

MAG Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 21st January 2010 The Alliance, Edinburgh

Members

Anna Kynaston	Scottish Government (Chair)
Iain McCaskey	Alliance Scotland
Sylvia O'Grady	Scottish Trades Union Congress
George Brown	Scottish Qualifications Authority (Accreditation Unit)
Brian Woodrow	Scottish Training Federation
Brian Hermiston	Skills Development Scotland

In Attendance

Jennifer Mclean	Alliance Scotland
Fiona Morrow	Skills Development Scotland

Apologies

Maria Roushias	Scotland's Colleges
Abigail Kinsella	Skills Development Scotland
Fiona Stewart	Skills Development Scotland
Willie Fergusson	Chair, The Alliance of Sector Skills Councils Qualifications and Learning Group
Roddy Henry	Scotland's Colleges

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Group nominated Anna Kynaston to chair the meeting while Maria Roushias was absent. Apologies were also given from Fiona Stewart, Willie Fergusson, Roddy Henry, and Fiona Morrow attended in place of Abigail Kinsella.

2. Minutes from the Previous meeting

The minutes from the last meeting were read.

The wording in point 7 (Customer Service MA Update) should be changed to read "ICS has included Edexcel within the Framework".

The wording in Point 8 (AOB) should be changed to read "GB notified the Group that from 1st April Awarding Bodies will be encouraged to use the SCQF level as well as the SVQ level where the SVQ has been credit rated for the SCQF. Where the SVQ had not been credit rated then only the SVQ level will be used".

3. Matters Arising from the November Meeting

Points 1 & 2 (NVQ & HN Papers). - Outstanding, with the NVQ paper having priority.

Point 4 (Contact Simon Temperton re NOS). - The Alliance meeting is arranged for February 2010.

Point 5 (Contact TDA re Framework). - As above.

Matters Arising from the December Meeting

Point 5 (SQA Project Core Skills). -GB and FS to look at Core Skills levels of school leavers.

Point 9 (Agriculture Framework, Qualification to be accredited by SQA). - Outstanding, proposed for January 2010

Matters Arising from the January Meeting

Point 1 (Letter to Trevor Hill, SummitSkills lack of progress) – The situation has been reported to UKCES. The Group was happy with this position.

Point 2 (Letter to Cogent about restrictive practice) – IM has been in contact with Barry Neilson, Cogent, who will be contacting OPITO.

Point 3 (Notifying Energy & Utility Skills of MAG's decision on their Framework) – Done

Point 4 (Notifying ConstructionSkills of MAG's decision on the inclusion of qualifications within their Frameworks) –Done

Point 5 (IM challenging FSSC about using BTEC qualifications and ensuring they complete a Core Skills Mapping for Level 2) – Done. FSSC will open up to all awarding bodies and include two units from the SVQ/NVQ within the group award but would like to check with MAG that they can include the same customer service units in their Level 3 Framework. MAG agreed to this.

Point 6 & 7 (Bids for MAG review and items for the agenda) – All discussed later in the meeting.

Action 1 – MAG to contact OPITO about restrictive practice, if this is necessary, after Barry Neilson's contact with OPITO

Action 2 - IM to contact FSSC to inform them of MAG's decision on the inclusion of units within their Level 2 & 3 Frameworks

4. SDS MA Statistics, April to September 2009

IM read a letter from Maria Roushias which led to discussion on the points raised in this on the inclusion of Employability Skills in MAs and the use of Core Skills where Apprentices are not able to attain one because of their learning environment.

IM also presented the paper from MR which highlighted the following figures from the April to September 2009 over all reports. Discussion on starts and gender imbalances in certain sectors followed.

All Modern Apprentice Performance Report

Total No of Starts 73.1% Male (3747)
26.9% Female (1376)

TOTAL STARTS 5,123

High Uptake- Bus. Administration	339 (59M, 280F)
Construction	1235 (1209 M, 26 F)
Hospitality	456 (243 M, 213F)
Vehicle Maintenance	370 (362 M, 8 F)
Early Years	376 (8M, 368 F)

In Training 84.2% Male (22,201)
15.8% Female (4,168)

TOTAL 26,369

Achievements as % of All Leavers 67% Male
76% Female

Total Achievement 69%

Age 16-19 MA Performance report

Total No of Starts 69.2% Male (2930)
30.8% Female (1302)

TOTAL STARTS 4,232

High Uptake- Bus. Administration	339 (59M, 280 F)
Construction	873 (857 M, 16 F)
Hospitality	325 (145 M, 180 F)

Vehicle Maintenance 325 (318M, 7 F)
Early Years 376 (8M, 368 F)

In Training 84.2% Male (18,353)
15.8% Female (3,432)
TOTAL 21,785

Achievements as % of All Leavers 66% Male
77% Female
Total 69%

Age 20 Plus MA Performance Report
Total No of Starts 91.7% Male (817)
8.3% Female (74)
TOTAL STARTS 891

Uptake Comparison- Bus. Administration 0
Construction 362 (352 M, 10 F)
Hospitality 131 (98 M, 33 F)
Vehicle Maintenance 45 (44M, 1 F)
Early Years 0

In Training 67.8% Male (876)
32.2% Female (416)
TOTAL 1,292

Achievements as % of All Leavers 69% Male
73% Female
Total 70%

Action 3 – The statistics from April 2009 to March 2010 would be included in the May agenda for MAG to compare gender imbalances

5. SQA Presentation

GB distributed a presentation put together by himself and Dr. Janet Brown, SQA, for their Board. The presentation clarified the roles of the SQA as an awarding body and an accreditation unit. GB offered to present this at other meetings as requested.

Action 4 – GB to send the presentation to MAG members

6. Update of all approved Frameworks in 2009

IM distributed a document showing all the Frameworks that have been approved in 2009. This is also available to download from the Alliance website.

7. MAG review

IM updated the Group on the status of the MAG review. There have been two bids which have been evaluated. Scottish Government has approved this evaluation and Frontline Consultants are now going to re-profile the review. When the consultation has been agreed, the necessary information will be distributed to MAG members.

Action 5 - A consultant is to present at the next meeting

8. AOB

- GB suggested that MAG reviews the policy where Frameworks are approved before the qualifications are accredited as it causes problems when SQA are pushed to get codes for these qualifications. The Group agreed not to approve any Frameworks when qualifications are not approved.
- IM informed the Group that Edexcel has been approved by SQA to deliver SVQs in Business Administration MAs at Levels 2 & 3. CfA would like to include them in the Framework.

Action 6 – IM to go back to CfA to inform them that MAG approves.

Next meeting to be held on Thursday 18th February 2010 at SQA, Glasgow