

Moderation Feedback – Visiting - 2005

Assessment Panel:

Access

Qualification area

**Subject(s) and Level(s)
included in this report**

Access 1 & 2

General comments on moderation activity

This session, moderation activity has been focused on a postal event in May, carried out by the Senior Moderator and requests from centres for Development visits.

This session, there were fifteen development visits carried out by the team of Moderators. These were mainly in the mainstream school sector, although both Special schools and Further Education centres were included. There was a rise in the number of requests for presentations/talks to a wider audience, many centres extending this to staff in local authority areas. These events were well organised and included an update on Access provision, its implementation, quality assurance and the role of the moderator. Workshops and/or discussions followed which enabled staff to talk about the issues that they had encountered. It was felt that this was a good way to involve all staff delivering Access and cover topics that were requested.

Other Development visits focused on a department within a centre examining all subjects that they were presenting or for some, looking at a particular subject area in more depth, for example English and Social Studies. The range of subjects discussed was wide and centres were all keen to extend their provision and provide continuity and progression. Centres felt that the provision at Access level had improved.

The candidates discussed had a wide range of additional support needs. The evidence that was discussed was of a high standard with candidates performing well.

Specific issues identified

Issues were:

- Centres were concerned that many candidates were taking longer to complete the unit than the notional 40 hours.
- Did candidates have enough evidence to meet standards?
- How much support should assessors give candidates – was it too much or too little?
- Centres were unsure when NABs required Prior Moderation
- Internal moderation systems were not always evident.
- Requests for continued development of Network Support System

Feedback to centres

On the whole the centres that requested visits were implementing a wide range of Access units to a high standard and the quality of candidates work was very good. Continuity and progression of units was evident in many cases.

Many centres had used various ways of assessing candidates such as: making audio recordings; taking photographs; and videos. These approaches illustrated candidates enjoying their experiences of the unit.

Staff within centres were anxious that they were following standards and operational guidelines. The moderators were able to reassure centres and provide further advice on specific subjects/units. If NABs have been altered considerably it is recommended that centres gain Prior Moderation for altered instruments of assessment.

The implementation of a rigorous Internal Moderation system for all centres would assist staff in achieving a consistent standard of assessment procedures and ensure high quality. It would also give staff an opportunity to discuss standards and the interpretation of unit specifications. Access provision covers a wide range of subject areas and staff implementing units can feel isolated, it is therefore vital that links are made with other deliverers.