



Higher Level Skills Capacity Fund

An overview of Single Programme projects supported by the Higher Level Skills Capacity Fund

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Employee Foundation Degree Programme in Creative Industries

Lead delivery partner	Newcastle College
Contact	David Turner; Stephen Gibson; Liz Parsonson
Address	The Performance Academy, Rye Hill Campus, Scotswood Road, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE4 7SA
Telephone	0191 2007501 (D Turner); 0191226 7506 (S Gibson) 0191 2267560 (L Parsonson)
E-mail	david.turner@ncl-coll.ac.uk ; stephen.gibson@ncl-coll.ac.uk ; elisabeth.parsonson@ncl-coll.ac.uk
Delivery partners	Cleveland College of Art and Design (CCAD)
Courses/programmes developed	Foundation Degree in the Creative Industries
Skills level	Levels 4 and 5
RES priority sector(s)	Commercial and Creative
Geographic location and coverage	North East Region

Project Summary

The Foundation Degree in Creative and Cultural Industries will offer employees in the sector the opportunity of bite sized learning and the accreditation of a Foundation Degree through the accumulation of credits.

Aims and objectives:

- ⇒ To provide regional employers in the commercial and creative industries with a quality, higher level skills offer that is economically valuable and relevant to sector needs.
- ⇒ To develop a contextualised modular based qualification framework in creative and media that can be delivered in the workplace and build up to a foundation degree.
- ⇒ To enable employers to be more responsive to challenges facing the sector, to aid innovation, sustainability and growth, and to attract and retain talent in the sector.

What the project does

Working in close collaboration with regional employers and with support from Cleveland College of Art and Design, the project is developing a new and innovative foundation degree which can be delivered in the workplace. Development of the degree will enable generic skills to be contextualised within the relevant industries, thus making them sector-specific. The modularised qualification framework will build up to a foundation degree.

Delivery methods

Delivery uses blended learning, incorporating online methods and the assessment of work-based competencies and aims to minimise the time spent by employees away from the workplace. Delivery is enhanced by the development of online materials accessible through the internet to a virtual learning environment (Blackboard). This includes:

- ⇒ Web conferencing
- ⇒ Online tutorials
- ⇒ Learning blogs

Key achievements to date

Employer engagement

Employer engagement has been successfully undertaken in a number of ways including:

- ⇒ The establishment of a 'litmus group' of approximately six employers who are involved in the development of the project on a regular basis;
- ⇒ Marketing materials and networking events;
- ⇒ Trials of the inductions module and materials to assess accessibility and functionality.

Partner engagement

A Curriculum Planning Day was held recently with curricular staff from Newcastle College and our partner institution, Cleveland College of Art and Design. This allowed the sharing of good practice and the development of materials in collaborative planning sessions. Staff from our partner institution have been involved in a mid-point review of the project, enabling a collaborative plan to shape the direction of the delivery phase.

Development of courses / programmes

The foundation degree framework is now developed and validated by Leeds Metropolitan University and the first cohort of students is expected to enrol in January 2010. An induction module has been produced and initial modules have been completed for trial purposes online. Partner employers are involved in the trial of these modules, and the Newcastle College Blended Learning Innovation Group (BLING) has participated in the trial of materials to share best practice.

Delivery of courses / programmes

An advocate has been engaged for the promotion of the programme to employers with recruitment targets to meet project milestones.

Next Steps

The model is believed to have the potential for roll-out across numerous other regions, sectors and industries which also require the contextualisation of generic skills within a sector-specific environment. Given this, sustainability will be supported by the College's Business Plan (which includes the continuation of a Work-based Learning Co-ordinator) and co-funding from HEFCE, employers and employees.

Project responsibilities are now integrated into a new School Management Structure as part of our sustainability and strategic planning process. The course leader, course team and the Work Related Learning Coordinator have been integrated into the curriculum line management structure, ensuring that common processes for teaching and learning have sustainability beyond the end of the project.

Higher Level Digital Industry Skills Project

Lead delivery partner	Codeworks
Contact	Daniel Cook; John McDonald; Carri Cunliffe
Address	St Peter's Gate, Charles Street, Sunderland, SR6 0AN
Telephone	0191 556 1122
E-mail	daniel.cook@codeworks.net ; john.mcdonald@codeworks.net ; cari.cunliffe@codeworks.net
Delivery partners	University of Teesside; University of Sunderland; and University of Newcastle
Courses/programmes developed	Sales in the digital industry Project management in games Project management in web Project management in software Advanced development for PS3
Skills level	Various from 4 – 6. All courses are aimed at industry professionals at varying levels beyond undergraduate
RES priority sector(s)	Commercial and Creative Digital
Geographic location and coverage	Across the North East, with the project initially delivered at Sunderland and Teesside Universities.

Project Summary

The project intends to improve the standard of courses in digital media available in the region, with an emphasis on employer demand and involvement with work-based learning.

Aims:

- ⇒ To create better regional digital courses to attract good undergraduates, as well as providing improved and higher level skills to the regional digital industry to help them develop and become more competitive.
- ⇒ To develop better links between the regions Universities and the NE digital sector.
- ⇒ To identify and reduce skills gaps at two key stages - namely for graduates leaving University to enter into industry and 'beyond,' i.e. (ongoing) CPD for those within industry - and to build stronger links between industry and academia.

What the project does

The project consults with businesses via digital Industry Advisory Panels made up of different sized companies from across the North East. Course curriculum developments are undertaken with HE partners from Sunderland University's Department of Computing, Engineering and Technology and the University of Teesside. Going forward this will also include Newcastle University's School of Computing Science. The project will also develop and deliver learning delivered by both training professionals and industry practitioners as well as providing digital professionals to undertake guest lectures to ensure students understand the industry.

Delivery methods

Existing North East digital networks and relationships are utilised to encourage and facilitate industry – academia links. Bespoke training is delivered in line with industry demand and learning is disseminated through the existing North East knowledge base wherever possible. “Digital Bootcamps”, careers sessions and guest lectures are also delivered to develop the business skills, knowledge and work readiness of undergraduates and recent graduates.

Key achievements to date

Employer engagement

In addition to engagement through the Industry Advisory Panels, employers have been engaged via poster shows, workshops and conferences.

Partner engagement

Industry and academic partners have been engaged in focus groups, advisory panels, course development, workshops (delivery and attendance), training (delivery and attendance) and project work (industry & undergraduates).

Development of courses / programmes

Course content at undergraduate level has been reviewed and amended through the Industry Advisory Panels. Courses have included advanced PS3 development, project management in web, project management in games, project management in software, sales skills in the digital sector.

Delivery of courses / programmes

Delivery has been mainly through industry practitioners, attendees have indicated a strong preference for this rather than having the courses delivered by academic staff or training professionals. A workshop event has been delivered alongside the GameHorizon annual international conference, which was attended by organisations such as Sony, Blitz, Skillset and E-Skills. This provided an opportunity to learn from non-regional best practice. There have also been a number of 'poster shows,' where second and third year students have showcased their projects to industry representatives. The project has delivered 350+ skills to date, with a further 200+ planned by the end of the project.

