

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS TO LOCAL EMPLOYERS

Employer	1. Were you aware that a new range of vocational Diploma qualifications are being introduced nationally, and in Bracknell Forest from September 2010?	2. Is your organisation interested in becoming involved with and supporting the delivery of Diplomas? If so, have you any suggestions as to how you may achieve this?	3. Do you see Diploma qualifications enhancing your organisation and making school / college leavers more employable to you? If so, how?	4. Would the Diploma qualification encourage your organisation to offer work experience to local students and work placements to Diploma graduates?	5. Does your organisation currently offer apprenticeships / training placements?	6. Does your organisation currently provide work experience placements? If so, how successful have they been and have you provided or received feedback?
Bracknell Forest Council Corporate HR	Yes, although we would have no requirement for Diploma students in Hospitality or Hair & Beauty studies currently.	In principle, yes but there is a practical issue to be considered. We already provide work experience placements for 150-200 Year 10 pupils annually plus around 50 Year 12 pupils from local schools. These have been arranged as one day a week over a whole term or	Diploma qualifications are likely to make young people more employable because they will have had actual practical experience and have undertaken more vocational studies.	We already provide significant support to local schools and Bracknell & Wokingham College, and do not see that changing. It would be difficult to increase the level of support currently provided (see also Q2).	Yes to both and have done so for many years through our Modern Apprenticeship programme. Diploma students may substitute for apprenticeships.	Yes – see answer to Q2. Very successful in the main, we always provide feedback to students and receive it in about 50% of cases.

		<p>as blocks of work over a number of weeks and cover the range of our different extensive operational work. If some of these were converted into Diploma work placements, it would be possible to accommodate but there is an issue of capacity - there are only so many placements available and if the Diploma was to take precedence then the existing programme would need to be adjusted and scaled back.</p>				
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Bracknell Forest Homes	On a national level, yes was aware but have not been made aware to date of how this is to be rolled out on a regional level.	Yes – providing work experience / shadowing opportunities for students. Areas would be IT and finance primarily.	Encourage further awareness and improvement with local young people, engaging with this population group, providing them with opportunities and experience.	Work experience – yes. Work placements – depends on individual circumstances and recruitment needs / opportunities.	Yes – we work alongside Bracknell & Wokingham College to offer Plumbing and Electrical Apprenticeships.	We have set up work experience placements for later this year. These are the first to run in our organisation.
Bracknell Leisure Centre	Yes.	We assist with work experience placements at the moment, give talks and provide tours.	Not known yet.	Yes.	Yes.	Yes – provide and receive feedback.
BSRIA Ltd (consultancy, test, instrumentation and research organisation.)	Yes – and I am wholly opposed to yet another tinkering with the education system. For heaven's sake stop inventing new things before you make existing ones work. GNVQ's?	No.	No.	We already take placements both at GCSE and undergraduate level. Also Leonardo students as post graduates. This works well.	Not an appropriate operation for apprenticeships.	Yes. Usually from word of mouth via staff or contact with local schools.

ICE Healthcare	In fact, no.	We could support such a plan provided some framework is agreed and programme design and contribution is accepted.	Yes, as it should help students and employers get a closer match of skills and needs.	This would certainly help, of course.	Not at this time.	Not at this time.
South Hill Park Arts Centre	Yes.	Yes, we already support a number of work experience placements, host visits and careers days with arts professionals.	Not particularly – most of our staff are degree educated.	Yes.	Yes – graduate internships and technical theatre apprenticeships.	Yes. Very successful and feedback both ways.