

CFE L&D POSC 23rd February:

The employer's perspective on 16-19 education and training

From April 2010, KCC will be responsible for the funding of 16-19 education and training. In preparation for this, CFE L&D POSC have invited four diverse employers to the meeting on the 23rd February to hear what they are looking for from the 16 -19 workforce and what they think the 16-19 education and training system should look like.

Below is a selection of areas for discussion which may be covered during the meeting:

Qualifications and Skills

- What changes to the curriculum and qualifications really matter to employers?
 - NVQs
 - Diplomas
 - Apprenticeships
 - Vocational GCSEs
 - GCSEs and A Levels
- What do they mean to employers?
- Where/How do they fit together?
- How do they relate to what went before?

Employability skills

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|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ➤ positive attitude | ➤ problem solving |
| ➤ self management | ➤ communication and literacy |
| ➤ team working | ➤ application of numeracy |
| ➤ business and customer awareness | ➤ application of IT |

As defined by the CBI. Source pg 33 "The Work Related Learning Guide" (2nd Edition)

- How can we develop these skills?
- Do you think it is important for schools / colleges and employers to work in partnership to build employability skills and deliver work-related courses?
- What kind of support would you look for from schools / colleges and KCC to assist you in contributing to young people's skills?
- What kind of support do you think you can offer to schools / colleges to ensure that learning programmes are relevant to the skill needs of your business?
- How do we record / review these skills?
- How do we recognise these skills?

Apprenticeships

- Do you offer Apprenticeships? If yes, what are your experiences?
- If not, would you in the future? If not why not? What would encourage you to do so?
- Do you know how to find out information about Apprenticeships?
- Are you aware of the National Apprenticeship Service (NAS)?

Careers Advice

- How do employers interact with this?
 - Links between business and schools
 - Work experience
 - Teacher placements
 - How do we improve the knowledge of and educate teachers about business and careers e.g. Marine skills

Funding for training

- What has been your experience of accessing funding for training?
- How could this system be improved?
- How would you like to influence what training and education is provided?

Raising the Participation Age

- Are employers aware of this?
- What implications will it have for employers?
- Will it lead to more opportunities for training and employment for 16 year olds?