Next Steps

Future project delivery will involve greater focus on CPD and will aim to build a regional network based on stronger links and communication between industry and academia. Curriculum reviews will be focused on the 'higher end,' such as leadership and management skills, and will aim for greater industry involvement including setting student projects, mentoring, and formal assessment. Specific activities will include; additional workshops, networking events and the delivery of 'skills boot camps,' with an initial focus on graduate entry level employees.

Meeting the Creative Sector Higher Skills Needs

Lead delivery partner	Cleveland College of Art and Design (CCAD)
Contact	Melanie Shee
Address	Green Lane, Linthorpe Centre, Middlesbrough, TS5 7RJ
Telephone	01429 424 817
E-mail	melanie.shee@ccad.ac.uk
Delivery partners	Skillfast UK; Newcastle College (School of Art and Design)
Courses/programmes developed	<p>Digital for Designers</p> <p>Photoshop for Creative Professionals Generating Sales in a Trade Environment Studio Lighting 3D Studio Max Digital Fabric Printing Digital Laser Cutter Training Wacom Digital Graphic Tablet for Adobe Product Photography for the Web Illustrator and Photoshop for Fashion and Textiles Digital Workflow for Photographers Photoshop for Professionals</p> <p>Fashionably Focused</p> <p>Costing for Profit Freelancing for Success On line trading for Fashion and Textiles Marketing on a Budget The Insiders Guide to Trade Shows</p>
Skills level	Levels 4 & 5
RES priority sector(s)	Commercial and Creative
Geographic location and coverage	Tees Valley and Tyne and Wear

Project Summary

The project involves the development and delivery of higher level skills in CPD, management and digital design technologies for the regional fashion and textile industries. The project is organised around two strands entitled **'Fashionably Focused'** and **'Digital For Designers'**. The objectives of the first strand are:

- ⇒ To contextualise the existing Cleveland College of Art & Design Business Management & Leadership short course provision so it relates more specifically to the fashion/textile sector.
- ⇒ To market test this provision with the sector.
- ⇒ To develop a "Blueprint" of best practice for work experience/placement through consultation with academics, employers and learners operating or studying in the fashion and textile sector in the region.

- ⇒ To work closely with Skillfast UK.
- ⇒ To disseminate findings of the work experience Blueprint at the common threads national conference (aimed at HE/FE Providers in the UK) facilitated by Skillfast UK.

The objectives of the second strand are:

- ⇒ To identify and engage with the predominately freelancer/sole traders/ SMEs operating in the regions' creative sector (i.e. photographers, designer makers, fashion and textiles designers and craft practitioners) to identify their high level digital skills needs.
- ⇒ To develop and market a range of courses across a variety of subjects which will ultimately help these business to grow, leading to the acquisition of new skills as well as being able to promote their products/business through electronic media.

What the project does

The project identifies sector-specific needs, delivers bite-sized provision tailored to these needs, and market tests this provision. 'Fashionably Focused' is concerned with the fashion and textiles industry, and 'Digital for Designers,' is focused on the digital skills needs for the design industry (including photographers). Tasters are tailored to specific industry needs identified through employer consultation.

Delivery methods

'Fashionably Focused' – consultations are undertaken with fashion and textiles practitioners and tutors to contextualize the existing generic business skills/ management and leadership tasters. These consultations include focus group sessions. Market testing is then undertaken through the delivery of stand-alone 'taster sessions' which focus on areas such as marketing, team management, business planning and entrepreneurialism.

'Digital for Designers' – as the creative sector is traditionally made up of small, self employed, freelance or sole trader businesses which can be difficult to engage with, the project utilises a range of regional networks such as Tees Valley Arts, , Design Network North and Design and Made in order to identify the digital skills needs of businesses. Once provision has been developed to meet these needs, the project delivers and market tests short courses to the creative sector in Tees Valley and Tyne and Wear.

Key achievements to date

Employer engagement

Engagement has involved a number of methods:

- ⇒ Face to face meetings, on line consultation, seminars and networking events – these methods are particularly relevant to engaging freelancers and sole traders;
- ⇒ Marketing via the College's expanding database of employers and also via links made with relevant regional and national organisations;
- ⇒ Developing a Memorandum of Understanding and Statement of Intent with Business Enterprise North East to ensure the best possible service to north east business and entrepreneurs.

Partner engagement

Skillfast UK have been involved throughout the process of developing the work experience good practice Blueprint and CCAD are exploring the most appropriate times to deliver the Fashionably Focused courses at Newcastle College.

Development and delivery of courses / programmes

'Fashionably Focused'

- ⇒ One to one meetings with freelancers, SMEs and graduates to gather more information on business skills needs;
- ⇒ An online questionnaire has been developed to consult with the sector to gather information on a range of areas e.g. the cost freelancers are willing to pay for training, most appropriate time of delivery.

'Digital for Designers'

- ⇒ Over 170 employers have been consulted regarding their digital skills needs;
- ⇒ Market testing of training (both in terms of content and price) is underway;
- ⇒ The purchase of specialist capital equipment - such as a digital laser cutter and printer - and twelve software licences for commercial (as opposed to educational) purposes;
- ⇒ A series of six-hour 'taster' sessions have been developed and delivered, including workshops on software such as Illustrator and Photoshop for creative professionals and a taster session based on digital lighting;
- ⇒ CCAD held a 'Creating Connections Networking event in November in Tyne and Wear aimed at designer makers in the region. The College is hoping to hold a similar event in Tees Valley.

Next Steps

Market testing and delivery of additional tasters is continuing. CCAD is considering holding a seminar to explore the need for a fashion and textiles network in the region. The project expects to achieve sustainability through the following:

- ⇒ Continuing marketing through an updated database of regional employers and development of an electronic and printed brochure;
- ⇒ The hire of specialist equipment to regional businesses;
- ⇒ Exploring the possibility of turning some of the provision into on line, distance learning materials and making this available on demand;
- ⇒ Becoming a provider on the North East of England Service Provider Register.

Sustain

Lead delivery partner	Skillset
Contact	Ruth Palmer; Anna Whyatt, era ltd
Address	Skillset Leeds, VTR North, The Old Brewery, High Court, Leeds, LS2 7ES
Telephone	0113 244 6791 (Skillset); 0845 4561642 (era ltd)
E-mail	ruthp@skillset.org ; annawhyatt@era-ltd.com
Delivery partners	Codeworks; University of Teesside; One North East (Creative Industries Specialist); Northern Film and Media (NFM); era ltd
Courses/programmes developed	Please see delivery of courses section below and attached overview of programme detailing schedule of modules delivered
Skill level	Higher Level Skills
RES priority sector(s)	Commercial and Creative Industries
Geographic location and coverage	Across the North East

Project Summary

The Sustain project has been created to deliver higher level skills solutions to SMEs and freelancers working within the commercial creative industries sector in the North East. Created by the delivery partnership led by Skillset and working with a range of partners, Sustain develops and delivers a programme of training modules and modular bite-sized training programmes focusing on identified skills gaps.

