Steven Lavery

SER – A users perspective



About Me...

- 28 Years lecturing
- Course Director for HND Computing/Software Engineering
- Foundation Degree 1999
- Head of School/Department since 2002
- SER since 1996



eti IQ:RS Strategy...<u>IQ:RS</u>

The key objectives of the strategy are to:

• develop and embed a culture of self-improvement that will ensure all providers of further education and work-based learning are responsive fully to the needs of learners, employers and the wider community and commit to, and achieve, continuous self-improvement and excellence;

• assist in the development of clear and coherent systems of support to ensure that inspection findings are addressed effectively and efficiently, and that innovative and good practice is identified and shared; and

• develop strong and innovative leadership and management at all levels of the further education and work-based learning system.



Purpose of SER Process...

- To involve all members of the team in the reflective review
- To review the quality of the course that the team offers to learners
- To improve the quality of the team's teaching and learning
- To focus the team's activities to improve the learners' experiences



Importance ...

- All completed SERs and QI Plans help inform the Whole College SER and QI Plan
- SERs and QI Plans also help to plan, monitor and review what is happening within the College/Dept/Team







Importance ...

- Two key parts to the document:
 - Self Evaluation Report (SER)
 - Quality Improvement Plan (QIP)
- These are the first documents that supervisory bodies will look at when they carry out an inspection
- The team should have ownership of the documents
- The document is completed by all teams within the College support and curriculum



How the SER Process Works...

- Self evaluation is about the team
- Learners should be the team's central focus
- think...
 - what does the team do?
 - what impact have the team's actions had on learners?
 - what has gone well? strengths
 - what has not gone so well? areas for improvement



Evidence...

Strengths must have evidence to support ...

Examples of evidence include:

- course data
- student/employer/parent/school/feedback
- VLE content
- Individual Learning Programmes
- minutes of team meetings
- EV/EE Reports
- Inspectorate Reports



Evidence (Data)...



Foundation Degree in Sport Exercise and Fitness



SER....Language

Use evaluative words:

- 'outstanding'
- 'very good'
- 'good'
- 'satisfactory'
- 'inadequate'
- 'poor'

- 'modest'
- 'nearly all'
- 'most'
- 'a majority'
- 'significant minority'
- 'a small number'





Self Evaluation Grades – to be input onto the front page of the document after you have filled in everything else:

- Grade 1 Outstanding
- Grade 2 Very Good
- Grade 3 Good
- Grade 4 Satisfactory
- Grade 5 Inadequate
- Grade 6 Poor



Quality Improvement Plan ...

From the **areas for improvement** the QI Plan is formed...

- The QI Plan is the most important part of the document
- Prioritise areas for improvement as identified in your SER then set very clear **objectives**
- Actions are what you need to do to meet each objective and must be SMART
- There must be very clear responsibility within the team for each action



SMART ...

- Be specific about what your team wants to do i.e. objectives and actions should be very clear
- Each action should be **measurable** i.e. set a number or % that can be measured this will help your team see if it was reached or not
- Each objective and action should be achievable and realistic there is no point setting something your team will never be able to do
- Give a realistic date/timescale when the actions and overall objective will be completed



Example of QIP for Objective 1:

No	Objective /Target	Actions	Evidence Objective / Target / action has been achieved	Key Staff Responsible	Timescale
1	Improve whole course retention by 10%	Obtain regular learner feedback regarding the programme	 Learner unit/module feedback requested for 75% of units/modules Learner feedback requested for 100% of educational visits and guest speakers 	All team members	1 st Oct 1 st Feb
		Enhance learner tracking sheets	•Learner tracking updated once per week for 100% of learners	All team members	1 st Nov
		Review course data at each team meeting	•Course data reviewed at 100% of team meetings with actions put in place to address concerns	All team members	Every team meeting
		Reread Retention Strategy	•Minutes of 1 team meeting highlight discussion of Retention Strategy	All team members	1 st Nov



Challenges ...

- "Buy in"
- Evidence needs to be gathered during the year teams need lead time
- Timing (of the SER completion)
- Acceptance of own responsibilities not a management bashing or whinging exercise
- Standardisation of grading
- Culture change- following the plan (QIP)



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