

**The Commission for Disabled Staff in Lifelong Learning recommended the following to Lifelong Learning UK, with its key role as Sector Skills Council for the sector:**

1. Uses Priority 4 of the Workforce Strategy, and its Implementation Plan, to embed the ambitions and expectations of this Commission, and to provide strategic leadership across the whole lifelong learning sector, through the Sector Skills Agreement process, to support disability equality.

**Progress to date: the current update of the Workforce Strategy, and its Implementation Plan, will incorporate the activities of DEIG and commissioned research.**

2. Supports the establishment of a sector-wide advisory group on disability equality, either through enhancing an existing group or by creating a new one, which will oversee implementation of the Commission's recommendations.

**Progress to date: a specialist group the Disability Equality Implementation Group (DEIG) was set up, with its first meeting taking place in June 08. There are a further four further meetings scheduled until March 2009.**

3. Gathers, interprets and publishes comprehensive and standardised data on disabled staff in lifelong learning, and similarly robust data on those who take and apply to undertake initial teacher training in the lifelong learning sector.

**Progress to date: the Annual Workforce Diversity Profile 2008 (AWDP) will monitor the profile of disabled staff, which will include recruitment and retention rates, in FE colleges in England. The feasibility of monitoring of other nations and other parts of sector is to be examined.**

4. Identifies and addresses the needs of disabled staff in relation to entry routes, professional development opportunities and requirements to enable such individuals to access and progress careers in the sector.

**Progress to date: research on the barriers experienced by disabled people will inform the Catalyst recruitment and retention programmes and professional development opportunities.**

5. Works with government and others to facilitate the development of recruitment strategies and careers guidance strategies to encourage disabled young people into careers in the lifelong learning sector.

**Progress to date: development of sector-specific careers guidance for disabled people is to be commissioned this Autumn.**

6. Commissions research on career progression and access to training/development opportunities of disabled staff who have disclosed their disability.

**Progress to date: research on the barriers to disabled people entering the Sector and career progression to be commissioned Autumn.**