

Dear Provider

Welcome to the third Provider Update for December 2008. This update contains the latest information on the new SME flexibilities.

1 SME FLEXIBILITIES

You have already received notification of the Government's intention to introduce further flexibilities in Train to Gain to support employers with less than 250 employees during the current economic recession. This includes the ability to offer 'part qualifications' in a defined range of areas from 2 January 2009.

Details regarding the further flexibilities relating to SMEs in Train to Gain including a list of part qualifications that are now eligible for funding from 2 January 2008 are attached.

The following information sessions have been arranged for providers to discuss and clarify the new detail:

16 December – Aztec West, Bristol 9.30am – 11.00am and repeated at
11.15am – 12.45pm

17 December – Novotel, Plymouth 9.30am - 11.00am and repeated at
11.15am – 12.45pm



19 December - **TBC** 12 noon – 1.30pm

Please contact Chloe Moorhead to book your place at these events

2 World Class Skills Programme



Please find attached the World Class Skills Programme Schedule for January to April 2009.



WCS
Programme_Schedule

To register your attendance click here: <http://wcs.excellence.qia.org.uk/booking>

3 'MATCH' – The Skills For Life Peripatetic Regional Register

We launched MATCH in late October and the register will be funded by the LSC until END MARCH 2009.


MATCH offers our Providers with an opportunity to improve and extend your Skills for Life provision

Here's five reasons why you should be using MATCH now

- ✓ Increasing a learner's Skills for Life by embedding literacy or numeracy within an NVQ will improve Train to Gain retention rates so improving your achievement rates and earning potential
- ✓ The 'MATCH' register will enable you to choose a qualified practitioner who can offer flexible work based Skills for Life at a time and place to suit your Employer
- ✓ The 73 MATCH Practitioners will be paid a flat rate per identified learner including all travel; preparation; contextualised resources; liaison and record keeping.
- ✓ The 'MATCH' register enables you to offer quality tuition & embed Skills for Life into the vocational NVQ or offer stand alone Skills for Life tuition pre or concurrent with the other learning programme under your banner
- ✓ LSC data demonstrates that MATCH is financially viable in most situations. Please see copy of worked examples for different situations.

The additional flexibilities mean that there are more opportunities for all your learners to take advantage of Skills for Life via Train to Gain.

PLEASE REMEMBER that MATCH is a short term solution to help you meet your contractual requirements whilst you develop your capacity and resources. It does not remove your responsibility to ensure you have qualified staff in place to deliver and assess Skills for Life be that numeracy, literacy or language skills.

A decorative graphic consisting of a black diagonal line above an orange parallelogram shape.

For more information see
www.learning-southwest.org.uk/match

or contact Naomi Harris of Learning South West if you have questions on MATCH. Telephone 01823 - 335491

Attached are some FAQs about the Match register which we hope you will find useful, along with Funding Examples for different sizes of learner groups. Also we have attached the "I want to become a SfL Provider" overview which explains everything you will need to know.



MATCH FAQ
Decembert2008.doc



Match worked
examples for learners



I want to be a SfL
provider ...doc

4 Employer Engagement Website

The new Employer Engagement website will become the main communication method between the LSC and Train to Gain stakeholders. This site is currently being developed by LSC National Office in consultation with the Broker Website Task & Finish Group. The new website will be launched on 1 April 2009

Train to Gain Team
9th December 2008