

Subcontracting Policy



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Subcontracting Policy



WEBS TRAINING LIMITED

Date: April 2015

Purpose of Policy: to define the basis on which any subcontracting arrangements will be managed. Where appropriate, Webs Training will contract with other parties to deliver programmes and activities funded by the government through its funding bodies. The organisation with which it contracts will be subject to the requirements set out in this policy.

Approved by: Sammy Jones (Managing Director)

Responsibility for Updates: Sammy Jones /Lorraine Jameson (Head of Business & Quality Assurance)

Policy applies to: Learners, Parents, Staff, Board members, Referral Agencies, other organisations

Version no: 1

Proposed Date of Review: May 2016

Subcontracting Policy

Introduction

The management of subcontractors will be based upon the application of the risk principle. All subcontractors will be risk assessed in relation to the performance standards set in the quality framework. Information about the performance standards can be obtained from the Webs Training. All subcontractors will have a risk rating. This rating will determine the frequency and scope of the quality audits undertaken by Webs Training staff.

Due Diligence

Subcontractors will supply Webs Training with all relevant information requested to protect learners and to ensure the subcontractor is a legally, financially and educationally sound organisation, prior to a contract being signed.

Performance Data

Subcontractors will provide a range of data, at the frequencies specified in the contract at Schedules 1-4. Should Subcontractors fail to deliver the data consistently, Webs Training will impose financial penalties.

Delivery Quality

Subcontractors will ensure that all learners are given inductions to their courses or programme. The induction given must be consistent with the standards specified in Webs Training guidance on the management and delivery of learner inductions.

All courses should include an initial assessment process that enables learners and staff to identify what they want to achieve from the course. This process should ensure that:

- Learners have the necessary aptitudes, attributes and abilities to help them successfully complete the courses for which they are applying.
- Any learning support needs are accurately identified.
- Learners have the information they need to help them make well informed judgements about the relevance of their courses to their short and longer term employment and learning goals.

Any identified support needs will be fed back to Webs Training, who will approve the additional support and any extra cost involved. Subcontractors must have access to appropriate learner support arrangements.

Where appropriate the assessment should also gather necessary information about health and medical records, previous relevant experience, depending on the nature of the course itself and specifically where the nature of the course presents significant health and safety issues. Webs Training Health & Safety policy and risk assessments must be adhered to.

Subcontracting Policy

Tutors must maintain learner progress records at an appropriate level of detail, in relation to the context and length of the course or programme. Webs Training Quality documents provide the benchmark for the detail of records required.

All courses will have their content defined within a scheme of work and their sessions will be planned using an appropriate lesson/session plan. Both these should be consistent with the requirements defined in Webs Training Quality documents.

Requirements in relation to observation of teaching and learning are defined in Webs Training Quality documents.

Subcontractors will register their learners with the appropriate examination boards within agreed timescales and abide by awarding body regulations. Subcontractors will maintain assessment and verification, and/or moderation arrangements that are consistent with the requirements of the awarding bodies, examination boards and the Sector Skills Councils, where the latter make recommendations regarding assessment and verification arrangements.

Subcontractors must ensure that appropriate staff attend Webs Training best practice events and any training organised by Webs Training which has been put in place to address issues identified in quality or compliance post-audit action plans. Failure to attend such events will result in the organisation's risk assessment rating being increased. This action is likely to increase the frequency of quality and/or compliance audits undertaken. Other penalties may also be applied.

“Appropriate staff” are normally defined as individuals who have relevant managerial authority and responsibility for the subject being addressed through the training. The exception to this definition will be where training is designed for practitioners.

Subcontractors will ensure that they maintain effective employer engagement. Employer engagement processes must be consistent with the standards specified in Webs Training guidance on the management and delivery of learner inductions.

Health & Safety

Subcontractors must provide details on request to Webs Training, of how they ensure that facilities used to deliver learning meet all Health & Safety regulatory and legislative requirements, including where required specific health & safety reports, audits and risk assessments.

Subcontractor tutors must be capable of and must undertake activity and facility risk assessments at a frequency consistent with the type of activity and the nature of the facility being used.

