



South West Region

Newsletter...

Use of RARPA on non-accredited Courses



During the recent OFSTED inspection much discussion was had by the inspectors with regard to the Associations use of **RARPA**.

(**R**ecognising **A**nd **R**ecording **P**rogress and **A**chievement)

This process is essential to the continuation of our **non accredited provision** and is of such importance that one OFSTED inspector was talking of us using the current skills for life (SfL) model. Now for those of you that do not teach SfL I can inform you that it is a hugely involved and complex procedure of mapping individual learning goals to a pre determined curriculum, individual assessment each session of a student's progress towards these goals along with separate and individual learning plans for each student. Our SfL tutors have a huge workload and do a great job under the circumstances. They are also observed every year for their sins!

Now clearly this system would not be of benefit to all our courses and tutors and would be far more burdensome than the current RARPA that we use. The fact that OFSTED were even thinking in this direction should serve us as an indication of what might be if we are all not careful.

It is therefore obvious that we need to fully embrace our current RARPA system and



ensure its implementation on current courses and ones for next academic year. The Exeter office will be checking learning outcomes forms so as to try to ensure we are undertaking this process in a full and comprehensive manner.

RARPA is good practice!

There are some points that you need to consider:

- That course aims are clearly stated.
- There is some initial assessment of the learners starting point and needs.
- Learning outcomes are challenging and students can include their own.
- Progress is checked against outcomes and feedback is given.
- There is final recognition and recording of progress and celebration of achievement.

Thanks for all your hard work this academic year and good luck for the next.

John Young: SW Curriculum Manager

All images taken from the nice RARPA document 2008