

2.2 Apprenticeship stakeholders and partnerships

The reference to stakeholders relevant to the development of an apprenticeship programme include:

- a) Prospective employers of apprentices
- b) Practitioners in the occupation concerned
- c) Providers of education and training services
- d) Occupational associations
- e) Occupational regulators
- f) State organisations responsible for funding and regulating apprenticeships

- g) Consortia established to develop apprenticeships
- h) And, not least, the prospective apprentices themselves

2.2.1 Primary stakeholder roles in the provision of apprenticeship programmes

Within the broader stakeholder groups, some stakeholders will hold primary roles in the provision of **apprenticeship programmes**.

- 1) Employers of apprentices
- 2) The Coordinating Provider
- 3) Collaborating providers including off-the-job providers
- 4) Apprentices

The Coordinating Provider role can be fulfilled by a **relevant or linked provider** (as defined in section 2 of the 2012 Act).

A Coordinating Provider will be an entity for whom education and training is a primary function though not necessarily its only function.

External to, and supportive of, these primary partners are a variety of other entities, with distinctive roles and with which the primary partners will interact.

These guidelines seek to lay out, in clear terms, the fundamental relationships between these four primary roles. These relationships are necessary to form the foundation for development, maintenance and provision of stable apprenticeship programmes leading to awards on the National Framework of Qualifications. These guidelines will include an outline of structures considered necessary for the stable implementation of both new and existing apprenticeship programmes.

2.2.2 Stakeholders involved in ensuring the apprenticeship programme meets the requirements of the occupation

It is essential that the apprenticeship programme is led by, conforms to, and evolves with, the requirements of the occupation. The provider of the apprenticeship programme has a responsibility to ensure this but those requirements are determined by entities such as: employers, occupational associations, and any occupational regulators that may not be directly involved in the provision.

In principle, it is possible for the key stakeholders in a particular occupation to form an entity that could become a Coordinating Provider. This arrangement is likely to be atypical. Where the provider of an apprenticeship programme does not comprise all the key stakeholders, the Coordinating Provider will need to find other ways to maintain close links with those key stakeholders (2.3) to ensure that the apprenticeship programme meets the requirements of the occupation.

There are different ways in which this might be accomplished. One tenable

approach is outlined within this guideline as an indicative example (Appendix 2). This involves the establishment of a **Consortium Steering Group (CSG)** whose membership and functions are set out in Appendix 2.