Subcontracting Policy

Subcontractors must ensure that appropriate staff attend Webs Training best practice events and any training organised by Webs Training which has been put in place to address issues identified in quality or compliance post-audit action plans relating to Health & Safety. Failure to attend such events will result in the organisation's risk assessment rating being increased. This action is likely to increase the frequency of quality and/or compliance audits undertaken. Other penalties may also be applied.

“Appropriate staff” in this instance are normally defined as individuals who have relevant managerial authority and responsibility for Health & Safety.

Information, Advice and Guidance

Subcontractors will be required to demonstrate that they provide information, advice and guidance (IAG) at an appropriate range of venues and through a range of media, including the internet, to a standard consistent with that offered by Webs Training. IAG should include:

- Initial advice and guidance to inform the learner's choice of programme or course
- On programme advice and guidance to help learners:
 - Develop ideas for future learning or employment
 - Who have personal issues such as substance misuse, housing problems, pregnancy etc, identify and make contact with relevant organisations
 - Make specific choices about future learning or employment.

Facilities and Resources

All facilities and resources used must be “fit for purpose” and comply with all current Health & Safety legislation.

Self-Assessment

All subcontractors will be required to undertake a self-assessment process in relation to the Common Inspection Framework and produce a SAR which clearly and specifically identifies and evaluates the courses and programmes which they are contracted to deliver. The SAR and resulting action plan must be submitted as specified in the contract.

Service Standards

All subcontractors will be required to demonstrate how they will meet the Webs Training service standards in relation to providing a high quality service at all points of a learner's journey and how they will communicate these standards to learners.

Subcontracting Policy

Webs Training staff will support those subcontractors who require further development to reach the required standard in the expectation that subcontractor staff will subsequently maintain this standard.

Safeguarding

Subcontractors will be required to have in place safeguarding arrangements which are consistent with the standards specified in the guidance documentation provided by Webs Training.

Recruitment Profiles and Delivery Locations

Subcontractors may be required to ensure that programmes are delivered in specific localities, depending upon the nature of the contract. They may be required to recruit learners from a specific profile e.g. age, ethnicity, gender, disability, NEET.

Audit Procedures

Webs Training will conduct audits of subcontractors as specified in the Contract Schedules annex 2.

Webs Training will provide reasonable advance notice in writing of proposed visits to the subcontractor of the scope and date of each audit.

Post-audit action plans will be produced where necessary and Subcontractors will be supported through training and mentoring to achieve the aims set out in the action plans. Subcontractors who consistently fail to attend training or engage in the mentoring scheme will be financially penalised.

Policy and Procedures

Subcontractors will be required to demonstrate that they have robust quality audit arrangements, consistent with the requirements related to the audit activities undertaken by Webs Training as specified above.

They will be required to maintain, review and update policies and procedures in line with national legislation and as appropriate to the nature of their contract in the following areas:

- Health & Safety
- Equality & Diversity
- Safeguarding
- Sustainability
- Quality Assurance, including performance monitoring and development of:
 - Teaching practice
 - Initial assessment
 - Additional learning support
 - Information, advice and guidance
 - Self-assessment

Subcontracting Policy

- Service standards

Performance management information

Data protection

Staff recruitment and development

Financial management

Contract Monitoring and Review

Subcontractor performance will be monitored on an ongoing basis. Feedback on performance will be provided in writing, by phone or e-mail. The methods used will depend upon the circumstances at any point in time. Feedback will also be provided at periodic contract performance review meetings. The frequency of these meetings will depend upon the performance of the subcontractor.

Where performance falls below the standard required, subcontractors will be issued with a notice to improve. Support will be provided to help subcontractors develop and enhance the quality of their delivery. If a subcontractor fails to meet the necessary improvements within the agreed timescales, it may be necessary to implement contract termination procedures.

Contract Termination

Webs Training will work with its Subcontractors to ensure that all learners receive high quality, safe and inspiring training, with all the necessary support for individuals to achieve their aims and progress on to employment.

Should a Subcontractor consistently fail to improve any element of its performance which is deemed to be unsatisfactory or inadequate, or consistently fail to engage in training or with the quality support systems which are in place, Webs Training reserves the right to terminate the contract to protect the learners.

If contract termination procedures are implemented, subcontractors are contractually required to co-operate fully with this process. Failure to comply with the requirements will result in significant penalties.