

Update on the current validation process

Revalidation

There are currently 6 institutions who have been validated for 3 years and who should be due to submit their full revalidation application for the May round. As the evaluation of the pilot is about to be completed and is likely to recommend some change or improvement to the current process, we did not think that we should ask these institutions to submit a full application until we know what those recommendations are. If we were to undertake a full revalidation it would mean that these institutions would be validated via the current Toolkit for another 3 years. We have therefore requested that the institutions submit another annual validation until the results of the evaluation have been published and the DSSG have had time to consider the pilots next steps.

There are 10 institutions that are due to submit their full revalidation in November. As the future of the pilot will depend again on the results of the evaluation and the DSSG's discussions we have may have to consider whether we ask these institutions to submit a six month interim self evaluation or offer a 6 month extension to the 3 year period. **The DSSG are asked to discuss these options.**

Annual Confirmation

For the 11 institutions who are due in May to undertake their first or second annual reconfirmation form the process has remained the same. This means that we have invited them to undertake the normal self evaluation process.

There will be 3 institutions that are due to submit a first or second annual reconfirmation in November. Again depending on the results of the evaluation and the DSSG's discussions we may have to ask these institutions to submit a six month interim self evaluation or extend the period by 6 months. **The DSSG are asked to discuss these options.**

Institutions on Hold

There are 5 institutions whose validation is currently on hold, mainly as a result of staffing changes. We have written out to these institutions to provide them with the opportunity to reconsider their decision. If they wish to change their status they have been requested to undertake an annual self evaluation in which they must clearly demonstrate how they are now providing the same level of service for which they were originally validated to undertake. If the institutions decide not to change their status then they will be asked to submit a full validation application if the evaluation of the pilot and the DSSG recommend the continuation of the Toolkit.

Full Validation

Finally there are 26 institutions that are not validated under the Toolkit. Of these 4 institutions have previously applied to become validated but were asked to provide a resubmission at the next validation round. We felt that as these institutions have already had feedback using the current Toolkit and have been preparing to resubmit an application under the pilot then we should allow them the choice of two options:

1. the opportunity to submit a full application under the pilot with the understanding that they may have to provide some additional information at a

later date if the pilot becomes rolled out and any changes are made to the Toolkit as a result of the pilot; alternatively

2. the institution could wait until the results of the evaluation are known and the DSSG have decided upon the next steps. This option would allow them resubmit under any new arrangements should the toolkit be continued, to ensure that all institutions are being considered under the same criteria and condition.

However for the remaining 22 institutions we have written out to each of them to inform them that as the pilot's evaluation is about to be completed we will be deferring any potential invitation to participate in Toolkit until the DSSG has discussed the Toolkit's future.