

Progression Routes into HE for Advanced Apprentices:

A Case Study from the East Midlands

Workshop Structure

- Context
- Barriers to progression explored
- Project overview
- Observations and questions.

Context

- Date back to 1994 (95)
- Represent a level 3 work-based 'qualification'
- Entry from level 2 apprenticeship.

Progression

- *Comparatively few apprentices go on to HE*
- 6% of advanced apprentices progress to HE, with the East Midlands returning a slightly higher figure of 9%.

Pathways to Higher Education. Apprenticeships (HEFCE, May 2009).

Context

- *Yet...*

Vocational and work-based learners are capable of making the transition to and flourishing in HE

and the potential demand is there...

Potential

- 31% strongly agreed or agreed that they had always planned to go onto HE
Aimhigher Greater Manchester Work-Based Learning Strategy –July 2008 to July 2009 (2009)
- 45% planned to progress within the next three years. (Note: not always an immediate objective).
R. Southern, C. Sutton and S. Coppock, 'The progression aspirations of advanced apprentices and other work-based learners: an analysis of advanced project findings' (2009).

Wide Support

- ‘A sea change in the number of former apprentices progressing to advanced further education and higher education is critical’. (Skills Commission, 2009).
- The social mobility agenda
- Incorporate into the UCAS points system
- And evidence of expansion nationally and locally...

Completed Advanced Apprenticeships in the East Midlands



Source: National Apprenticeship Service

What barriers to HE progression do advanced apprentices face?

A key barrier to progression

- 80% knew nothing or a little of the range of HE courses.
Aimhigher Greater Manchester, 'The Step-In to HE Project', 2009
- *'Best way to encourage progression was by providing clearer progression routes and improved IAG'.*
'National Evaluation of Aimhigher', February 2006.
- Need for clear progression pathways for those on advanced apprenticeships was also a recommendation made by the UK Commission for Employment and Skills
UK Skills Commission *'Progress Through Apprenticeships'*, March 2009,

Project Overview:

Mapping and authenticating HE routes

1. Identify and log current provision of advanced apprenticeships
2. Match with corresponding HE level provision
3. Verify that HE opportunities researched provide *real opportunities* for progression to HE

Project Overview:

Mapping and authenticating HE routes

<http://www.yourfuture-eastmidlands.co.uk/>

 **aimhigher...**
in the east midlands

 **SSCLLN**
SKILLS FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES
LIFELONG LEARNING NETWORK

 **LEAP AHEAD**

The Assessor Toolkit

- Progression route brochure
- Your Future East Midlands information
- DVD
- Case Studies
- Quiz
- Master Classes Programme/Information.

Assessor Training

- Pilot events
 - Assessor input in planning
 - Feedback to HEFCE/NAS
- Higher level skills awareness
 - Overview
 - Benefits
 - Your Future East Midlands
 - Toolkit
- Events planned
 - 17th May Leicester College
 - 28th June Leicester General Hospital.

Observations and questions

- Thoughts/comments on the project described?
- Ideas on making a case for progression to:
 - Learners
 - Employers
 - HE providers
 - Teachers
 - Parents/others
- Useful contacts.

Contact Details

Rose Robinson:

rer7@le.ac.uk

0116 252 5754

Dr Neil Raven:

n.d.raven@lboro.ac.uk

01509 223461

 **aimhigher...**
in the east midlands

 **SSCLLN**
SKILLS FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES
LIFELONG LEARNING NETWORK

 **LEAP AHEAD**