

## **NEW DATA TOOL BENEFITS THE FURTHER EDUCATION SECTOR**

Lifelong Learning UK, the Sector Skills Council responsible for data collection in the further education (FE) sector, has today launched a new online analysis tool to enable learning providers to benchmark their organisation against sector standards and develop strategies for improvement.

### **Benefits of OLAP Reporting**

Until now, colleges that have annually submitted their workforce data to Lifelong Learning UK have reported limited benefits because they have been unable to obtain bespoke analyses of their own data or compare their data with that of the sector as a whole.

In response to this, Lifelong Learning UK has launched the Online Analytical Processing (OLAP) reporting tool which means that, for the first time, colleges – and other providers who submit data - will be able to benchmark information about their own workforce against that of the sector and use the data for a variety of different uses providing them with immediate benefits.

Using OLAP Reporting, FE sector providers will be able to:

- See how their own organisations compare to the sector as a whole;
- Provide evidence to support Ofsted inspections;
- Better monitor their own Equality and Diversity data in order to comply with legislation;
- Collate evidence to demonstrate how they are developing their own workforce in response to workforce reforms;
- Provide evidence to support ‘Investors in People’;



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- Support their own self regulation; and
- Save new or pre-defined reports for review at a later date or for distribution within their organisations.

### **Positive steps in the right direction**

David Hunter, Lifelong Learning UK chief executive, said: “Lifelong Learning UK has created the OLAP reporting tool to address the needs of FE employers – this means better understanding the workforce through easily accessible and tailored labour market intelligence. We hope further education sector providers, including those in work based and adult community learning, will find the tool to be of major benefit”

Evan Williams, Director of Employment and Professional Services from Association of Colleges, said: “My first impressions of the OLAP reporting tool are that it will have a positive impact for Colleges. It has the potential of being a useful planning tool which will enable Colleges to analyse information at source and make comparisons at local, regional and national level. A positive step in the right direction for data collection”.

### **Accessing OLAP Reporting**

OLAP Reporting can be accessed via <https://sirdatacollection.lluk.org>. As workforce data collection continues under Lifelong Learning UK, future years’ data will be made accessible via OLAP Reporting, allowing learning providers to produce year-on-year trend analyses.

### **Moving forward**



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OLAP Reporting can be accessed by organisations who have submitted their workforce data.

Lifelong Learning UK is extending the collection of workforce data to all parts of the sector, including work based learning and adult and community learning. This year's collection for all learning providers opens on Monday 03 August, 2009.

Learning providers are asked to feed back their comments regarding the OLAP reporting tool and can request further information to be available for analysis by logging in to the [workforce data consultation portal](#) and going to the Analysis of Data menu item.