

## LLUK to coordinate the collection and analysis of the Staff Individualised Record (SIR) in England from 2007

### What will LLUK be doing?

At the request of the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) and the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) Lifelong Learning UK (LLUK) will take overall responsibility for overseeing workforce data collection (including primary data collection, data cleansing, collation, analysis and reporting) in the further education (FE) sector from the LSC from 2007.

From 2007, LLUK will start its workforce data collection process for the FE sector with a full replication of LSC's existing SIR, both in terms of the data specification and the collection process. The second year of data collection (2008) will see the incorporation of some new datasets such as diversity, Skills for Life and initial teacher training, into the FE data specification. In 2009, the process will be extended to include:

- rolling out the new system into the wider FE system i.e. adult and community learning; work based learning and offender learning
- the introduction of new IT/software systems both for data collection and analysis, and for data inputting at the provider end
- a marketing and communications plan for engaging with the sector in preparation for the new system

LLUK will have overall responsibility for the data collection process, commissioning a data partner to undertake the primary collection and cleansing. LLUK will then analyse, report on the data and feedback the findings to the sector on an annual basis. LLUK will be consulting with providers at every stage of development of the process and will work within the new developing national data protocols and agreements.

### What are the benefits to stakeholders and providers?

The new process will:

- by clearly identifying where skills gaps and shortages exist in the sector, allow for better recruitment planning and make the case to Government for investment in the professionalisation of staff
- provide evidence to support stakeholders in meeting their statutory responsibilities regarding race, equality and diversity
- produce benchmarks for providers, enabling comparisons of individual institutional performance at local, regional and national level

## What is the Learning and Skills Workforce Data Group (LSWDG)?

The LSWDG brings together partners within the FE system in England to work together to establish simpler and more effective data collection systems across the sector. The group provides a forum, which brings together representatives at a strategic level, to:

- ensure that all partners have access to reliable and up-to-date information on the sector's workforce
- identify and agree a user requirement for the sector that reduces the burden on providers by eradicating duplication and streamlining collection methods
- agree an action plan that facilitates data collection by employing the 'collect once, use often' principle
- oversee the implementation of the action plan agreed by the partners

The organisational representation of the LSWDG is as follows:

- Adult Learning Inspectorate (ALI)
- Association of College Management (ACM)
- Association of Colleges (AoC)
- Association of Learning Providers (ALP)
- Association of National Specialist Colleges (NATSPEC)
- Centre for Excellence in Leadership (CEL)
- DfES Analytical Services and Standards Unit
- Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE)/Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)
- Institute for Learning (IfL)
- Learning and Skills Council (LSC)
- Lifelong Learning UK (LLUK) – convening and chairing responsibility
- Local Education Authorities Forum for the Education of Adults (LEAFEA)
- Network for Black Managers (NBM)
- Offender Learning and Skills Service (OLASS)
- Ofsted
- Quality Improvement Agency (QIA)
- Sixth Form College Forum (SFCF)
- University and College Union (UCU) – formerly NATFHE
- UNISON

The Learning and Skills Workforce Data Group, in its role as the 'information authority', will act as the gatekeeper in relation to decision-making on supplementary surveys, data sharing and selection of the data partner for data collection from 2008.

For more information about the plans for data collection, please contact Chitro Ghose, Research Manager, at LLUK on 020 7936 5716 or at [chitroghose@lluk.org](mailto:chitroghose@lluk.org)

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