Aims:

- ⇒ To develop new provision and greater flexibility in provision through modular learning to meet specific employer needs identified within the industry. This includes both virtual and actual fast track modular learning systems.
- ⇒ To enable employers, including SME's in emerging industries, to improve the skills of the current workforce, identify future higher level skills needs, and create measures to help meet those needs.
- ⇒ To create a digital learning and collective intelligence network.
- ⇒ To improve knowledge and skills of the sector workforce to stimulate innovation, improve efficiency at the design stage of products and services, and increase knowledge transfer.
- ⇒ To increase the impact of new products and services in wider markets, and to provide access into new markets regionally, nationally and potentially globally.
- ⇒ To develop new products and services in these industries.
- ⇒ To disseminate knowledge, approach and skills both via individual companies and on-line.

What the project does

Working in collaboration with our delivery partners and a range of employers who are involved in existing industry networks, the project is developing and delivering a range of modular higher level skills programmes. These include:

- ⇒ Exploring and entering new markets in the digital field;
- ⇒ Music business to business;
- ⇒ Cross platform development;
- ⇒ Working in niche markets e.g. animation, fashion, commercial television;
- ⇒ Regional, national & international co-production;
- ⇒ Delivery to market for reality TV;
- ⇒ Project and product development;
- ⇒ New digital applications in specific areas e.g. on-line education;
- ⇒ New products and services;
- ⇒ Pitching into specific markets;
- ⇒ Production management;
- ⇒ Innovation in products and processes;
- ⇒ Editing, script to screen development;
- ⇒ Lighting production;
- ⇒ Post-production;
- ⇒ Producer training;
- ⇒ Generating creative ideas;
- ⇒ Identifying and securing finance;
- ⇒ Marketing;
- ⇒ Leadership and management;
- ⇒ Managing people;
- ⇒ Collaboration and networking;
- ⇒ Business development;
- ⇒ Legal issues;
- ⇒ Strategic planning.

Delivery methods

Sustain is a modular training scheme composed of bespoke courses and workshops. Modules range in profile and include: one-off day workshops; workshops integrated with off-site production work and mentoring (on and off-line); and modules composed of a series of workshops.

Module delivery involves a wide range of partners and beneficiaries across the full spectrum of the commercial creative industries sector e.g. digital applications, film and screen based media, animation, fashion, music, arts and heritage, and focus on the fullest range of digital and screen-based media applications. Modules are delivered as real-time commercial projects, products and / or services working with experts in the field from international, national and regional companies e.g. Endemol, Crossover, DocFest, PACT, Indie Training, School of Sound, and Hyper Island, Wendall Thomas, Live Theatre, and Hadrian's Wall Ltd. Regional agencies and networks are also fully involved including Northern Film and Media, Codeworks, Generator, Medianet, Tellynet, and the Northern Cultural Skills Partnership.

Key achievements to date

Employer engagement

Employers and self-employed free-lancers are engaged in the project in number of different ways including: face-to-face discussions; e-mail and telephone contact; marketing materials disseminated via existing networks; and through module delivery. Employers have been engaged in all module

development to ensure the provision and delivery mechanisms meet their needs. There has been a particular emphasis on identifying and establishing new markets and bringing products to market.

Partner engagement

All activity has been developed collaboratively with our partners including methods of engagement, contributory networks, local delivery associates, facilitation, mentoring, new ways of working, and potential collaborations. We have established a regional steering group involving all our partners which meets regularly, and our project development and delivery team meet fortnightly.

Development of courses/programmes

Bespoke modules have been designed and delivered in collaboration with partners as follows:

- ⇒ Advance Video techniques: Teesside University
- ⇒ Bird's Eye View: Northern Film & Media
- ⇒ Business Development: Teesside University
- ⇒ Legal issues in coping with archive clips: NFM/Indie Training
- ⇒ Generating creative ideas creative development: NFM/Indie Training
- ⇒ Good causes: Teesside University/Endemol
- ⇒ High-level skills labs for media professionals: Crossover
- ⇒ International co-production and international markets: DocFest
- ⇒ Leadership and management: Hyper Island
- ⇒ Managing people: NFM/Indie Training
- ⇒ New digital strategies: Live Theatre, Hadrian's Wall and Era Ltd
- ⇒ New product development: Era Ltd /Medianet
- ⇒ Pitching your project: Creative development / NFM/ Indie Training
- ⇒ Pitching for documentary funding: DocFest
- ⇒ Producer training: IDI
- ⇒ Project development: NFM
- ⇒ Raising finance: Teesside University
- ⇒ Researchers Survival Guide – Production: NFM/Indie Training
- ⇒ Second Act & Advanced Story Structure Piece by Piece: Wendall Thomas with NFM

We are also currently working with our partners to develop additional bespoke modules. These will be available from January 2010:

- ⇒ Animex Business: IDI
- ⇒ Digital product development for museums and heritage: Era/Teesside University
- ⇒ Get your short film seen by the people who matter: NFM
- ⇒ Game Horizon Academy: Codeworks
- ⇒ Good Causes 3: Teesside/ Endemol
- ⇒ Lighting for green screen: School of Computing, Teesside University
- ⇒ Music business to music business: Generator/Transmit Consulting
- ⇒ Post production module for producers and production managers: School of Sound
- ⇒ Social networking & digital applications: Era/Teesside University
- ⇒ Shoot Fashion: Teesside University
- ⇒ Successful Film Based Marketing: School of Computing, Teesside University
- ⇒ Writer net workshop: MediaNet

⇒ Writing for Animation: Teesside University

Delivery of courses/programmes

A total of 413 learners have completed modules to date.

Off-site development including on-line dialogue and mentoring has played a significant part in module delivery. New business projects are also emerging in addition to on-going higher level skills training. The programme has resulted in extensive establishment of new networks; events and publicity, new partner consortia and the development of new courses in Higher Education.

Next Steps

NFM are in the process of developing, with the support of One North East, a creative industries cluster at Hoults Yard, Newcastle. The cluster, which will specialise in digital media, will also provide a link to Northern Net.

The partners anticipate that the modules will be built in to a number of training and enterprise development programmes once the initial funding period ends.

