**Apprentice / Employer Centre Update – 26/02/2021**

**Covid-19**

Further to the Prime Minister’s announcements on Monday to set out the ‘Roadmap’ for easing Covid restrictions, we have received additional guidance from the ESFA on how these impact on post-16 learning and when a return to on site learning can take place.

In accordance with this guidance, we have taken the decision to continue with remote training delivery until Easter. Students will still be able to attend the training centre to sit examinations. The new guidance states that ‘For Independent Training Providers (ITPs) and Adult Community Learning providers (ACLPs) home testing will be available for staff and students from the end of March.’ We are optimistic that we will be able to resume some class attendance after Easter and introduce a programme of testing of staff and apprentices to ensure those who attend classes can do so safely.

**Staffing**

Lauren Peneveyre, our office manager at Stockport is leaving LITE Ltd at the end of March. We wish her every success in her future career. We are currently looking to recruit an administrator / office manager at our Stockport centre.

**OSCE’s**

Students develop their practical skills and prepare for the End point assessment (For those on new standards) and OSCE’s primarily at work. We usually offer practical workshops for students preparing for their OSCE’s. This has clearly been limited due to being unable to run practical sessions. We ask clinical coaches to support students in preparation for the OSCE’s. Students may be taking OSCE’s through City and Guilds or VetSkill and the tasks do vary. If any clinical coach would like guidance on the tasks or support in preparing your student, for End point assessment or OSCE’s please do get in touch with us.

**Learner Survey**

We have recently conducted a learner survey to gain feedback from our apprentices on their experiences in training. We would like to thank the 102 apprentices (64%) who responded to the survey. The feedback received is very positive overall with every question receiving a rating of good or outstanding overall (3.5-5 on a 5 point scale). The overall rating of LITE as a training provider was 4.62.

The most positive feedback related to:

* The quality of teaching and learning in class sessions (4,82)
* The knowledge and expertise of Tutors / trainers (4.73)
* The quality of teaching and learning in class sessions (4.52)
* The introduction and induction to the apprenticeship (4.52)
* The overall quality of teaching and learning on apprenticeships (4.49)
* Our responsiveness to the Covid-19 Pandemic (4.43)
* The personal support and guidance we provide (4.41)
* The quality of teaching and learning in remote classes (Zoom) 4.2

The results have also identified some aspects where improvements could be made.

* The use of the VLE (Moodle) as a learning tool. (3.5)
* Feedback received following external examinations (3.66)
* Our use of social media / Facebook groups for communication and information. (3.68)
* How learning and progress has been maintained during the Covid – 19 Pandemic (3.68)

The full results are available here:

 [https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-BV8XFRTK9/](%20https%3A/www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-BV8XFRTK9/)

We will be putting an action plan in place to identify areas of improvement following these results.

**Training Practice questionnaire**

We have recently launched a Training Practice survey to obtain feedback from clinical coaches and managers in veterinary practices. To date we have received 37 responses. We would encourage any clinical coach or training manager who has not done so to complete the questionnaire. If you have not received the invitation to respond please do let us know and we will send you the link.

**Monthly Training Record of Review (MTAR’s)**

All apprentices are aware of the requirement to complete MTAR’s every month. This logs the 20% ‘Off the job’ training requirement and the review with the clinical coach. For apprentices on the VetSkill qualification the Off the Job element can be logged on OneFile. We have a number of apprentices who are behind in submitting this evidence. Please be aware that any apprentice who cannot demonstrate that the 20% Off the job training requirement has been met will be unable to sit their end Point Assessment and / or OSCEs.

**Veterinary nurse ‘Records of Training’**

As learners progress through training, it is a requirement of the regulatory body that all students must complete the RCVS record of training. We have been finding some students leave this to the last minute. I would like to remind all learners that it is their responsibility to ensure these records are maintained up to date and to ask clinical coaches to support them to ensure the records of time in practice are correct.