



Community of Practice Development Form – Linking London CATS Project in Management, December 2012

Achievements to Date

- The Project Steering Group has now met twice, is well attended by all project partners and is working effectively
- We have gone out to tender for an external evaluator and have found a suitable consultant to do this work for us
- We have circulated a draft Articulation Agreement and held a successful Curriculum Leads 'speed dating' meeting on November 14 which kick-started partner work in this area. Further follow up meetings are being arranged to finalise the detail of this curriculum articulation.
- We have received project bids in from three FECs and these projects are now well underway. Two of these projects are looking at the integration of CMI credits into FD and BA (top up) modules while the third is looking to develop strategies for transitioning learners from level 3 to level 4 within business, management and administrative courses. We are waiting to finalise one further project at a partner HEI which, again, will be in the area of management.

Problems / Challenges of developing CATS

We are not yet at this stage and are working on creating the partnership structures to facilitate work in this area. However, once the precise detail of curriculum mapping is known, formal Articulation Agreements will be drawn up and signed by project partners and, ultimately, it is hoped to turn this into publicity material for prospective students wishing to find out about what courses and progression opportunities exist for studies in the area of management. As our work previously has shown, students are often unclear about what these opportunities are and this work will help clarify the position of courses within these designated institutions. Over time, we also hope to make clear what opportunities exist for the accreditation and take-up of discrete management qualifications and indeed this is an area which is being investigated by two of the projects.

Working across the FE/HE interface

We have very facilitative relationships. The problem is sometimes getting dates in diaries to meet, as our partners are all very busy people. We are confident that the projects being undertaken will result in quality outcomes. For example, the recent Curriculum Leads meeting or 'speed dating' service which we ran on November 14 between HE / FEC partners was very effective.

Working with other agencies

We have had excellent contributions to date from ILM, CMI and IAM who attend project steering group meetings. CMI and IAM also usefully contributed to the recent curriculum leads meeting noted.

'Eureka' moments / Key learning outcomes for the project

Our project highlights the importance of 'bottom up' projects and key here is developing a sense of ownership and relevance of the project to partner institutions. Persistence in following through project outcomes is also crucial and underlines the need for strong project management skills and the ability to find alternative strategies, when need arises. Clarity about outcomes, and keeping to time schedules are also critical in successful project management.

Emerging themes?

Several partners are particularly keen to explore the integration of professional qualifications within their courses and this will offer the opportunity to explore issues of credit transfer. We are keeping in touch with the HEART project, as it is likely that similar issues will arise in both projects which are focusing on management, and indeed we had a telephone meeting with the Ian Brown on November 28, which raised the possibility of linking in with the Civil Service. Obviously, it takes time to get down to issues of articulation between institutions, and there is a need for a degree of trust before these conversations can take place. We have also discovered a slight disjuncture (in some partners) between institutional representation on the Steering Group and the curriculum staff in schools and faculties who will actually be doing the work. We are trying to address this whilst not over burdening staff with meetings.

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