Marine and Energy Skills Development Pilot Project

Lead delivery partner	Marine Design Centre
Contact	David Hewitt; John Lockey
Address	Central Square, Orchard Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 3AZ
Telephone	0191 255 1710
E-mail	david.hewitt@marinedesigncentre.com ; john.lockey@marinedesigncentre.com
Delivery partners	AMEC, Babcock Design & Technology: Bibby Offshore; CD Group; Imtech Marine & Offshore; Osborne; Noble Denton; Seadrill; Siemens Power; Bignal Group; Wellstream International, Teesside University, Newcastle College.
Courses/programmes developed	Marine and Energy Design Engineering Foundation Degree. Level 4/5 modules, NVQ Level 4 Engineering Leadership and Management
Skills Level	Level 4 and 5
RES priority sector(s)	Defence, Marine and Energy
Geographic location and coverage	Training and development taking place within FE/HE institutions and company premises across the region

Project Summary

The project develops and market tests an innovative high level regional approach to continuing professional development (CPD) at level four and above and a new progression route into foundation degree/higher apprenticeships for design engineers in the marine and energy priority sectors.

Aims:

- ⇒ Respond to employer demand for increased numbers of design engineers;
- ⇒ Develop and test new learning programmes relevant to employer needs;
- ⇒ Test new approaches to flexible, work-based learning and accreditation;
- ⇒ Provide a programme of CPD for new and existing employees;
- ⇒ Pilot new progression routes into higher apprenticeships, foundation certificates and higher degrees;
- ⇒ Encourage new entrants into engineering design occupations.

What the project does

Working closely with employers in the marine and energy sectors, the project develops packages of 'bite-sized' training units in a customised 240 credit foundation degree programme to improve the level of qualifications in the marine, defence and energy sectors.

The project has also introduced a NVQ level 4 in Engineering Leadership and Management with certain modules cross mapped to the foundation degree.

Delivery methods

Delivery is through a combination of flexible, work-based learning and short-intensive master classes. A rotating work based learning placement programme for new employees also forms part of the delivery with learners assigned to mentors who have been recruited from the host employers. Assessment of skills within the work place will take place to ensure competencies.

Key achievements to date

Employer engagement

Engagement has taken various forms, including MDC presence at recruitment fairs to events and visits, participation in focus groups and the development of international links. MDC's membership includes most of the regional marine and energy employers and the project was devised by an employer-led consortium in response to the demand for flexible higher level skills in the sectors. To date, eleven memoranda of understanding have been signed between the project and participating companies.

Partner engagement

A number of steering group and industrial group meetings have taken place with our industrial and public body partners including BENE and SEMTA. On the 30th October 2009 the Foundation degree in Marine and Energy Design Engineering was validated by Teesside University, the first Degree of its type in the country. Newcastle College has been chosen as the assessment centre for the NVQ level 4 in Engineering Management with Emta Awards working closely with MDC in identifying the cross matching between the foundation degree and NVQ. Industrial partners are involved in the identification and trialling of specific modules of the foundation degree.

Development of courses / programmes

A series of modules continue to be designed and developed in conjunction with the Marine and Energy Design Engineering Foundation Degree. These include core and optional units at both level 4 and level 5. Master classes and modules are being developed by Teesside University, classes developed to date include PDMS piping and Design and Auto Cad.

Delivery of courses / programmes

Part of a Leadership and Management course was trialled during December 2009. A specific master class was delivered at Tyne Metropolitan College in October 2009. Twenty seven people have been assisted in their skills development to level four as a result of the programme. To the end of November 2009 fifty three companies have been assisted to improve their performance.

A considerable amount of interest is been shown in this project from across the country. Following a presentation at a recent Engineering Conference in Birmingham companies and Colleges in Plymouth, and Barrow are interested in partnering with Teesside University in future delivery of the qualification. MDC were also invited to present at SEMTA Marine Strategic Framework group in London on the 14th of January 2010. The introduction of this project has established links with local engineering forums across the region.

Next Steps

A celebration event is to take place in February 2010 at MDC to publicise the programme and invitations will be sent to all those involved, including trainees. Joint marking has taken place with Teesside University and it is the intention to further develop a campaign for 2010.

Throughout the remaining months of the project events and seminars will be held with relevant institutions to ensure they are aware of the opportunity to use this framework.

The partnership between MDC the University and EAL will continue to be developed to ensure continuity of delivery and to embed the framework into national initiatives such as BIS Skills Building Britain's Future and QCF. Further courses need to be developed and piloted as part of the provision.

Following an external review of the project, dissemination events will take place to advise on success and lessons learned and the changes that may have to be made for future extensions.

Subsea Future Talent

Lead delivery partner	Newcastle University
Contact	Fiona Whitehurst; Kate Hudson; Linda Wilson
Address	Newcastle University, 6 Kensington Terrace, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 7RU
Telephone	0191 2430838 (F Whitehurst); 0191 2225015 (K Hudson); 0191 2223508 (L Wilson)
E-mail	fiona.whitehurst@newcastle.ac.uk ; kate.hudson@newcastle.ac.uk ; linda.wilson@newcastle.ac.uk
Delivery partners	Newcastle College; Subsea NE (a cluster of regional firms acting as lobbying group for the subsea sector)
Courses/programmes developed	MSc in Subsea Engineering & Management; Foundation Degree in Subsea Engineering Technologies
Skills Level	Level 4 and above.
RES priority sector(s)	Defence and Marine
Geographic location and coverage	The programmes are primarily delivered on campus at Newcastle University and Newcastle College, however programmes include opportunities for e-learning.

Project Summary

The project aims to provide subsea specific higher level skills provision at Newcastle University and Newcastle College through the development and delivery of new courses and training opportunities designed in liaison with industry. It identifies and promotes career progression routes for new learners, as well as offering continual professional development for existing employees in the sector. It acts as an exemplar for joined up industry based initiatives that raise awareness, aspirations and attainment thereby raising the profile of learning and higher level skills.

Aims:

- ⇒ To provide regional employers in the subsea sector with the high quality subsea specific higher level skills provision that they know they need to sustain and grow their innovative and highly significant world class sector.
- ⇒ To deliver through collaboration between Newcastle University and Newcastle College a seamless range of highly attractive subsea related educational opportunities from Level 4 upwards to attract a broad range of learners.
- ⇒ To build relationships between the sector and the educational establishments.

Objectives:

- ⇒ To develop new demand-led provision and stand-alone modules to ensure the level 4-7 curriculum from Newcastle University and College meets the needs of regional subsea employers.
- ⇒ To ensure that those studying forge relationships with regional businesses in order to increase attraction and retention of people with relevant skills for the industry in the region.
- ⇒ To utilise resources provided to develop further and co-ordinate activity.

Activities at Newcastle University:

- ⇒ Development and delivery of a new MSc in Subsea Engineering & Management.
- ⇒ Addition of a Subsea stream to the existing BEng in Marine Technology with Honours in Offshore Engineering.
- ⇒ Review of other engineering/management provision through a new subsea academic-industry steering group.
- ⇒ Development of curriculum based projects with firms.
- ⇒ Design and promotion of graduate subsea specific placement schemes.
- ⇒ Provision of Subsea specific plant and equipment.
- ⇒ Market testing of new provision with existing employees of the subsea firms.

Activities at Newcastle College:

- ⇒ Development and delivery of a new Subsea specific Foundation Degree Programme.
- ⇒ Development of enhanced partnerships between the College and industry.
- ⇒ Facilitation of progression onto higher level qualifications.
- ⇒ Provision of Subsea specific plant and equipment.

