



Appendix 1 to the Federation of Awarding Bodies response to the Post-16 review of qualifications at Level 3 and below

Case Study 1 – Impact of Pathways to Independence and Supported Internship

Learner's name removed

AGE: 20

COURSE: Pathways to Independence and Supported Internship - Farnborough College of Technology

A course for young people aged 16-25 who may have attended a school or college provision for students with additional learning needs. The aim of the course is that of enabling students to gain generic work skills, improve social skills and gain independence whilst trying out a variety of vocational options and attending supported work experience. The classes are small and friendly with learning support available. The course can last up to two years but in some cases, students may only need one year to gain the skills to move on to another college course or supported/openwork. Students attend weekly tutorials and reviews are held with students, parent/carers and relevant support agencies to discuss future steps.

Why did you do this course?

I did the Pathways to Independence course after visiting the college to see what courses were on offer. I enjoyed my time on the Pathways course because of the lecturers and how good the College is. The course was easy to access and the timetable was flexible. I did the Supported Internship and it had links with the local hospital. I got my work placement there and really enjoyed it.

How has the course helped you achieve your goals?

I grew up and became much more confident in my abilities.

What was important about getting a Laser Entry level Extended Certificate/Diploma in Learning, Employment and Progression (Entry 3)?

The subjects covered all the topics that I needed to learn about to help me become independent.

What are your plans for the future?

I'm now a general porter at the same hospital where I did my work placement, covering all departments and helping with patients and I enjoy everything about it.

"I really enjoyed the time I spent at college, I got lots of support and doing my course helped me get my job at the hospital".



Case Study 2 – Impact of Pathways to Independence and Supported Internship

Learner's name removed

AGE: 19

COURSE: Pathways to Independence and Supported Internship - Farnborough College of Technology

A course for young people aged 16-25 who may have attended a school or college provision for students with additional learning needs. The aim of the course is that of enabling students to gain generic work skills, improve social skills and gain independence whilst trying out a variety of vocational options and attending supported work experience. The classes are small and friendly with learning support available. The course can last up to two years but in some cases, students may only need one year to gain the skills to move on to another college course or supported/openwork. Students attend weekly tutorials and reviews are held with students, parent/carers and relevant support agencies to discuss future steps.

Why did you do this course?

I always struggled with maths at school, but the tutors really helped when I asked and I got much better at English. When I was at college, you felt like an adult, the tutors remind you what they expect of you. I am really pleased that I have done the Supported Internship Course as otherwise I would be sitting at home doing nothing after college. Now I am working in a nursery and it is really good for me.

How has the course helped you achieve your goals?

I feel that I became more confident

What was important about getting a Laser Entry level Extended Certificate/Diploma in Learning, Employment and Progression (Entry 3)?

I didn't really know much about handling money, travelling and cooking on a budget. Getting my Laser qualification has taught me lots of different things which helped me become more independent.

What are your plans for the future?

I hope to get even more hours at the nursery and I am very excited about that.*

* the local nursery where this learner undertook her work placement was so impressed with her that they offered her a part-time job once her course had finished.



Case Study 3 - Impact of Access to HE on learners

Meet Alice*...

Alice had been working as a supervisor at Sainsburys for 10 years but felt she needed a more rewarding career, and wanted to become a teacher.

She volunteered at the school her children attended, but it was being made redundant from Sainsburys that gave her the push she needed.

Armed with an NVQ and one A Level, Alice applied to university for Teacher Training, but was advised she didn't have enough qualifications to get a place and they suggested she take an Access to HE Diploma, so she approached Mid Kent College as was offered a place, selecting English and history as her Access subjects.

When Alice began the Access course it had been a while since she'd been in a classroom. She found studying history easier than English, but she says that because she enjoyed the course, it made it interesting and kept her focused.

She was an enthusiastic student and even though she had to make childcare arrangements, she found the experience rewarding and exciting.

As the year progressed Alice achieved her Access qualification and decided she really wanted to go on to take a degree, and was offered a place on a Social Sciences degree at the University of Kent.

Alice admitted she took on the unofficial role of 'mum' to her degree group, along with becoming an Academic Peer Mentor at University, and helping out during Freshers week.

