



Further Education College Clerk Development and Training Programme Resource Pack

Module 7: Collaboration and Partnerships Executive Summary

The **purpose** of this module is to give clerks an overview of the types of partnerships and collaborative arrangements that are possible in the further education (FE) sector.

Policy and practice in this area are changing fast, so the module covers descriptions of different types of partnerships and collaborations, different types of developments with other parts of the education sector, and links to useful documents and tools to help governing bodies if they are reviewing their business models.

Section 1 provides a brief overview of current policy and government agendas. The changes in the Education Act 2011 have given greater freedom to colleges to use a variety of business and governance models to suit their particular needs. The reduction in bureaucracy and release from Secretary of State control enables a more dynamic approach to business, and firmly puts decisions and accountability in the hands of the governing body. It also emphasises the importance of local enterprise partnerships (LEPs) and the relations to colleges' development.

Section 2 gives definitions and types of partnerships and collaborative relationships that currently exist and helps you identify the current relationships within your own college. It also links to the Structure and Prospects Appraisal guidance which was recently issued by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) to help colleges considering changes to their business model.

Section 3 gives you some key strategic questions to review to help think through what potential your college has for developing further partnerships; either across the education sector, with private training companies, or with employers and employer representative groups.