

Funding NVQs - MPQC Position

There has been significant press coverage and debate over the past few months regarding funding and over commitment of funds by the Learning and Skills Council at a national level. To this end, we at MPQC want to provide you with a simple update of the current position regarding our contract with the LSC.

During 2007 and 2008 the LSC encouraged all learning providers to generate demand for Train to Gain learners and at the same time they also commenced funding second level 2 and 3 qualifications. Not surprisingly the LSC were swamped with demand with the inevitable result of a massive over commitment of the budgets. Consequently, only 25% of the LSC budget is available for new starts for 2009/2010.

The good news is that following successful negotiation with the LSC our contract has been significantly increased for 2009/2010 and therefore we will be able to provide some funding support. Whilst the contract has been increased it still does not meet all the demands and so many of the requests will not be met.

In addition, there have been a number of changes in the contract this year with an increased focus on delivery and performance, specifically in terms of timely completions. Principally a completion date for delivery of the NVQ will need to be agreed at the start of the process, which cannot be changed, and so both training providers and employers will need to ensure that the target date is met.

We are currently developing a fair system for the allocation of funding. We will be looking at the existing needs already registered through MPQC and will be prioritising the delivery on this basis. We will be in contact with all those employers and providers who have requested assistance from us in the next few weeks.



Trish Jagger
Approved Assessment Centre Manager

Footnote:

Meanwhile Proskills are continuing to negotiate a single contract on behalf of the whole of the industry; there has been no confirmation or indication at the moment as to whether this approach has been successful.