During her time at university, Alice developed a love of psychology, and on graduation, was accepted onto a Master's degree course at Canterbury Christ Church University. She graduated in January 2018 and is now working for a charity supporting adults with learning disabilities.

Alice says that if you were to tell her when she was working in Sainsbury's that she would be where she is now, she just wouldn't have believed you. She says if it hadn't been for her Access course, and specifically her history tutor, she would still be working in an unsatisfying career in retail, whereas now she loves her job which enables her to play to her skills, most of which she honed at college.

Alice says if you're thinking of taking an Access course, do it. She also believes you get out what you put in – she advises all new students to put in the effort to read and research, and observes that time management is key.

Alice says, "Don't pigeon-hole yourself – do your research as to what you could do, and look at a variety of ways to get your goals."

** Learner's name has been changed*



Case Study 4 - Impact of level 1 and 2 achievement on learners

Meet Jacob*...

Qualification achieved – Laser Level 2 Award in Progression

At 54, Jacob had a history of chronic addiction, and had previously suffered a long relapse and gone through detox and residential treatment, when he was offered the opportunity to attend a course called Working with Addiction and Recovery at PUSH Training Services.

Over the course of about a year, Jacob worked hard and achieved a total of 18 credits from units at both levels 1 and 2 in each of Understanding Addiction, Practical Skills, and Personal and Professional Development, after having achieved no formal qualifications before at all.

Jacob says the opportunity to attend the course came at just the right time for him, when he was out of detox, but with his self-esteem at an all-time low, and it offered him both structure and purpose back in his life.

When the course came to an end, Jacob says he actually had mixed feelings – it was great to be successful and know that he'd got through and achieved his certificate, however he'd loved the course so much that he felt quite sad it had come to an end!

Jacob says that without any doubt, taking the course was definitely a springboard to putting his life back on track including getting back into employment.

He is now very happy working as a Team Leader at Safer Communities and Portsmouth Housing First, where his role involves working with rough sleepers released from prison who have complex needs. The programme, developed in Scandinavia, is new to the UK and starts by providing a flat but also intensively supporting the individuals and addressing all the other issues they are facing, in order to support them back into society.

Jacob's advice for anyone considering taking a course like this, especially if they are feeling like they don't have the confidence and don't know where they're going in life, is to just give it a go, as it really can turn your life around, just like it did for him.

** Learner's name has been changed*



Case Study 5

Qualifications not generally offered in schools and colleges- cyber security

Gloria Opara from Cyber Engineers wanted to set up an organisation to help young people who were not getting life changing qualifications and careers from their previous experience. She offers opportunities to people who are currently NEETs and takes them through an intensive Cyber Security course in order to secure them a job on apprenticeships or with local employers.

“One young woman was 24 years when she joined our employment training programme incorporating Level 2 Cyber Security and Digital Forensics qualification after having tried unsuccessfully to secure suitable employment in technology. She was provided with a wide range of skills and learning opportunities during the programme, including free material from Cisco. None of this would be available for her through school or college as it is too niche and specialised.”

How have these made a real difference?

She now has the following qualifications as a result of our programme:

1. Certificate in Cyber Security and Digital Forensics;
2. Certificate of Completion of Cisco Cybersecurity Essentials;
3. Certificate of Completion – Cisco Cybersecurity Operations;
4. Award in Skills for Employability.

Next steps - what are the participant's future plans, what do they intend to do next?

The young lady mentioned above has now secured a role as a Junior Software Developer for Caseware UK Limited. In her own words “I am looking to further my career in Software Development, using my knowledge and understanding of Cyber Security to help me within my role. The company has suggested that they would be implementing a cloud based system, and that there may be a need for someone with Cyber Security Knowledge required within the role. In the future I also intend to complete the external exam for the Cisco CCNA Cybersecurity Operations, and see where that takes me”.

45% of the cohort are now in employment including an apprenticeship with Google and Cyber Engineer role with the MoD.

These learners would not be able to access these life-changing opportunities with traditional programmes or even through T-Levels. If these qualifications, with relatively low numbers of learners, have funding



removed, organisations like Cyber Engineers and the learners they help would be severely affected. The qualifications market must be diverse and flexible, to match what is required in local economies and what young people can cope with at different stages of their lives.



Cyber Security learners with the Lord Mayor of Chatham