

Sustaining our Future: A framework for moving towards a sustainable learning and skills sector



Appendix 2

Purpose of the Framework

- A. Build common understanding of what sustainable development is about**, what it means for the sector and why the sector needs to collectively respond to it. The sustainable development agenda often seems complex and confusing, with different prevalent conceptions and definitions, and there are a number of policy drivers towards sustainability, such as the Ofsted Common Inspection Framework and the Carbon Reduction Targets that apply to the sector.
- B. Alert providers to the business benefits of being a sustainable organisation** and how these benefits can be realised. In an increasingly demand-led environment, such business benefits are diverse and valuable and include cost benefits, efficiency savings, performance improvement, and being seen as the best choice for high-calibre, sustainability-aware learners, employers and staff.
- C. Establish a common set of themes for action.** There should be a set of areas, themes or issues that partners' and providers' strategies and activities should focus on, linked to areas of the sector's business that we agree need to be developed in a sustainable way.
- D. Provide a catalyst for providers to develop new or existing strategies and approaches** in support of each of those themes, through:
 - **Signposting strategic organisations' responses to the agenda**, including strategies, programmes, resources, initiatives etc. that providers can consider and draw on;
 - **Case studies and examples** that can inspire providers to develop strategies in response to the themes;
 - **The development of online tools and resources** specific to the framework and to the development of thinking, strategy and action plans against each of the themes set out in the framework.
- E. Provide a focus for sharing of ideas and experiences, and for collaboration between providers**, through all of the above and through encouraging providers to grow the framework with their own suggestions, case studies and discussions.
- F. Promote and demonstrate coherence in sector bodies' responses** to the challenge of sustainable development and in the services they offer.
- G. Support providers and sector bodies to capture the impact of ESD** on individuals' knowledge, attitudes and action, communities, workplaces and local environments.