



Introducing the matrix Standard

CDI Conference, Wednesday 19 June 2024

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Agenda

- Context
- The recent improvements to the **matrix** Standard
- The **matrix** Standard itself
- Benefits
- The Assessment Process Changes
- Sector Guides
- Assessment Arrangements
- Questions

Context

- **matrix** Standard is owned by Department for Education
- It is an umbrella Standard for information, advice and guidance that can be used in any sector
- There are 1500 accreditations
 - Work Based Learning 34%
 - Further, Higher Education and Training Providers 26%
 - Adult Community Learning 21%
 - Other 19%
 - UK based small presence internationally

Context cont..

The problems the Department are solving with Providers

- Targeting the right learner groups
- Providing quality information, advice and guidance to learners at the outset
- Placing the right learner on the right programme
- Clarifying goals and expectations of learners
- Keeping the learners 'onboard' during programmes
- Supporting learners to appropriate destinations
- Measuring outcomes and impact, to improve the system.

All these aspects are seen as providing good value for the economy through better learner retention and progression that sits outside the traditional teaching model.

Context cont.

- **For the National Careers Service**

- At the heart of this is the provision of high-quality information, advice and guidance. The Government required an appropriate standard that could be used to quality assure the network.

- **For all organisations**

- The Department wants a World Class standard for information, advice and guidance which can be used by any organisation (or individual) that provides IAG.
- This enhances the Standard through the identification of good practice in all sectors.
- Today we work in Housing Associations, Money Advice Settings, Charities, Health Advice, DWP Provision

Purpose of the matrix Standard

- Ensuring high-quality IAG is provided to all recipients to enable them to reach their potential
 - It's based on best practice
 - 3-year assessment cycle with annual checks
 - Assessment includes - recipients (clients), staff, managers and partners
 - Verbal evidence is key
 - Requires measurement and achievement of outcomes and continuous improvement



- Unleashing Potential – to support progression in employment, careers and life!
- Building self-confidence – to make the right steps.
- Making a difference – by understanding how lives can be improved and supporting progress.
- Creating a better service – here to help you make IAG better

Review of the matrix Standard

- 10 years old in its previous form, DfE wanted to ensure that it remained at leading edge of best practice, and aligned with other areas of policy including Ofsted and Gatsby
- Key Steps to update the Standard
 - Executive Group
 - Advisers from a wide range of stakeholders
 - Literature Review
 - Piloting
 - Final Version
- Launched on 16th May 2023

Key improvements to the matrix Standard



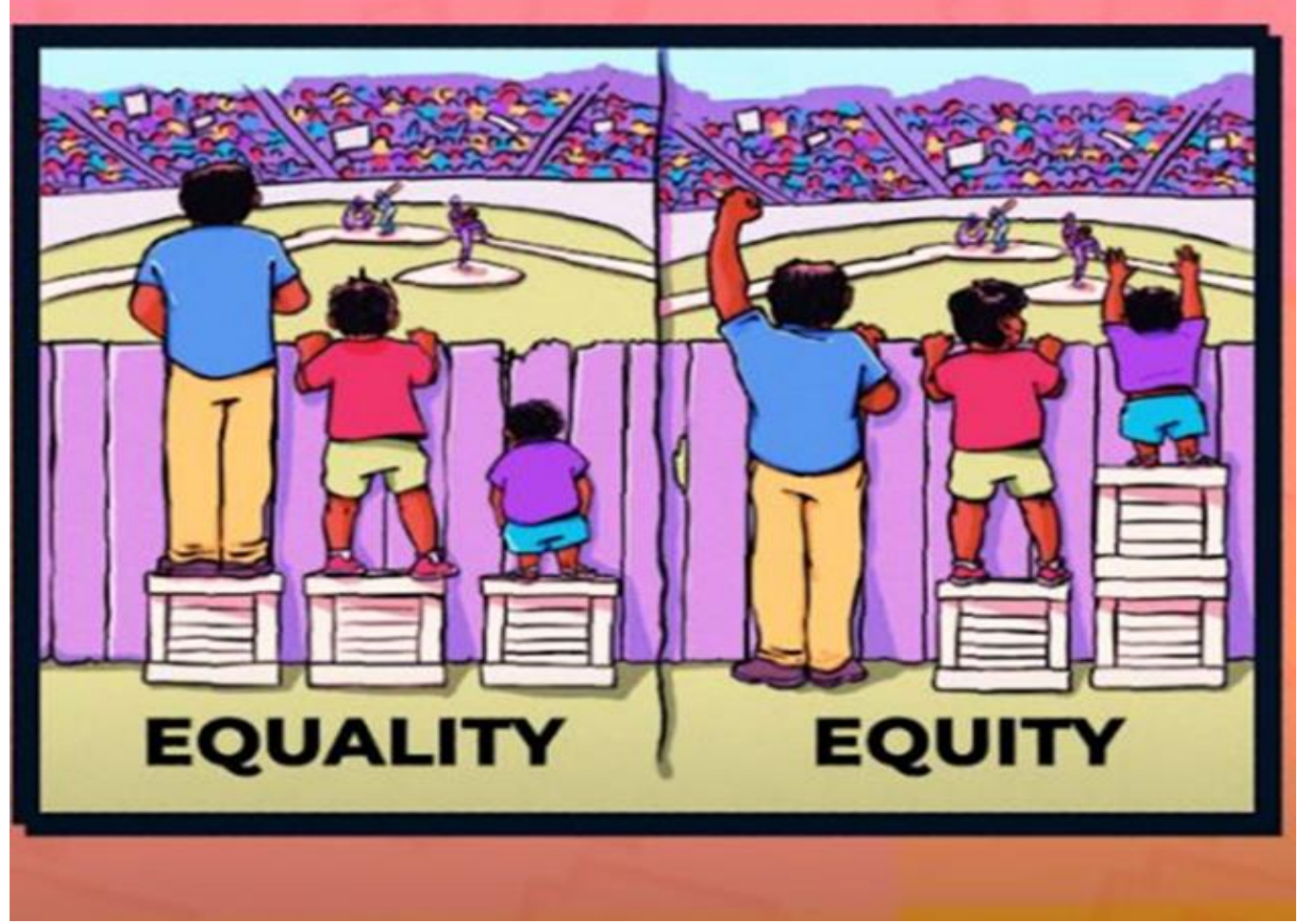
- The Standard has been aligned with other frameworks
- Overlaps have been removed
- Linkages between the elements and the assessment criteria have been clarified
- Leadership, is now embedded throughout the Standard
- Since the Standard was last reviewed there has been a greater recognition given to safeguarding, wellbeing and inclusion

