



NEWSLETTER

September 2008

innovative thinking collaborative action

CFE is an independent not for profit 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.
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PROJECT SPOTLIGHT SKILLS UTILISATION

CFE is working with the Scottish Government to inform their strategy development work on skills utilisation.

We are currently carrying out a review of UK and international literature to bring together available information on the topic of skills utilisation to give a clear picture of the nature and extent of the current evidence base. The review is considering:

- Definitions and approaches to skills utilisation;
- Implementation and current practice;
- Impact of skills utilisation interventions; and
- Gaps in the evidence base

The review will inform current thinking regarding skills utilisation including: the development of an analytical work programme for the Scottish Government, the work of the Leadership Group on Skills Utilisation set up by the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning in Scotland and the ongoing work of the UK Commission for Employment and Skills (UKCES) in this area.

For more information on the project please click here.

POLICY SPOTLIGHT APPRENTICESHIPS

In January, the Government announced an ambitious plan to expand and strengthen apprenticeships in the document 'World Class Apprenticeships: Unlocking Talent, Building Skills for All'. The review built on the Leitch target of having 400,000 apprentices in learning each year by 2020 and also stated the aim to have 1 in 5 young people in apprenticeships in the next decade and by 2013 for all suitably qualified young people to be entitled to an apprenticeship place.

The document also announced the new National Apprenticeship Service (NAS), a central body with overall responsibility for the programme including all marketing, and a central vacancy matching service.

CFE has been working with the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to scope out the work involved in delivering the ambitious targets and to look at the challenges facing the NAS. The scoping work has looked at how the 2020 targets of nearly doubling the number of Apprenticeship programmes successfully completed will be met in the timescale, through data analysis and forecasting. One of the largest challenges in increasing learner numbers will be to increase employer engagement to provide the much needed Apprenticeship places. Currently only 10% of UK businesses (130,000) are engaged with Apprenticeships a figure which will need to rise to over 180,000 by 2020.

IN THIS ISSUE

- Project Spotlight: Skills Utilisation
- Policy Spotlight: Apprenticeships
- New Projects
- Publications
- Upcoming Events

NEW 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.

Employer demand for higher level skills in the East Midlands
Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) and East Midlands Universities Association (EMUA)
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Exploring demand for higher level skills in Northamptonshire
University of Northampton
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Multi agency employment and skills team policy review
Leicester City Council
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Programme evaluation of 14-19 provision
Southwark 14-19 Partnership
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Regional surveys exploring demand for higher level skills
HEFCE & West Midlands Higher Education Association
HEFCE & Yorkshire Universities
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CFE has also been commissioned to carry out a number of scoping interviews with key stakeholders considering the main challenges, risks and priorities for the new NAS as it plans its work to begin in April 2009. The interviews have brought out a number of common themes relating to aligning the multi-agency approach, consistency of the offer, clarity around roles and responsibilities, the need for clear communication, the proactive nature of the NAS field force and access to data. As a result of the interviews, CFE are presenting a paper which looks at the critical success factors and challenges to the service ending with potential delivery models to address how the customer journey will look for those engaged with the NAS.

More information about CFE's work in this area can be found here. Policy announcements and developments in the area of Apprenticeships are also featured on our website under News and Comment.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Lord Stafford Awards

September 2008

CFE is sponsoring the East Midlands 2008 Lord Stafford Awards on the 11th September. This year sees the launch of the awards in the East Midlands which were developed to recognise and encourage the development of collaborative relationships between businesses and universities.

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NAEGA Annual Conference

September 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'. The workshop will examine evidence-based approaches to clients' needs, experiences and outcomes of guidance interventions from the user perspective and will also look at the impact of this evidence on planning and tracking services as well as implications for the new Adult Advancement and Careers Service.

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Institute of Career Guidance (ICG) Annual Conference

November 2008

CFE is holding a workshop entitled 'Skills Coaching Trials and what we can learn for the future of careers guidance' at the ICG Annual Conference. The workshop will include an overview of the Skills Coaching Trials from initial set up, through to expansion, and eventual wind down. It will look at the lessons learned from the trials particularly those that are applicable to the Adult Advancement and Careers Service and Skills Accounts.

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A full list of all upcoming and recent events can be found on our website here.

CFE WEBSITE

Take a look at the CFE website for more information about our work, our people and case studies from past projects and a regularly updated news area.

Find the website here.

Skills Utilisation

Literature Review
Scottish Government
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Support to the Integrated Brokerage Steering Group

Department for Business, Enterprise & Regulatory Reform (BERR) and Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS)
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Vocational HE in the East Midlands

HEFCE & Learning and Skills Council (LSC)
> MORE

PUBLICATIONS

CFE has recently responded to a number of key consultations:

Higher Education at Work – High Skills: High Value

CFE's response focused on understanding the demand for higher level skills using examples from our recent research the 'Known Unknowns'.
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Informal Adult Learning – Shaping the Way Ahead

CFE's response focused around the four points of language and terminology, funding and planning, provision and places, and quality and risk.

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Raising Expectations: Enabling the system to deliver

CFE's response welcomed the broad directions of proposals laid out but raised several points that need further consideration and clarification.

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A full list of CFE's publications including reports and think pieces can be found on our website here.