

Draft report on M&L activities both completed and planned in Q1 2009

Introduction

This is the first report on the continued M&L all-sector work being sponsored by the Alliance. It will be used to discuss progress at the Forum on 25th March and to ask for guidance on taking the work forward. At present there is enough funding to support the programme into the summer period – we plan to hold at least one more Forum meeting.

At the March 25th Forum we will hear from a number of SSCs regarding their activities in M&L. The core programme has provided them with a launch pad to deliver some innovative and useful M&L activities in a number of regions – they are examples of how the network is starting to get to grips with this key subject.

Looking to the future, we will be requesting that the Alliance continue to resource the programme to allow the ‘advocacy’ aspect of the work to carry on, and to continue the platform for sharing good practice etc.

Detailed progress

Work agreed by the Alliance	Actions	Impact
Continued analysis of the SSCs’ SSA evidence base to ensure that cross sector SSA findings remain current and ways of capitalising on them are discussed, rooted in reality and implemented as appropriate.	Every SSC has been invited to update their M&L SSA data. The material will be presented at the M&L Forum and the UK L&M Steering Group. The work in progress document is at: http://www.sfn-mandl.org.uk/SSA.htm	The summarised material is being used in meetings with the regions and countries to give guidance on employer needs, suggest programmes of collaboration and build the Alliance’s credibility.
Maintain the database of regional and country M&L specialists to allow SSCs to capitalise on some excellent working relationships and funding opportunities	Meetings have been held with South West, South East, East Midlands, North West, London and N Ireland. D Hartshorne is actively engaged with the West Midlands and ensures we are up to date.	Alliance M&L programmes and goals are more visible to regional and country staff. We continue to influence their programmes (e.g. the deployment of action learning in many regions) towards the employer need.
M&L web-based resource – very well regarded not just by the SSCs but also by many key stakeholders and partners	The popular website continues to be updated on a regular basis. Email updates are sent to key SSC staff about once per week and the ‘latest updates’ service to partners and stakeholders has been restarted.	Non-specialist SSC staff, partners and stakeholders can access up-to-date information on employer need, M&L programmes and ‘how to’ guides. This helps them design and improve M&L interventions to address real employer need.
Regular newsletter and updates to keep SSC visibility high with partners	The ‘latest updates’ service to partners and stakeholders has been restarted.	

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Regular M&L Strategic Forums to allow sharing of best practice and marshalling of influence on national policy	A Forum is planned for March 25 th where the prime focus will be on SSCs sharing information on issues and best practice	This helps keep M&L development 'top of mind' and encourages M&L champions to understand and contribute to their SSC's programmes. It is also a prime source of best practice sharing for the SSCs, getting up to date with national initiatives and for the team to understand the needs and wants of the SSCs.
Representation of the Alliance on M&L matters at key national forums such as the UK L&M Steering Group	We have a 100% record of attending the UK L&M Steering Group and making a positive contribution to DIUS and BERR thinking.	This allows the SSCs to be seen in the Regions and Nations as having the capacity and capability to deliver employers and solutions. It allows the Alliance to directly influence the policy and programmes of DIUS and BERR.
Help desk to signpost to Inspirational Leadership and Action Learning Solutions	This continues to be available.	Statistics show that the average response time to requests is less than 3 hours.
Researching opportunities to secure sustainable funding for on-going services	Ongoing	Ultimately deliver a sustainable M&L programme for the Alliance
Overseeing the development of the National Occupational Standards for Management and Leadership, as well as the associated Sector Qualification Strategy and Action Plan through a further reformed relationship with the Management Standards Centre as the Standards Setting Body for M&L to ensure leverage by SSCs on the National Occupational Standards and the M&L Sector Qualification Reform Programme	To be discussed	
Continued input to, and influence on, the M&L Standards Champions group	To be discussed	