

9 OTHER PARTIES INVOLVED IN EDUCATION AND TRAINING

This section refers to other parties with which a voluntary provider is involved. The quality assurance procedures established by voluntary providers in respect of collaboration with other providers or parties should have regard to the overall suite of education and training provision offered by those other partners or providers and any other parties with whom the voluntary provider is engaged.

Where a voluntary provider organises or procures a programme which is provided in whole or in part by another provider, the voluntary provider must establish and agree appropriate QA procedures with that provider.

This section refers to the quality assurance of collaborations with other providers. Voluntary providers must have procedures in place to approve collaboration arrangements with other providers and to monitor and review the effectiveness of those arrangements. Providers should apply due diligence and be aware of any reputational risk to themselves and the sector and /or the national qualifications system associated with particular prospective providers, awarding bodies and other third parties with whom they are considering entering into collaboration arrangements.

These quality assurance arrangements in respect of any collaborative provision must comply with the quality assurance requirements underpinning the QQI Policy for Collaborative Programmes, Transnational Provision and Joint Awards 2012.

The following is a summary of indicative areas that voluntary providers should consider before determining whether to enter into a collaborative arrangement with another provider:

Legal, reputation and compliance requirements

- Is the provider a legal entity, with education and training as a principal function?
 - Is the legal entity a clearly identified legal person, having rights and responsibilities under law?
- Has the provider clearly specified its dependencies, collaborations, obligations, parent organisations, and subsidiaries?
- Has the provider declared any third-party relationships and partnerships?
- Does the provider comply with applicable regulations and legislation in all jurisdictions in which it operates?
- Is the provider in good standing in the qualifications systems and education and training systems in any jurisdictions in which it operates (or in which its parents or subsidiaries operate) or enrolls learners, or in which it has arrangements with awarding bodies, quality assurance agencies, qualifications authorities, ministries of education and training, professional bodies and regulators?

Resource, governance and structural requirements

- Is the provider stable and in good financial standing?
- Does the provider have a reasonable business case for sustainable provision?
- Does the provider have fit-for-purpose governance, management and decision-making structures?
- Does the provider have arrangements for providing required information to the voluntary provider?
- Does the provider have the capacity to deliver education and training as demonstrated through experience and a track record in providing education and training programmes?
- Does the provider have sufficient resources, as well as corporate, structural and internal quality assurance systems in place, to sustainably provide education and training programmes?

Programme development and provision requirements

- Does the provider have a fit-for-purpose and stable complement of education and training staff?
- Does the provider have fit-for-purpose premises, facilities and resources?
- Does the provider have structures and resources to underpin fair and consistent assessment of learner achievement?
- Does the provider have arrangements for the protection of enrolled learners?

Collaboration on provision will be considered as part of the QQI programme validation process for programmes leading to QQI awards.