Key achievements to date

Employer engagement

The project involves an Industry Steering Group made up of employer representatives. Employer engagement with the programmes extends to input into delivery and assessment criteria and the provision of equipment and materials, as well as participation in the steering committees. Employers are also engaged with initiatives and events that aim to promote the subsea sector to new learners, including school students across the region, such as the Youth Engineering Show in 2009.

Partner engagement

The project is helping to cement stronger relations between the College and University particularly with regard to progression routes. Related activities have also been developed with schools to promote career opportunities in the sector.

Newcastle University has joined the National Subsea Research Institute as a founding partner as a result of the increased industry links during the project. This aims to maintain and develop the UK's reputation for world-class subsea technologies.

The Oil and Gas Academy (OPITO) is working with the College and University on projects (including Energise Your Future) to encourage children to take up STEM subjects and consider a career in oil and gas.

Development of courses / programmes:

- ⇒ A foundation degree in Subsea Engineering Technologies at Newcastle College has been validated. This builds on the existing foundation degree framework to contain a subsea industry pathway.
- ⇒ A new Masters degree in Subsea Engineering and Management has been validated at Newcastle University. This aims to supply regional employers with high quality, subsea specific, higher skills provision and a curriculum that attracts both local and international students to subsea engineering.

Delivery of courses/programmes:

- ⇒ One-day courses and Technical Seminars have been designed and delivered by the University to market test the modules and degrees provision;
- ⇒ Installation of a subsea 'Xmas Tree' and diving bell for Newcastle College. This showcases subsea technology, forming the basis of a subsea educational facility which is already attracting further equipment donations from regional firms and will assist students on both the College Foundation degree programme and those studying the University's MSc in Subsea Engineering Management.

Next Steps

Subsea NE and a group of skills specialists including SEMTA, Cogent, TDR Training and Young Enterprise North East, are now devising their vision and objectives for 2010 with regard to the continuing skills needs of the sector.

The University and College are working together to produce a road map to show how all the existing qualifications link together with further information on progression routes. This work on career opportunities also includes the production of short career case studies, where employees in the sector talk on film about their roles and their career paths to date.

Modular Environment Science Skills Fast Response Programme

Lead delivery partner	The Environmental Academy
Contact	Rita Callendar; Caroline Ferguson
Address	The Environmental Academy, 12 Bankside, The Watermark, Gateshead, NE11 9SY
Telephone	0191 493 4848
E-mail	rita@environmental-academy.co.uk ; caroline@environmental-academy.co.uk
Delivery partners	Wood Holmes Group; Newcastle University (School of Marine Science and Technology); National Skills Academy for Food and Drink.
Courses/programmes developed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Energy efficiency ⇒ Corporate Social Responsibility ⇒ Environmental Management ⇒ Carbon foot printing models ⇒ Sustainability
Skills level	Level 4 and above
RES priority sector(s)	All priority sectors including the Food and Drink, Marine and Defence, and Engineering and Manufacturing sectors
Geographic location and coverage	Across the North East

Project Summary

The project involves the development and delivery of modular and bite sized provision across the range of environmental disciplines to all business sectors in the region. It enables employers to access higher level skills provision to meet their needs through collaborative, flexible and customised learning programmes.

Project aims and objectives:

- ⇒ To offer provision at level 4 and above, to enable companies to achieve their environmental aspirations.
- ⇒ To increase participation in higher level skills by the existing workforce to meet the environmental challenges of the future.
- ⇒ To develop new workshops at management level, which will act as a primer and conduit for the full Environmental Management programme to show progression and full achievement.
- ⇒ To improve business competitiveness, profitability and productivity by supporting the implementation of environmental science, environmental management strategies and increase environmental awareness.

What the project does

The project provides higher level training to employers and their existing workforce to support the achievement of sector specific environmental objectives. It also offers supplementary training opportunities to undergraduates, to ensure that their skills meet the demands of employers.

Delivery methods

Delivery is through a range of media, including e-learning modules, webinars, an online library and toolkits, making the provision easily accessible. Laptop computers have been purchased to facilitate e-learning. Academics and expert consultants in the environmental field deliver the programmes, including associates of the Environmental Academy and specialists from our delivery partners e.g. Wood Holmes, and the University of Newcastle.

Key achievements to date

Employer engagement

A number of launch events, involving discussions on key environmental issues were used to initially engage employers and involve them in the project. This has proved successful with over 50 companies having engaged with the project to date including the Ship Repairers Association, Greggs plc, Intersnack UK Ltd, A&P Group, CTC Marine, and EEL. These businesses vary widely in size, sector, location and activity.

Partner engagement

The project has been developed in close collaboration with a range of delivery partners, utilising their expertise and knowledge on key environmental issues e.g. Wood Holmes Group has a proven track record of working within the Food and Drink, and Defence and Marine sectors, and AFW Consulting has significant experience of energy efficiency across a broad range of sectors. We have engaged other professionals across the private sector, as necessary, with specific interests and expertise to enhance our provision.

Development of courses / programmes

We have developed a range of new workshops, in consultation with employers, which have all been endorsed at Level 4 or above by the Institute of Leadership and Management. These are as follows:

- ⇒ **Energy efficiency:** How to increase energy efficiency, make cost savings, and reduce green house gas (GHG) emissions through the use of micro-renewables.
- ⇒ **Corporate Social Responsibility:** In developing CSR, organisations can demonstrate their commitment to various issues, pre-empt regulation and surpass expectations.
- ⇒ **Environmental Management:** How to adopt a system-based approach to reduce the overall impact of the organisation on the environment.
- ⇒ **Carbon foot printing models:** Develop company specific management and monitoring procedures to reduce GHG emissions through technologies and change management techniques.
- ⇒ **Sustainability:** How to implement sustainable good practice across all aspects of the organisation

Delivery of courses / programmes

The first 5 modules (1/2 day courses) were delivered between May and November 2009, and these are now being rolled out on a sector basis with the intention of delivering each module four times.

Fifteen participants have registered to complete the Level 4 NVQ Environmental Management Programme which will take a full year to complete. This course is designed to provide individuals with the environmental knowledge and skills necessary to improve the environmental performance of their organization, and to provide a basis for the implementation and maintenance (or continual improvement) of an environmental management system (EMS). This could be to a recognised standard such as ISO14001, EMAS or BS8555. Those who achieve the NVQ have the option of a fast track route to membership of IEMA (Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment).

As a result of attending the MESS programme, a number of employers now see the value of effective environmental management and are considering implementing a full Environmental Management System for their organisations.

Next Steps

Once Single Programme funding for the project ends, the individual modules will be available commercially, and there is already interest in this from several employers. Companies will need to understand how to improve their energy efficiency and measure their carbon footprint, due to the Governments recent commitment to reduce carbon emissions by 80% to 1990 levels by 2050. These higher level modules will assist companies to achieve these stringent new targets by providing the knowledge and skills to control their systems.

