; Skills and Enterprise Quality Manager, Myerscough College; Health and Safety/Quality Manager , North Lancashire Training Group; Training Centre Manager, Age UK; Account Manager, Skills Funding Agency

4. 17 attendees: Head of Employer Engagement; Curriculum Development Manager; 3 x Business Development Officers; 3 x Employer Engagement Co-ordinators , 2 x Lecturers; 1 x Training and Assessment Co-ordinator; 2 x Recruitment Co-ordinator; 1 x Support Officer; 3 x Administrators.

5. attendees: 3 x Training and Development Officers: Manager Employer Training Services Account Manager; Training and Development Manager; Performance and Quality Assurance Co-ordinator; Administrator; MIS WBL Funding; Apprenticeships Manager

Brief description of the action planning support or professional development training that took place.

1. Presentation to the Lancashire Network Training Providers meeting which included - information about the action planning tool and The LSIS web based resources including the animated video. Discussion about the new QCF qualifications for the Children and Young People's Workforce and the Schools Workforce. The presentation was accompanied by a pack of resources for the providers to take to their own establishments.

2. Repeated the presentation to the Employer Forum of staff and employers at the Childcare Department at Nelson College.

3. Key event for the cascade training included a presentation about the cascade fund initiative to the Lancashire Workbased Learning Executive Forum. The event included an introduction to the cascade fund initiative and the champions' training programme. The agenda included the following:

    • The LSIS materials
    • Discussion about a whole organisation approach
    • Working through the QCF action planning tool with discussion
    • Exploration in detail of the web based resources: the learning activities, the resources, Quick Guides, planning tools, case studies, key documents, QCF policy and contents, virtual resources box and useful links
    • The QCDA animated presentations
    • Discussion of the opportunities for a local QCF Support Network Group
    • The possibility for an additional support visit

4. Additional visit to Preston College Business Development team to provide an introduction to champions' training programme and the cascade initiative comprised:

    • A check of the knowledge base of group, assessed through QCF terminology activity
    • An introduction to QCF
    • An exploration of the Excellence Gateway resources
    • Introducing the QCF action planner tool. Participants worked through relevant sheets of the action plan for their area of work followed by a discussion.
    • The animated presentation on the QCF by QCDA
    • Identified of next steps by participants

5. The session on the 27th July followed a similar structure as the above

How satisfied were the recipients with the support provided?

Evaluation from the event on the 11th June

Please rate the following with 5 being very useful and 1 being not useful

	5	4	3	2	1
Information about the Action Planner tool	11111111				
Likelihood of using the Action Planner tool	11111	111			
Information about the resources	1111111	1			
Likelihood of accessing and using these resources	1111111				
Would you value an opportunity for further discussion about QCF developments	11111111				
Would you value a visit to your organisation to explore additional issues	111111	1			

Any other comments
- Very useful would welcome further input
- To have further updates at future forum meetings
- My responsibility is employer facing work, and I would appreciate your input to do a talk to our employer facing staff please
- This was very useful
- We already have a QCF and FL Champion, However as a provider it is useful to get other perspectives. Resources on website are great however the time factor is difficult for staff to take on the reading of resources.

Evaluation from the event on the 29th June
Please rate the following with 5 being very useful and 1 being not useful

	5	4	3	2	1
Information about the QCF	11111 11111 1	11111 1			
Information about the Action Planner tool	11111 11	11111 11	111		
Likelihood of using the Action Planner tool	11111	11111 11	111	11	
Information about the resources	11111 11111	11111	11		
Likelihood of accessing and using these resources	11111 11111 1	11111	1		

Participants were asked to identify next steps. Comments included:

- Discuss with my director how our organisation puts measures in place to ensure that each SQS is being systematically checked and fed into business planning processes
- Pass on to rest of administration team and trainer assessors. Also look on web site to find more information
- Try to forward plan how my team will now deal with apprenticeships and how our data will be recorded
- Access the animated video to cascade to the H&SCEY department
- Cascade action planner tools to use at briefings within the academy
- Find video on the website, update other staff, access sector skills council website
- Talk to our quality department to see what is in place already if anything
- Publish article in newsletter to raise awareness with employers

All participants identified that they would access the web based resources and many identified using the animated video with staff and employers.

Participants were asked for any further comments They are all extremely positive - a few examples include:

- Thanks Sarah, a very informative and timely update which well met the diverse needs of this group
- Very useful course – to the point and very well explained. If I hadn't come to this presentation I would not have known anything about this. Many thanks
- Very good ideas to keep up to date, e.g. designated person to keep an eye on the sector skills and cascade. Thank you.

Evaluation from QCF Champions Cascade event at Burnley College on 27/07/10

	5	4	3	2	1
Information about the QCF	11111 1111	1			
Information about the Action Planner tool	11111 1	1111			
Likelihood of using the Action Planner tool	1111	111	11		
Information about the resources	11111 111	11			
Likelihood of accessing and using these resources	11111 11		1		
Sector specific information	11111	1111	1		

Can you describe what you are going to do next to support the implementation of the QCF as a result of this training
- Liaise with training officers and SSC
- Look what qualifications we want to deliver and if they are fundable
- Invite SSC to our employer forums which we have set up (x2)
- QCF was completely new to me today so I am not sure what I will do

- Follow up on website and familiarise with the frameworks
- Disseminate to colleagues
- Cascade to other staff
- Develop links with SSC and employer forums
- Arrange meeting with programme leader
- Discuss when, what and how in relation to implementation with manager, team and tutors
- Find out about qualifications

Any other comments
- Very useful and informative
- Excellent – useful and well presented
- Interesting and simple to understand
- Thank you
- Valuable insight into QCF – raised my awareness

What were the opportunities and challenges you faced in providing this support?

In recent months I have met many people at different levels within organisations and in my discussions I have been aware of, and concerned by, the lack of knowledge about the QCF.

I provided information for the Lancashire Colleges Training Provider Network and the group now has this as an item on the agenda of each meeting, where they can share experiences and discuss issues during the development phase of the introduction of the new framework. After the first session I was invited to speak to the Employer Forum at Nelson College.

The key development however for this initiative was to work with the Lancashire Work Based Learning Executive Forum and this was the more comprehensive event on the 11th June. This was a very successful session as can be seen by the evaluation. It would appear that all the people who attended this session are likely to use both the QCF action planner tool and the QCF resources.

The session held at Preston College was very useful and participants were very keen to access the LSIS resources. All participants created an individual action plan for further development.

Next steps (including details of any future joint capacity building activity):

While in my initial proposal I included setting up a network for QCF support, in actual fact both groups I worked with did not feel the need for a separate QCF network as they already had effective mechanisms for sharing information. Instead it was agreed to include the QCF as a discussion topic in their regular meetings.

All the groups agreed to share information across their individual organisations, and in some cases, undertake further work with their employer networks.

Additional comments:

I consider this to have been a very useful project which met all the aims of the original submission with the exception of setting up a network. However the QCF is now firmly on the agenda of many different groups of people within the training and education sector locally and a large number or organisations. In addition, individuals have prepared action plans for supporting the implementation of the QCF.

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