



FAQs for the Consortia webpage

I'm preparing a gateway bid for a consortium that already delivers public services qualifications. Are there areas of expertise that won't be covered by the current staff?

The Diploma in Public Services is different to all existing provision so it is very important that you discuss the bid with the staff involved. They will need knowledge and skills outside of the current provision and you need to find out more about their background and what else they may be able to provide the consortium with. A key difference is that the Diploma in Public Services covers the non-uniformed aspects of the sector which includes areas such as local and central government, strategic health, museums and libraries, voluntary and third sector organisations and policy and research. Existing knowledge of the uniformed services (the armed and emergency services) will be useful but will not be sufficient to deliver the full breadth of this Diploma.

I teach a uniformed public services course at the moment. How is this Diploma different?

The Diploma in Public Services is significantly different to current public services qualifications. Not only in the fact that it covers the non-uniformed sector (areas such as local and central government, strategic health, museums and libraries, voluntary and third sector organisations and policy and research) in as much depth as the uniformed services but also in the style of delivery and the stretch and challenge it presents students with.

The Principal learning covers areas such as finding out about local communities, promoting and influencing public services, community engagement and partnership working and government and legislation. The Additional Specialist Learning (ASL) will give learners pathways to certain areas within the sector. As the public services is such a wide-ranging sector it was identified early on in the development process that the ASL would be the best vehicle for units relating to specific employment areas. For example, it is clear that a health and physical fitness/preparation unit is needed at both levels 1 and 2 for progression to some uniformed services and this will be one of the options available to students through specialist learning. There will also be specialist learning routes available into other areas like central and local government, housing, museums and libraries, customer services and business administration.

The Diploma encourages independent enquiry, research, self-management and using skills and the development of transferable skills. Team work, creative thinking and effective participation are also key to Diploma delivery. The learning must be applied and experiential, and successful consortia must show they have plans to support staff development in those areas.

Line of Learning networks are being established regionally by the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust (SSAT) for the Diploma in Public Services. These will enable consortia to share skills, knowledge and understanding on the important themes of this Diploma, and in areas such as personalised learning, assessment, generic learning skills, information advice



and guidance, working collaboratively and reflective practice. Each region will have input from the Diploma Development Partnership as well as being supported by an online forum.

Does a GCSE in maths and/or English cover the functional skills requirement?

No, GCSEs in these subjects are not proxy qualifications for functional skills.

How do I get employer contacts?

The Diploma Development Partnership (DDP) is working hard to establish employer champions who will help to raise awareness in their area of the sector and making sure their employers are ready to get involved with their local consortia. We currently have champions in the following sectors:

- David Bell, Permanent Secretary at DCSF
- Group Captain Gordon Bruce, RAF
- Jonathan Blackie, Government Office for the North East
- Lt Col. Nick Maher, MOD
- Mark Rowley, Surrey Police and
- Chris Mayer, HMCS

We are aiming to recruit champions from the housing and planning sector as well as prison and local government.

Your local Education and Business Partnership (EBP) will be available to help you with specialist knowledge and existing links to employers within your locality. You can find out what is available in your area and the local EBP contact details but going to the national website www.nebpn.org or by emailing office@nebpn.org. Working closely with your local 14-19 local authority team will also be important in making the necessary links between consortia and employers. It is important to remember that local authorities have a dual role with this Diploma; as a provider and an employer.

The strongest applications will be from consortia that have employers as full members of their consortium, with the local authority committed to fulfilling its role as a leading employer for the sector.

What occupational areas does the Diploma in Public Services cover?

There are seven employment sectors included within the scope of this Diploma: justice, defence, health, central & local government, business, administration & finance, asset management and general public sector management.

Within these services and areas students may choose to pursue careers as: court ushers, librarians, museum curators, police officers, environmental officers, fire fighters, housing officers, soldiers, customer advisors, administrators, Crown prosecution case workers, civil servants, market researchers to name but a few.



The strongest applications will demonstrate a holistic approach to delivery of all seven sectors.

You can find a list of possible employment areas on the consortia page of the Diploma in Public Services website, www.diplomainpublicservices.co.uk. This is not an exhaustive list but gives a good starting point to understanding the breadth of this line of learning. The careers area on the same website will be regularly updated to build links to sources of information and advice on careers in the public sector as well as case studies and DDP publications.

Is the consortium required to have experience in delivering all the subject areas of the Diploma in Public Services?

Evidence of previous delivery across all seven sectors covered by the Diploma is not expected. However, consortia should demonstrate robust, credible and comprehensive plans to identify and address gaps in the near future.

How will a consortium demonstrate that it has robust partnerships?

By providing evidence of experienced, wider partnerships and indicating the allocation of roles, responsibilities, accountabilities and leadership, thereby demonstrating the capacity to deliver across the full breadth of the Diploma in an integrated and holistic way.

Do consortia have to have any specialised facilities?

Whilst having any specialised facilities within a consortium would be an advantage, it is not essential. However, it would be expected that consortia would demonstrate set plans to provide access to relevant work related experiences. This could include simulated work environments or use of employer facilities.

Is a consortium required to provide work experience for all levels?

The minimum requirement is to provide work experience for level 3 learners in any occupational area. However, the strongest applications would provide work experience for all levels of learner in all the seven sectors of this Diploma.