The Environmental Academy has also developed an innovative nationally accredited e-learning programme entitled Environmental Award for Business and Industry. On-line learning is proving to be an effective tool which is favoured by employers due to its flexibility. As a result of the MESS programme and in response to employer demand we are in the process of developing a new e-learning Programme entitled “Energy Champions” to support employers to reduce their environmental impact whilst increasing profits.

Training Hotel for the Skills Academy

Lead delivery partner	Darlington College
Contact	Lisa Voss
Address	Darlington College, Central Park, Haughton Road, Darlington, Co Durham, DL1 1DR
Telephone	01325 503134
E-mail	lvoss@darlington.ac.uk
Delivery partners	National Skills Academy Teesside University
Courses/programmes developed	The College has already developed the following courses - 2004 - Foundation Degree in Hospitality Management 2004 - Foundation Degree in Culinary Arts and Management 2006 - BA (Hons) Hospitality Management (Top-up Award) Please see below for details on further programmes being developed.
Skills level	Foundation Degree programmes - Level 5 BA (Hons) programme - Level 6
RES priority sector(s)	Food and Drink, Tourism and Hospitality
Geographic location and coverage	Across the region, although training delivery mainly takes place at the current College site in Darlington

Project Summary

The project involves the development of kitchens and food manufacturing facilities in partnership with the National Skills Academy to enable delivery of demand-led, higher level skills training in Management and Hospitality.

Aims:

- ⇒ Provision of the project management, academic leadership and equipment necessary to deliver higher level skills in food manufacturing, hotels and hospitality.
- ⇒ Development and provision of the academic infrastructure for advanced skills qualifications at NVQ level 4, Foundation Degree and Honours level.
- ⇒ To contribute to the establishment and development of National Skills Academy provision on the Darlington College campus.

What the project does

The project offers new provision to meet specific employer needs, this includes bespoke food manufacturing and hospitality training in fit-for-purpose accommodation. It enables employers to improve the skills of their current workforce via full cost programmes or day release Foundation Degree and Honours programmes and will increase the pool of skilled labour for these employers to draw on.

Delivery methods

Foundation Degree and BA (Hons) programmes are all delivered on the College site in Darlington. Most full cost provision is offered on the College premises. If required bespoke/tailored training can be provided on the employers premises.

Key achievements to date

Employer engagement

An employer engagement task group led by the Chair of the Restaurateurs Association has been established to inform development and delivery. National employers such as Barceló Hotels have supported the project along with local businesses such as Headlam Hall Hotel, the Rose and Crown at Romalldkirk, Swinton Park Hotel, Walworth Castle Hotel and Bannatyne's Hotel in Darlington.

A hospitality and catering newsletter and a series of flyers and e-shots have been sent out to a database of employers promoting the programmes on offer. Furthermore, a selection of local employers has been visited by the Higher Level Skills Project Manager and a member of the College's Business First team to inform them of the provision available.

The College has recently established a new working relationship with Visit Tees Valley and Visit County Durham to help them to promote their range of programmes to local employers.

Partner engagement

Since the project started the College has received National Skills Academy (NSA) status for Customer Service. The hospitality and catering department continue to work closely with the NSA.

Development of courses / programmes

Discussions have recently taken place with Teesside University to approve Foundation Degree programmes at Level 5 in Food and Drink Manufacture; Spa and Hotel Management; Events Management; and Licensed Trade. In addition approval of a BA (Hons) programme in International Hotel Management at Level 6 is also under discussion.

Delivery of courses / programmes

The new Higher Level Skills Kitchen Suites were opened by Kenny Atkinson the Head Chef at Seaham Hall Hotel in September 2009. The new facilities have facilitated the delivery of the following programmes:

- ⇒ Foundation Degree in Hospitality Management - 24 first and second year learners.
- ⇒ Foundation Degree in Culinary Arts and Management - 5 first and second year learners.
- ⇒ BA (Hons) Hospitality Management (Top-up Award) - 11 first and second year learners.

Next Steps

Darlington College is the only College in the region offering this type of training opportunity in relation to food manufacturing, hotels and hospitality. The programmes developed through the project are expected to be self sustaining through HEFCE funding and fees.

The College will continue to develop the new Foundation Degree and BA (Hons) programmes. This will ensure that they offer the most diverse and demand-led programmes in the region for learners and employers to access.

Increasing Access to Employer-driven Level 4 Flexible Work-based Provision in Health

Lead delivery partner	North East Strategic Health Authority (NESHA)
Contact	Joy McGurk
Address	North East Strategic Health Authority, Waterfront 4, Goldcrest Way, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE15 8NY
Telephone	0191 275 4668
E-mail	joy.mcgurk@northeast.nhs.uk
Delivery partners	Sunderland University, Teesside University and Northumbria University
Courses/programmes developed	Foundation degrees in three specific health disciplines: Health Information Management; Supportive and Palliative Care, and Public Health and Service Improvement.
Skills level	Foundation Degree.
RES priority sector(s)	Health and Social Care
Geographic location and coverage	Across the North East Strategic Health Authority area

Project Summary

The project involves the development of two new foundation degree (FD) programmes: Supportive and Palliative Care in partnership with Teesside University, Public Health and Service Improvement in partnership with Northumbria University and continuation of the Health Information Management FD in partnership with Sunderland University.

Aims:

- ⇒ The delivery of excellence in patient care by ensuring that the design of new provision is employer led and meets current and future policy and workforce needs.
- ⇒ To develop a cohesive and sustainable framework for partnership action, improving efficiency and maximising the use of available resources across the system, transforming and modernising the way in which programmes are delivered.
- ⇒ To improve the health sector's contribution to the local economy by raising the higher skill levels of those currently in the workforce.
- ⇒ To increase access to flexible work-based provision at level 4.

What the project does

Significant numbers of staff within the NHS do not have a level 4 qualification due to limited training opportunities; this is particularly the case for staff at bands 1-4. The project will address this issue by developing employer led FDs and creating a career structure for health sector staff to assist in improving participation, recruitment and retention. For each degree, the project will significantly increase access to level 4 programmes, improve the overall skills levels within the health sector and support organisational change.

Delivery methods

The NHS North East provides the strategic lead for the project, linking all activity to key workforce priorities identified by local health employers. Education and service providers provide the technical knowledge required to design, deliver and accredit the programmes. Foundation Degree Forward (FDF) staff provide expertise in the design and development of the programmes.

Key achievements to date

Partner engagement

Positive relationships have been developed with key stakeholders; these include the University partners, employers, FDF and Skills for Health, all of whom have been involved in the development of competencies for the foundation degree programmes.

Development and delivery of courses / programmes

The emphasis of the project so far has been on course development, project set-up and getting learners on board in preparation for course delivery.

A pre-course brief and enrolment session has been held for the **Health Information Management FD**. The event was well received and 29 learners have enrolled. The FD will improve the overall skill levels and provide a career progression route for health informatics staff.

