

This Month**News from the FE System Data Programme**

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News from the FE System Data Programme

The FE System Data Programme involves the creation of an independent *information authority* and a pilot to test the concept of a national Information Service. The authority will set and regulate data standards for all organisations involved in further education and training. A full Information Service will collect, handle and disseminate information across the further education system. Working in tandem, the two organisations will streamline and improve the way information is collected and shared.

Online change requests for ILR 2008/09

Organisations wishing to request changes to the 2008/09 Individualised Learner Record can now do so online for the first time by visiting the ILR section of the *information authority* website www.theinformationauthority.org.uk and completing a simple change request form.

This streamlined method of making applications is designed to speed up the process and make the tracking of applications more reliable. Organisations can ask for a printed version of the online form by contacting ILR2008-09Specification@theia.org.uk.

The cut off date for submitting ILR change requests has been fixed for 24th August. These will be collated, assessed and evaluated before a further period of stakeholder consultation in September and October to provide a final list of recommendations. The *information authority* board will meet in November to consider change applications and its decisions will be published in December.

The *information authority* is planning a series of consultation workshops with individuals and organisations directly involved in the collection and use of further education data.

If you would like to take part, please send your details to ILR2008-09Specification@theia.org.uk so we can keep you informed of possible dates.

'Pilot' requirements gathering complete

The requirements gathering phase of the Information Service Pilot, which is testing the concept of a full Data Service for the FE sector, is now complete. The exercise has involved a series of workshops and interviews with Learning Providers and National Agencies.

Headline findings include:

Customer Service: All of the participants expressed a desire for dedicated support to cater for all their queries and information needs. The participants wanted a contact they could reach by phone and email.

Transparency: All the providers interviewed said they were unaware of how reports were generated and wanted simple clarification of the methodologies.

Timeliness and Accuracy: Requirements were expressed relating to information being present and ready for use within agreed and mutually beneficial timescales.

Accessibility: A number of requirements were expressed relating to the ease at which learner information can be obtained and used appropriately.

Standards and Harmonisation: There is a requirement for harmonised information standards within the sector.

New secretariat roles advertised

Advertisements for new senior roles within the *information authority* Secretariat have now appeared in the Guardian and Sunday Times and are accessible through www.theinformationauthority.org.uk/vacancies.html and the vacancies section of www.lsc.gov.uk. The posts and their associated reference numbers are:

Head of *information authority* Secretariat – NO480599
Community & Stakeholder Manager – NO480600
Standards & Quality Manager – NO480598
Change Manager – NO480596

Applications must be registered online and forms can be accessed through the information authority website. The closing date for all positions is 30 July.

News from MIAP

Managing Information Across Partners (MIAP) is about streamlining how information on learning and achievement is collected, handled and shared across the education sector so that excellent services are made available to individuals, employers and communities.

MIAP will be capable of issuing every person in education and training with a Unique Learner Number and enable the collation of a lifelong record of their participation and achievements that can be accessed through the internet. It will support this by delivering Common Data Definitions that can be used by everyone in the sector; and giving access to

the UK Register of Learning Providers, containing details of individual training organisations and the services they provide.

MIAP system passes first big test

The prototype MIAP Learner Registration Service has passed its first big test with flying colours by handling a single upload of more than 15,200 learner records with ease.

It was estimated that the major transfer of information from the Manchester 14-19 Partnership, one of nine organisations involved in the tests and trials of the MIAP Unique Learner Number (ULN), would take in the region of four hours to complete. The system confounded projections by speeding through the upload in only 25 minutes.

No errors were recorded and the process went so smoothly that there was no requirement for system support.

“We were really delighted with the way the prototype system coped with what was by far its biggest test to date and the feedback we received from the Manchester 14-19 partnership was excellent and extremely helpful for continued development of the service,” said Tracey Matkin, MIAP Tests and Trials Manager.

The prototype service now holds more than 22,400 Unique Learner Numbers. This is expected to rise to more than 100,000 after the full Learner Registration Service goes live for 40 early adopters of MIAP in September.

Workshop for ‘early adopters’

The 40 organisations that will use the MIAP service when it is launched in September saw the new system in action for the first time when they attend a workshop in Birmingham earlier this month.

The early adopters were shown the Learner Registration Service in its prototype form and were taken through the process of registering Unique Learner Numbers and learner information on the system.

“This was a great opportunity for us and the early adopters to ensure the service is fit for purpose when it goes live,” said Tim Barrett, MIAP Sector Change Manager for the Learning and Skills Council. “We listened closely to any concerns and heard about the experience of organisations that have been using the service in the trials of the ULN.

If you would like to subscribe to this newsletter, register your contact details at fesystemdataprog@lsc.gov.uk

To find out more about the information authority and MIAP, visit:

www.theinformationauthority.org.uk

www.miap.gov.uk