

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

Date: 13 February 2023

1.1 Welcome and introduction

Jennifer Coupland welcomed all members to the meeting

1.2 Approval of minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

It was noted that the action points from the previous meeting were either due for discussion at the meeting or items to be scheduled for subsequent meetings.

2 General updates

- Jennifer Coupland and Peter Mucklow gave attendees a brief update on key developments across apprenticeships and technical education since the last meeting. The key points noted included: the success of the recent National Apprenticeship Week which had been well supported both across government and the sector. Particular reference was made to the announcement of the future role of UCAS in supporting the apprenticeship application process.
- the close of IfATE's recent consultation on reforming the role of mandated qualifications in apprenticeships. The consultation had received significant numbers of responses and IfATE would be looking to publish a response as soon as was possible.
- the launch of IfATE's equity, diversity and inclusion toolkit for employers and [strategy](#) (published after the meeting on 14 March). Ensuring equity of opportunity to access apprenticeships and technical education was noted as a key priority for government, as shown by the recently announced increase from £1000 to £3000 (from August 2023) to the bursary given to support care leavers to access apprenticeships.

3 Thematic discussion – Quality in apprenticeship assessment

Introducing the item, Isabel Sutcliffe, Charlotte Bosworth and Tom Bewick invited attendees to consider an update on work undertaken to establish the need for, and scope of, an industry-led good practice guide for end-point assessment.

During the subsequent discussion, the following key points were made:

- it felt the right approach to start the process of creating such a product as being a voluntary endeavour and the outcome seen as a way of sharing good practice to increase overall quality across the sector. There would, however, be merit in considering, once established, whether greater formality and monitoring of compliance would add value and quality to EPA.

- whilst the output might be focussed on the end-point assessment element of apprenticeships, the gathering of evidence and insight to develop the product should involve those involved in the full apprenticeship journey, including colleges and training providers.
- as part of the development of the good practice guide, there would be value in understanding the data and evidence that could be gathered and used. It should be as transparently as possible and ideally indicate where good practice and outcomes could be seen, where improvement was needed and, ultimately, where this work had supported improvement.

Summing up the discussion, Jennifer Coupland thanked Isabel, Charlotte and Tom for the work to date and confirmed the Quality Alliance welcomed the innovation. It noted the alliance's strong endorsement of the point of ensuring that further development ensured input from the full apprenticeship sector as it was vital that the full apprentice journey was followed. She also highlighted the alliance's support for a greater level of data transparency around end-point assessment, noting that it would be a key part of understanding the continuing maturity of the market and the ultimate impact of a good practice guide.

Isabel, Charlotte and Tom were asked to return to the Quality Alliance at a subsequent meeting to have a further discussion once further developments to the guide had been made.

AP 1 – secretariat to agree with Isabel Sutcliffe, Charlotte Bosworth and Tom Bewick an appropriate meeting to return to the Quality Alliance with an update on the development of an industry-led EPA good practice guide. (IfATE / IS/CB/TB)

4 Ofsted – Chief Inspector report summary

Introducing the item, Richard Pemble invited the Quality Alliance to consider a summary of the apprenticeship focussed aspects of the Ofsted Chief Inspector's recent annual report. Richard noted that there had been a considerable level of churn over the previous year in terms of apprenticeship delivery with 130 new providers replacing 130 leaving the market. Overall, of those receiving a full inspection in the previous year, 67% received a good or outstanding assessment.

In discussion, the following key points were raised:

- in terms of turnover of providers, whilst at a system level, numbers may seem broadly neutral, it would be important to understand whether changes in apprenticeships delivered or sectors being serviced may have led to any particular shortage areas.
- whilst it was positive to see the majority of providers receiving a positive assessment, further consideration should be given to whether greater compulsion to engage with support should be a requirement where standards were lower or stronger powers developed to manage inadequate provision out of the market.

Summing up the discussion, Jennifer Coupland thanks Richard for the interesting update and noted that understanding the picture of quality of provision was a critical element of increasing the overall quality of technical education. She noted that along with such updates, it would be important to understand the

progress being made to assess and understand the quality of online training and asked that an update be brought to a subsequent quality alliance meeting, alongside updates on apprenticeship quality success measures, training plans and the register of approved apprenticeship training providers.

AP2- To schedule updates at subsequent meetings on the quality of online training, quality success measures, training plans and the register of approved apprenticeship training providers. **(DFE)**

5 AOB

Next meeting

10:00 – 11:30, 18th April 2023 - theme: a simpler skills system