Key improvements to the matrix Standard



- The number of assessment criteria in the Standard are broadly the same
- Additional guidance provided
- The Standard now acknowledges the distance recipients of the service have travelled
- Terminology

matrix Standard updated Terminology



7 Elements of the matrix Standard



matrix Standard latest requirements

- New requirements:
 - **Purpose**
 - (1.4) A culture of wellbeing exists
 - **Delivery**
 - (4.2) The individual needs of those receiving IAG are explored and established
 - (4.6) Actions are monitored, and further support provided **as appropriate**

Benefits

- The Standard is more logical to follow with a plan, do, review structure
- making navigation and explanation of the Standard easier
- Duplication has been removed and themes have been placed together making the Standard easier to work with
- It explicitly requires the organisation to define the IAG service that it delivers
- Sector guides showcase what 'good' looks like in different settings
- Organisations are required to gather a sound evidence base to demonstrate that the approaches being followed are based on good practice

Benefits

- The Standard now explicitly covers a range of new best practice areas which includes:
 - Wellbeing
 - Safeguarding
 - Data protection
 - The skills and competence of the IAG staff
 - Distance travelled
 - Measurement of both hard and soft outcomes
- New guidance links the Standard to the Gatsby Benchmarks and Ofsted Education Inspection Framework providing a cohesive approach for organisations to adopt good practice
- The annual Continuous Improvement Check (CIC) has been adapted to better support not only a reflective discussion but a forward-looking one

Guides

- **Further Education Guide** - Working with Gatsby Foundation, CDI and Careers and Enterprise Company a guide for FE will be available.
- **HE Guide** – Working with The Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services (AGCAS) a guide that shows how to apply the **matrix** Standard in Higher Education.
- **National Careers Service** – The National Careers Service guide which last updated in 2021 to reflect the new Standard.
- **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)**- A new guide is in production which looks at the application of the Standard in a SEND environment.
- **Adult Community Education** – Developed with HOLEX and the sector
- **Employability Guide** – The current guide is called ‘Welfare to Work’ this is being updated to an ‘Employability Guide’ we are working with the Institute of Employability Professional’s to produce this guide.
- **Digital Guide** – A new guide will demonstrate how to apply the Standard in a fully digital or blended delivery model.
- **The Ofsted Touchpoints** – We commissioned a consultant former inspector to work with Ofsted to produce a guide which shows the touchpoints the matrix Standard has with the inspection framework.
- **The Gatsby Touchpoints Document** – Partnering with the Gatsby Foundation, CDI and Careers and Enterprise Company
- **General Guide**

Assessment Process

- Contact the **matrix** Standard team
- Application Form
- Assessor Allocated
- Scope
- Information Request
- Assessment Planning
- Assessment – Evidence Gathering
- Feedback and Report

Assessment Process

- Hybrid Approach using technology
The adoption of technology to support how assessments are conducted is providing added benefits making it is easier to schedule appointments and connect with a range of different sites
- New Guidelines for assessing large multi-sited colleges and National Careers Service
- Finally, the latest **matrix** Standard is an evolution not a revolution

Support Available

- Contact The Growth Company directly one to one
- Free resources on the website
- Download the Standard and sector Guides
- Paid for Information Session with your Assessor
- Bespoke Workshops and Advice as required e.g. Readiness Check

Further Information

- Visit this website – www.matrixStandard.com
- Or email - matrixStandard@growthco.uk

Questions

