

UK Careers Profession Alliance

‘One Voice Making an Impact’

Briefing Note 3: December 2011

‘A profession that inspires confidence in the public, dedicated to delivering high quality career development activities and services that help individuals to achieve their full potential and support economic productivity while ensuring equality of opportunity for all.’

Raising professional standards and quality assurance in career development activities and services for young people and adults across the UK

Update from the Executive

The CPA Executive meeting on 12 December was held at the BIS Conference Centre on Victoria Street. This is a summary of the key messages to come out of this meeting.

1. The five member associations affirmed their commitment to becoming one professional body but were not able, at this stage, to agree the nature of this relationship. Some members want to work towards a single entity for the new professional body while others prefer the notion of a confederation. For this reason it was agreed that an extended transitional period would be appropriate.
2. In order to support further development, CPA members have therefore agreed to a phased approach towards the new organisation which will require a robust transition phase underpinned by dedicated funding from each association and which will include the following steps:
 - review of the roles, responsibilities of each member of the Executive Group as well as processes and protocols to effectively support transition to the next phase
 - establishment of a budget and resource base to support the work of the Executive Group for the period of January to March 2012
 - establishment, subject to the formal agreement by individual associations of a joint approach to management of the register of career development professionals
3. The project team for the production of the register of career development professionals is now in place and will be managed by Ruth Miller. The team includes Axia Interactive, who will take the lead on technical development of the on-line resources, Claire Johnson who will lead on qualifications and CPD and will bring in expertise from private practitioners and careers educators and Will Hanson from PARN who will address specific questions about complaints and discipline procedures.
4. Ruth Miller tabled a Blueprint paper outlining the parameters and structure of the on-line register

and resources. There was agreement from the Executive of the need to ensure that all career development practitioners are eligible to apply to go onto the register which will have its entry level set at QCF Level 6 and that the career progression framework should clearly show how they can achieve this. There will be a mini-consultation in January with a small group of representatives of each sector of the profession who will, in effect become a reference group. It is hoped that this will be followed by an event with around 35-40 practitioners to look in depth at the resource and provide feedback about it to Ruth and her team.

5. The Executive Group agreed to write a briefing paper on establishing and funding the transition arrangements and this should be agreed by early January 2012. (Currently each association covers their own travel costs and makes a contribution to secretarial services. Time to attend meetings and progress the work of the CPA is provided on a pro-bono basis.) It was agreed that true costs (other than time of members of the Executive) should be established. Agreement will be then be sought from financial managers of each association to cover these costs from their own funds until the final determination about the future form of the CPA is made in Autumn 2012.
6. At the meeting there were guest presentations from Col Beard, (Skills Team, Skills Development Scotland) and Mike Moss, (Welsh Assembly Government) about the current situation in Scotland and Wales, respectively. A representative from the CPA will be invited to the four nations meeting in April to present the progress made towards establishing the register and new organisation. Christine Froggatt (BIS) gave an update on developments in England.
7. Janette Faherty from POWER (The Professional) attended the meeting and was able to provide helpful insights about how they had established the Institute for Employability Professionals to represent all employability professionals.
8. It was agreed that consultation with employers, both of career development professionals and employers in general was a priority for 2012 as the CPA agenda progressed.

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