



Feedback from the Learning Networks national event held at Perth on 21st January 2010.

Introduction

The purpose of the event was to use the findings from the Tayforth PDA evaluation as a platform to inform the future delivery of the PLQ(SS) SCQF Level 10 across Scotland.

The overall aim of the event was to bring key stakeholders together in order to share with and learn from each other: To facilitate each network to share their experiences and knowledge about delivering the award with each other and to use this process of sharing to learn from each other about good practice and to inform future delivery.

Hopefully you feel that aim was achieved. Because the event brought those involved in the delivery of the 5 programmes back together for the first time since late 2008 it was aimed to be a 'starter for 10'. It was hoped that the event would facilitate the construction of a shared agenda that could be moved forward in future forums. Before going on to list the areas that were identified by the group at the end of the day Rhoda wishes to extend her sincere apologies for misinterpreting the information supplied to her on the 5 programmes. The intention was to draw out the strengths from the commonalities and differences between the 5 programmes and ask whether these were issues that those involved felt required further discussion. They weren't meant to be critical or unconstructive.

At the end of the day the group centred on the question

'How can those who deliver the 5 programmes share local innovation and knowledge in relation to delivery, design, content, materials and evaluation?'

Part 1

There appeared to be wide consensus that it would be important to bring those involved in delivering the 5 programmes together again. There were two options put forward.

- a. To have regular meetings to discuss a variety of issues
- b. To have a number of meetings that centre on a particular theme and associated issues.

There were three main (not discrete) areas identified as worthy for future consideration:

1. Build on and learn from the similarities between the programmes: the following issues and questions that were felt to be worthy of further discussion seemed to fall under this theme
 - How can we share learning within and between the 5 programmes?
 - Can we establish a portal to share materials? (restricted access)
 - The structure of the awards vary, can we discuss our experiences of this?
 - Can we share the expertise that has been developed? An example is VLE
 - Can we discuss the process and standisation of assessor verifications
 - Sustainability of the PLQ3 in its current forms
 - Selection, induction and support of candidates
 - Placements

2. Contextual, partnership and external issues pertinent to all 5 programmes. The following issues and questions that were felt to be worthy of further discussion seemed to fall under this theme.
 - The programme deliverers could invite the SQA to meet with them
 - Can we discuss the sustainability and demand for the PLQ3 and other programmes such as level 9, these discussions need to include HEIs
 - Sustainability of the PLQ3 in its current forms
 - Role of Learning Networks in supporting and preparing to candidates for learning and returning to study
 - Access to learning resources (workplace ICT issues, Athens password) raise with?

3. Evaluation: The following issues and questions that were felt to be worthy of further discussion seemed to fall under this theme.
 - How do we show the value and impact of PLQ3?
 - Can the workforce strategy and learning requirements relate to policy, strategy and inspection more?
 - Can research evidence be used to support the continuation of practice learning awards.
 - Can we use annual monitoring in evaluation?

- A key question maybe to ask whether this award prepares the candidates better, what impact on practice does undertaking the award have?
- Can some of the common elements between the 5 awards be used as platform for deeper evaluation across the 5? Are there things that all 5 programmes can evaluate themselves within and between programmes?
- Is this a way of establishing a baseline so the impact of the award can be evaluated?
- Could there be a comparison between the impact of the old and new award?

Part 2

In order to move these discussions forward it was felt that you all should be asked to identify not only what issues and questions you would like to explore further but also how best to do that. It would be helpful if you could complete the following and return it to Rhoda@rhodamacrae.co.uk. This feedback will be used by the Learning Networks to structure future meetings and discussions on and around the PLQ(SS).

1. In relation to future meetings please indicate your preference.

Regular meetings to discuss a variety of issues – option a

Thematic meetings – option b

If you have opted for thematic meetings (option b), please indicate your priority area by putting a 1, 2 or 3 next to the theme (1 being the highest priority).

Build on and learn from the similarities between the programmes

Contextual, partnership and external issues pertinent to all 5 programmes.

Evaluation

If you have opted for regular meetings to discuss a variety of issues (option a), please write down the 6 issues you would like discussed and or addressed in order of importance.