The work based learning **Public Health and Service Improvement FD** has been jointly developed by North of Tyne PCT and Northumbria University. The validation event took place on the 9th November 2009. The aim of the FD is to equip the learner with the necessary skills and attitudes based on the lean methodology to be a Service Improvement Facilitator. All learners will have a Workplace Learning Facilitator based in their organisation.

5 learners enrolled in September 2009 for the **Supportive & Palliative Care FD**. Successful candidates will be qualified for the role of Assistant Practitioner. Developing the practitioner role will assist in skill mix review in chemotherapy units as there are currently significant capacity issues.

Sarah Rushbrooke (Nurse Director) of the North of England Cancer Network has submitted an abstract detailing the development of the Assistant Practitioner role to the International Cancer Nurses Annual Conference. It has been accepted and she will give an oral presentation at the conference which is scheduled for March 2010 in Atlanta Georgia USA.

Next Steps

The Higher Level Skills Executive Board will influence the forward strategy for this project. The project evaluation will hopefully demonstrate the value of the learning developed through the project and lead either into incorporation into mainstream contracts or the employers embed them into their mainstream training provision.

Newcastle Hospitals Translational Research and Training Unit

Lead delivery partner	The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Contact	David Allison
Address	Freeman Hospital, High Heaton, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE7 7DN
Telephone	0191 223 1038; 0191 2448531
E-mail	david.allison@nuth.nhs.uk ; jill.harvey@nuth.nhs.uk
Delivery partners	Newcastle Science City; Newcastle University
Courses/programmes developed	A range of courses, predominantly in the specialities of Orthopaedics/General Surgery/Urology/ENT. Training in Minimally Invasive Surgery (MIS) techniques
Skills level	Higher Level Skills at Consultant Level
RES priority sector(s)	Health and Social Care
Geographic location and coverage	The project will be delivered in the Translational Research and Training Unit at Freeman Hospital in Newcastle, although the benefits will be region-wide.

Project Summary

The project has created a facility for the development of training in higher level surgical skills focused on new technologies, equipment and techniques.

Aims and objectives:

- ⇒ To provide a new facility to complement the existing Newcastle Surgical Training Centre to provide a combined “Translational Research and Training Unit”. The development of the unit is in response to the growing demand for training and collaborative research activities. It will provide the region with a unique facility which is unrivalled in the UK.
- ⇒ To develop further the extent of partnership working on training and research activities between clinicians, Universities (Durham, Newcastle and Northumberland) and the healthcare industry.
- ⇒ To enable healthcare professionals to acquire rapidly the skills needed to undertake complex surgical procedures, linked to emerging, cutting edge technologies and healthcare products.
- ⇒ To develop new healthcare technologies and the associated skills needed to adopt them, driving up the quality, quantity and economic relevance of skills in the North East.

What the project does

The project involves the construction of a Translational Research and Training Unit at Newcastle’s Freeman Hospital. The unit will facilitate teaching and skills acquisition and provide a platform for dissemination of new skills. The proposed unit will provide a unique opportunity to develop synergy between clinicians, academia and the healthcare industry.

Facilities will include a ‘dry lab’ for laboratory studies; facilities for materials testing and cadaveric work; space for precision measuring equipment; fridges; freezers; two new theatre simulation

tables and associated equipment required for the delivery of training. The Unit will support the following key activities:

- ⇒ Development of new products/ materials /technologies/ testing equipment for the healthcare industry.
- ⇒ Training for healthcare professionals in the application of these new products, materials and technologies.
- ⇒ Testing of new products and materials used in the manufacture of implants and devices thereby requiring support of university bioengineers.
- ⇒ Evaluation of existing equipment and implants and refinement of surgical skills.
- ⇒ Enabling and encouraging collaborative partnerships with the healthcare industry to attract further investment to the regional economy.

The project will deliver total of 22 higher level skills training courses, covering disciplines from advanced fluoroscopic techniques and diagnostic skills to the use of robotics in surgery. The training will be delivered by a variety of staff from NHS Trusts, healthcare companies, employers and the region's universities including consultants, anaesthetists, theatre nurses, surgical care practitioners and technical staff. The courses will also receive recognition/ accreditation from the relevant UK body.

Key achievements to date

Employer engagement

The Trust has already developed successful partnership working with many national and international healthcare companies, many of whom have expressed support for the project. Employers such as Johnson and Johnson have donated equipment to the unit, as part of sending people on courses. The unit leaders have had meetings with industry leads and Universities with an interest in developing programmes to be delivered at the unit. Current demand for courses is far outweighing availability.

Partner engagement

Locally the project has received support from Newcastle University and Newcastle Science City. The project has led to a closer working relationship with Newcastle University and links are being considered with Durham University. The Trust has also been approached, for advice, from other NHS Trusts in the UK interested in developing a facility akin to the Translational Research and Training Unit in Newcastle.

Development of courses / programmes

Upper Gastrointestinal and Royal College of Surgeon courses, all at consultant level are currently in development.

Delivery of courses / programmes

The following courses have been delivered:

Orthopaedics: Knee Arthroplasty; Upper Limb Trauma; PCL surgery; Hip surgery: Spinal Osteotomy and Hip Resurfacing.

General Surgery: Colorectal Surgery and Liver re-section.

Urology: Laparoscopic Percutaneous Nephrolithotomy and Laparoscopic Radical Prostatectomy; Nephrectomy/Pyeloplasty.

ENT: Balloon Sinuplasty

Certain key events are accredited by the Royal College of Surgeons and a web-site for the Unit has been launched at www.nstcsurg.org.

Next Steps

The future priorities for the translational research and training unit are as follows:

- ⇒ Strengthening links with universities and industry.
- ⇒ Obtaining funding, both capital to extend the facilities and revenue for additional staff (bioengineer, educationalist and personnel).
- ⇒ Managing the level of demand.

Higher Skills for North East Transformation System

Lead delivery partner	Gateshead College
Contact	Kim Davies; Alisha Briggs; Rachel Bowman
Address	Quarryfield Road, Baltic Business Quarter, Gateshead, NE8 3BE
Telephone	0191 4902460 (K Davies); 0191 4902244 (A Briggs); 0191 4902208 (R Bowman)
E-mail	kim.davies@gateshead.ac.uk ; alisha.briggs@gateshead.ac.uk ; rachel.bowman@gateshead.ac.uk
Delivery partners	North East Strategic Health Authority (NESHA); The University of Sunderland; City of Sunderland College;
Courses/programmes developed	Foundation Degree
Skills level	Levels 4&5
RES priority sector(s)	Health and Social Care
Geographic location and coverage	Region wide

Project Summary

The project is designed to respond to national and North East Strategic Health Authority (NESHA) strategic priorities. It will encourage and support healthcare staff to improve standards of patient care, eliminate waste and improve productivity within the region's healthcare services. It involves the development and delivery of relevant health-related, bite-sized modules within a foundation degree framework enabling progression to HEFCE provision. A key element of the project is the development of a Lean Clinical Environment (LCE) facility.

