

KENT ASSOCIATION OF FE CORPORATIONS

PROJECT OUTLINE

TRAIN TO GAIN PROJECT

Introduction:

Train to Gain was launched in Kent and Medway in April 2006 as an interim activity leading on from the successful Employer Training Pilot. The programme includes delivery of NVQ and Skills for Life qualifications to employees that are not already qualified to full Level 2. Within the Kent and Medway area there are twenty-nine lead providers (six of whom are KAFEC members) engaging with employers and delivering demand-led training in a variety of sectors, including health and social care, retail and ICT, manufacturing and engineering and school support staff. Action is required to stimulate demand and provision across all areas of learning.

The aim of this project is to implement a range of activities across the county to stimulate growth in Train to Gain activity in addition to the contracted targets. These activities will be co-ordinated through one college on behalf of KAFEC. West Kent College has agreed to act as the central hub for this project. The project will be monitored by a Steering Group, comprising those in charge of Workforce Development in each college. Nicola Morris from West Kent College will act as the Project Manager and can be contacted at nicolamorris@wkc.ac.uk

Proposed Activities:

1. To increase the number of assessors across KAFEC colleges. This will be achieved through a combination of signing an agreement with a company able to provide assessors and through recruitment within colleges. Training for new assessors will, where possible, take place as a collaborative effort. A standardised payment scheme will be developed for assessors across KAFEC colleges.
2. Employer focused training for existing college based staff (non-sales), who are or are likely to be outward facing. The aim of this is to improve relationships between employers and college based assessors and facilitate a better understanding of Training Needs Analysis / Organisational Needs Analysis.
3. Purchase of new data that should be clean and accurate and include a named contact at the business.
4. Joint development of an E-learning pack using an internet / web resource for learning. This may include paperless portfolio templates.
5. A specialist sales post for each college on a 0.5fte. The aim of this post is to directly improve leads to all college providers. Colleges will decide how to take this forward in their own institution, this may mean seconding a current member of staff or making a new appointment. Funding may also be used for tele-marketing.
6. Establish and operate a consultancy service to other providers in Kent and Medway that will share best practice and knowledge. It is envisaged that this might take the form of best practice sessions, guest speakers from providers across the UK and so on. This will work in two directions, with KAFEC developing good practice to share with smaller private training providers and also establishing a referral system. Also, KAFEC will seek examples of best practice from around the country.

Funding:

The total funding for this project is £225,000. A management fee will be paid to West Kent College for accepting the lead on the project and they will also act as banker for the funding.