

## CFE

CFE is an independent company, working to improve social and economic prosperity across the UK. We focus on public service users and the development of policies and programmes to better meet their needs.

We deliver an end-to-end service, from research and policy design through to implementation and evaluation. We provide actionable advice grounded in our experience and expertise across four inter-related policy areas: Business & Enterprise, Economic Development, Employment & Work and Skills & Innovation.

Our role is to be the vital link, bringing together those formulating policy with those responsible for delivery, and those they are delivering for. We challenge and innovate, sharing learning and bringing together different perspectives to provide powerful and practical policy solutions.

## PROJECT SPOTLIGHT TRAINING QUALITY STANDARD

CFE have worked with the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to lead the research, development, testing and implementation of the Training Quality Standard (formerly the new standard) since May 2006. The Training Quality Standard assesses, recognises and celebrates the best organisations delivering training and development solutions to employers.

CFE were very pleased to see the official launch of the Standard on 8 May 2008 by David Lammy MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Skills.



The launch of the Standard was part of a major FE Specialisation and Innovation conference attended by around two hundred participants, drawn from colleges and providers, employers, the Learning and Skills Council, Sector Skills Councils and Government Departments.

At the event, David Lammy called the Training Quality Standard a "badge of success" for both providers and employers and gave "credit to those who achieved the Standard" stating that they should be "proud of the achievement."

The launch of the Training Quality Standard is a real milestone and Duncan Brown, CFE Project Director said:

*"Today's a happy day for all concerned – and especially the colleges, providers and employers who have so far achieved certification. It's great to see their achievement gaining the recognition it deserves."*

*"For CFE, it's a great moment to reflect on how, working closely with the LSC, we've taken the Standard through from being an idea in two pages of a White Paper through to successful operational reality for a growing number of providers and employers."*

More information about CFE's past and future work with the Training Quality Standard can be found on our website [here](#). A full summary of the launch event can be found on our website [here](#).

## POLICY SPOTLIGHT TRANSFER OF LSC 16-19 FUNDING TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES

The Machinery of Government changes, which announced the transfer of funding for 16-19 year olds from the LSC to local authorities, signal a significant change in the way the system will operate. Local authorities will become responsible for commissioning 16-19 provision and ensuring that the needs of young people across their area are fully met.

These changes offer the opportunity for local authorities to take a real strategic lead on the 14-19 agenda, as part of an integrated approach to Children and Young People's Services. However, there are many challenges that need to be overcome to achieve a smooth transition to effective new arrangements, and to successfully build upon the expertise, resources and staffing developed within the LSC.

On 20 May 2008, CFE hosted a workshop for local authority senior managers to discuss the proposed transfer as announced in the DCSF/DIUS consultation: [Raising Expectations: enabling the system to deliver](#). The workshop provided space to debate the key challenges facing local authorities and explore potential solutions to facilitate a smooth and effective transition.

Local authorities generally welcomed the proposed transfer, and looked forward to a greater leadership role across their area. However, delegates highlighted several challenges, particularly in developing or recruiting necessary expertise and allocating sufficient resources to meet the specified timescales. Many authorities were keen to begin planning the transition details as soon as possible, in conjunction with the LSC, DCSF and other partners.

Other issues debated included challenges around developing new relationships with providers, capacity-building of 14-19 partnerships, establishing sub-regional arrangements, political issues and the importance of learning lessons from similar transitions, such as the transfer of IAG services.

More information about the workshop, and CFE's further work within this area, can be found [here](#).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

CFE is hosting and supporting a number of events over the coming months to debate key policy issues and provide the opportunity for participants to network. Upcoming events include:

### The Guardian 2nd Annual Further Education and Skills Summit

18 June 2008

Michael Davis, Managing Director at CFE is leading a key issue forum on employer responsiveness at the Further Education and Skills Summit 2008.

[> MORE](#)

### Skills Utilisation – Smarter working starts with smarter thinking

26 June 2008

CFE is hosting a workshop focused on skills utilisation - a policy

## IN THIS ISSUE

Welcome to CFE's first quarterly newsletter!

Information included in this issue:

- Project Spotlight: Training Quality Standard
- Policy Spotlight: 14-19 transfer
- New & Recent Projects
- Publications
- Upcoming Events

## NEW & RECENT PROJECTS

CFE is currently working on a number of projects across our four policy areas of: Business & Enterprise, Economic Development, Employment & Work, and Skills & Innovation.

### Lifelong Learning Network (LLN) Evaluations

The Creative Way, West London LLN and Yorkshire & Humber East LLN

[> MORE](#)

### National Skills Academies Support & Implementation

Learning and Skills Council

[> MORE](#)

### Review of Greater Nottingham Employment and Skills Board (ESB)

Greater Nottingham Partnership (GNP)

[> MORE](#)

### Rural Learning Demand and Provision

East of England Development Agency (EEDA)

[> MORE](#)

### Skills Action Plan for the West Midlands

Learning and Skills Council & Advantage West Midlands

[> MORE](#)

### User Demand for Locally Based IAG Services

MLA North East

[> MORE](#)

A full list of current projects can be found on our website [here](#).

## RECENT EVENTS

CFE has hosted and been involved in a number of events over the last quarter including:

### Transfer of 16-19 education and training funding to local authorities

CFE Workshop

[> MORE](#)

### Informing the development of Employment and Skills Boards

CFE Workshop

[> MORE](#)

### Engaging SMEs in Apprenticeships

Conference seminar

[> MORE](#)

## CFE WEBSITE

CFE's website was re-launched in December 2007 and features information on CFE, the policy areas we work in, the services we offer, as well as information on current projects, publications, events, case studies and a regularly updated blog highlighting general policy news.

Please visit our website [here](#).

instrument that is creeping up the agenda; the event will discuss what skills utilisation is and what value it may add.

[> MORE](#)

#### **NAEGA & Institute of Career Guidance (ICG) Annual Conference's**

September & November 2008

CFE is sponsoring NAEGA's two-day annual conference and holding a workshop called '*The Research Blind Spot? Learning from guidance clients' needs, experiences and outcomes*'. CFE is also holding a workshop entitled '*Skills Coaching Trials and what we can learn for the future of careers guidance*' at the ICG Annual Conference.

[> MORE](#)

A full list of upcoming events can be found on our website [here](#).

## **PUBLICATIONS**

Recent publications from CFE include:

#### **Employment and Skills Boards: Current and potential role**

CFE have undertaken an independent review of employment and skills partnership arrangements exploring the current and potential role of Employment and Skills Boards (ESBs) in contributing to the integration of the employment and skills agenda.

[> MORE](#)

#### **Known Unknowns: The demand for higher level skills from businesses**

CFE have surveyed more than 400 businesses across the East Midlands to explore the extent and nature of demand for higher level skills from businesses in the East Midlands.

[> MORE](#)

A full list of CFE's publications can be found on our website [here](#).

## **THE SMALL PRINT**

You have received this newsletter because you are on our distribution list. This may be because you have signed up for one of our events or requested more information on our work.

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