Aims:

- ⇒ To enable the North East Strategic Health Authority (NESHA) and its member Health Trusts and Primary Care Trusts to meet the higher skills requirements of its North East Transformation System (NETS).
- ⇒ To catalyse the development of quality, employer-led, bite sized higher level skills provision.
- ⇒ To provide a coherent approach to the higher level skills required for implementation of the key components of NETS (vision, compact and method), through a combination of technical and leadership skills and understanding.
- ⇒ To provide a regional LCE facility to demonstrate the practical application of lean technologies.

What the project does

It addresses NHS employer needs for higher level skills within the Health and Social Care Sector, with a particular emphasis on improving productivity via the North East Transformational System (NETS).

The project develops the provision of bite-sized higher level skills modules in the areas of leadership and management and lean manufacturing techniques, seen as key generic skills in this sector. Modules will be developed at levels 4/5 within a foundation degree framework and will be tested initially with employees within the NESHA and its 'coalition of pathfinder employers'. The

project also intends to provide a mechanism for assessing the impact and return on investment for employers to encourage further development of higher level skills

The LCE will be a regional-based facility to create a multi-purpose simulated environment that has lean thinking and lean practice as a primary means of bringing about continuous service improvements. It will be used to demonstrate the practical application of lean manufacturing techniques to employees and will have 'lean thinking' and 'lean practice' at its core.

Key achievements to date

Employer engagement

Initial employer engagement has been successfully developed through the North East Strategic Health Authority led NETS Coalition. NESHA is represented on the Project Board and the Project Manager has weekly contact with the NETS team. Further employer engagement has been developed with other North East NHS organisations which have chosen to opt out of the NETS Coalition. In addition there has been initial engagement with some private sector healthcare providers who are interested in the potential for lean methodologies within their organisations.

Partner engagement

A project board has been established with representatives from key partners. The University of Sunderland are the main partner who will validate the degree for Gateshead College. However the Foundation Degree is part of a NETS Career Pathway so links have also been made with Teesside University and Northumbria University.

Development of courses / programmes

A development consultant has been appointed to work with stakeholders to develop and accredit modules; the qualifications framework has been agreed and the College is working with NESHA to gain the input of the Health Service. In addition, mapping work has been undertaken with a secondee from Nissan to contextualise lean techniques within the NHS.

Delivery of courses / programmes

The structure and content of modules have been developed with a view to testing these with SHA and NETS Coalition employees, there has also been some interest from organisations outside of the Coalition as indicated above.

Next Steps

Imminent priorities for the project include the purchase of capital equipment and subsequent development of the LCE; the engagement of wider Health Service organisations; the accreditation of the framework (by Sunderland University); and the alignment of those modules to be delivered first.

Digital Forensics

Lead delivery partner	Gateshead College
Contact	Kim Davies; Alisha Briggs
Address	Quarryfield Road, Baltic Business Quarter, Gateshead, NE8 3BE
Telephone	0191 4902460 (K Davies); 0191 4902244 (A Briggs)
E-mail	kim.davies@gateshead.ac.uk ; alisha.briggs@gateshead.ac.uk
Delivery partners	North East Fraud Forum (NEFF); Northumbria Police; and The University of Sunderland
Courses/programmes developed	Degree programme in Digital Forensics
Skills level	4 and 5
RES priority sector(s)	Knowledge Intensive Business Services
Geographic location and coverage	Throughout the North East region

Project Summary

The project provides cutting edge commercial and law enforcement training in digital security and fraud detection. It addresses a gap in higher level skills which has been identified by employers within the North East knowledge intensive business services (KIBS) sector.

Aims:

- ⇒ To address the increasing security risk to businesses as a consequence of technological advances and the subsequent issues of cyber crime and online fraud.
- ⇒ To provide employers, security firms, the police, schools and individuals with a training facility complete with the latest technology that they can access and share through a collaborative training programme that brings together industry, public sector and education.
- ⇒ To provide access to specialist equipment, security and forensics facilities.

What the project does

Key activities include identifying current and future markets to promote training and meet employer demand led provision through engagement with SMEs and key employers in the area of security and law enforcement. A range of bespoke training programmes and learning resources have been developed including master classes, bite size skills workshops, awareness building and higher skills modular courses. A specialist security and forensics laboratory has been established to simulate the digital fraud protection environment within the fraud protection industry and law enforcement in order to provide employers with the only shared external training facility in the North East. The project will also provide a mechanism for sharing, evaluating and assessing the return on investment or reduction in cost from fraud.

Delivery methods

The bite-sized modules form part of the College's existing Foundation Degree in Digital Forensics, which incorporates a technical core around implementing security and digital forensics at levels 4 and 5. Critical to the above provision is the development of the new security and digital forensics laboratory, including up-to-date specialist equipment, which simulates the digital fraud protection environment within the fraud protection industry and law enforcement.

Key achievements to date

Employer engagement

The Digital Forensics curriculum and lab facilities have been showcased to employers including Grainger PLC and Newcastle City Council. As a result the Council has sent staff on the CFI Computer forensics course. The College has engaged with members of the North East Fraud Forum by hosting a regional master class event. In addition, the College has hosted the regional conference for the Association of Chief Police Officers.

Partner engagement

The College has worked closely with project partners - specifically NEFF and Sunderland University, which has allowed useful knowledge transfer and marketing. In addition the College has been working closely with Ask Astute Solutions to develop the Digital Forensics/Fraud curriculum through bespoke training packages.

Development of courses / programmes

Provision has been developed, a project board has been established and course programmes have been developed. Capital equipment has been sourced and purchased, and the new lab was launched in May 2009. Staff training in the use of the equipment has been undertaken.

Further curriculum developments based around the initial developments include Advanced Digital Forensic Investigation delivered using the EnCase on demand CFI training material. Further curriculum developments include supplementary modules for the Foundation Degree in Fraud Management and a bespoke training course on Investigative Techniques based on the SIA requirements.

Delivery of courses / programmes

The Digital Forensics laboratory now has capacity for ten students/employers to study at once. In partnership with NEFF, the College has also delivered its first Master Class and Business Enterprise North East and Learning & Skills Council workshops have also taken place.

The project has attracted significant media interest and publicity, both across the UK and in America. For example, the project director recently spoke about the project on 'Real Radio' and the new lab has featured in numerous online media articles with the support of high-profile regional employers, including the Head of Northumbria Police's Computer Crime Unit (a partner on the project).

Next Steps

The College views its imminent priorities as developing and implementing the Marketing Plan within the new academic year, undertaking further consultations with employers to identify current and future needs, and developing products alongside the College's Services to Business Team.

Through contact with the ACPO and NEFF membership, the College will actively promote and develop the Digital Forensics and Fraud curriculum to address the needs of business by offering bespoke training.