

FE Associates 2024 - 2025 Expert Insight – Specialist Support

Quality Improvement Services



Trusted and Sector Leading We are Further Education and Skills specialists

As a specialist provider of expert insight and specialist support to the further education and skills sector, we recognise the importance of securing quality improvement services that have a direct impact on organisational performance. Each year, our Quality Improvement Services team works with a large number of providers across the FE and Skills sector, including FE Colleges, Independent Training Providers, Sixth Form Colleges, Specialist colleges, Universities and Adult and Community Learning organisations.

With a team of over forty-five expert consultants, we are ideally placed to deliver an extensive range of quality improvement services, from individual support to large-scale multi-site projects. We have a well-established track record in supporting providers to develop their teams to drive enhanced quality outcomes, prepare for inspections and external reviews, develop high-impact self-assessment and quality improvement plans and with joint curriculum reviews across all provision types in all FE and Skills settings. We pride ourselves on getting to know our clients; we provide bespoke solutions and your satisfaction and success is central to the way we work.

Raising Standards

Improving Performance

Our philosophy is to not simply judge the quality of your organisation, but to mentor, guide and empower your staff so they have the necessary skills and confidence to drive rapid improvement.



Empower

What Makes us Different?

- We work on the basis of no two providers being the same. We want to get to know you and your culture so we can align our work to your values and priorities.
- We devote our time, knowledge and energy to you. We aim to have a deep understanding of your quality support and training needs.
- We don't provide off the shelf packages. Each engagement commences with a process of exploration and discovery.
- Our projects are well planned and coordinated. We take responsibility for the success of your projects and seek to ensure maximum impact.
- We are extremely discerning about the people we choose to work on your quality projects.
- Through the other divisions of FE Associates we can provide you with a range of broader solutions such as recruitment, training and development, project consultancy and interim support. We are led by individuals with deep experience in sector leadership, governance, inspection and improvement.
- The work we do comes from a genuine passion and commitment for the sector and its learners.

Reduce costs, secure strategic support and procure support with long-term impact.

Commissioning high quality support that enables and drives improvement is a priority for many providers in further education and skills organisations. The new FE Associates Strategic Quality Partnership has been developed to provide well structured, coordinated and aligned support meaning that all of your quality improvement activities can be strategically planned, designed for maximum impact and carried out by FEA assured consultants. By working with FEA as your strategic partner for quality improvement we will drive cost efficiencies in your quality improvement activities, we will provide additional resource and capacity for your leaders and we will be a trusted partner invested in the long-term success of your organisation. With a dedicated Partnership Director and Project Manager we will reduce bureaucracy and workload, we will embed ourselves into your ways of working and we will ensure our activities are centred around your ambitions, culture and values.

Contact: quality@fea.co.uk
for a discussion about becoming
a strategic quality partner.

Insights

Case Study GFE College:

One of the largest FE colleges in England with seven campuses engaged FEA's Quality Improvement Services to enable an organisation wide process of change and improvement. By working closely with the college we developed a clear plan to review the quality of education across the colleges campuses whilst building the capacity and confidence of college leaders, managers and teachers to enable rapid improvements. We approached the work with sensitivity, collaboration and purpose to enable all internal stakeholders to understand and value the support being provided. This extensive programme of quality activity included a series of curriculum reviews which provided valuable objective and impartial insights into the strengths and areas for improvement of the college's provision. Alongside a series of well-considered and realistic recommendations our team provided training opportunities for senior leaders on curriculum strategy and improvement planning, middle managers were supported in articulating purposeful curriculum intent, rationale for implementation and demonstrable impact and teaching staff received training on effective teaching and learning strategies. As part of the college's commitment to whole organisation improvement, training was delivered to professional services staff so that they could understand their roles in relation to the quality success of the college.

Our Offer to Colleges

Each quality improvement project is unique and prior to commencing our work we gain a deep insight into your requirements so we can build a bespoke solution to meet your needs. Our quality improvement services to colleges are wide and varied but some examples of the type of work we do for our college clients include:

Our Offer to Training Providers

We recognise that training providers play a unique role in the skills sector and the challenges and opportunities faced by providers are impacted by a range of policy, market, quality, financial and regulatory drivers. Our offer to training providers is underpinned by cost-effective, quality solutions to help drive rapid improvements in your organisations.

Inspection Related Activity

- Inspection readiness support
- College and skills nominee training
- Post inspection action planning

Effectiveness Reviews

- Joint curriculum reviews
- Safeguarding effectiveness reviews
- Leadership and management effectiveness reviews
- Personal development programme effectiveness reviews
- Support for learners with EHCPs and High Needs
- Stakeholder impact in curriculum development and delivery

Quality Assurance and Improvement Planning

- Comprehensive review of quality assurance systems and processes
- Effectiveness of Self-assessment and Quality Improvement Plans
- Alignment of quality improvement to purposeful CPD

Training and Development

- Coaching and mentoring for leaders and managers
- Teaching and learning training
- Inspection readiness
- Digital innovation

Inspection Related Activity

- Inspection readiness support
- Nominee training
- Post inspection action planning
- Quality of support for learners with EHCPs

Quality Improvement

- Quality assurance process reviews
- Governance reviews and advice
- Effectiveness of strategies to drive rapid learner progress
- Effectiveness of Self-Assessment and Quality Improvement Plans

Funding and Compliance

- Navigating funding rules confidently and successfully
- Preparation for ESFA audits
- Guidance and support on ILR submissions.

Training and Development

- Coaching and mentoring for leaders and managers
- Teaching and learning training
- Inspection readiness

Support

“We worked with FEA to support our staff to understand how our curriculum might be reviewed by external agencies. We are a large college working inside an even larger group structure, so we had a number of complexities that FEA worked through with us over several months to arrive at a meaningful curriculum review structure. Following extensive consultation with FEA, we created a really good model for reviewing the curriculum here at The Manchester College.

During the actual week of the review, we had a great experience working with the consultants from FEA, who provided a great coaching experience for all our curriculum leads. While we got some great advice about the quality of our curriculum offer, we felt the most benefit came from the 1:1 conversations our curriculum leads had with the consultants about how to approach presenting their curriculum. The advice was invaluable and will support us in making improvements to our offer going forward.”

Dr Edward Lack

Group Quality Director
LTE Group

Our Offer to Higher Education Providers

We recognise the role that universities play in the skills system and that for many HEIs the provision of higher level skills may be a new area of development. We also recognise the valuable role that colleges play in the delivery of higher education and our services are tailor made to provide differentiated solutions focused on higher level provision. We use specialist consultants with deep experience of the higher education operating environment and the different approaches to delivery, compliance and regulation.

"I engaged FE Associates to undertake a review of our apprenticeship provision and assist us with identifying areas for improvement. Their consultants were professional and supportive throughout the process. They provided expert advice and detailed reports containing suggestions for improvement, which have provided invaluable. I would highly recommend FE Associates and their services."

Brian Culleton
Director of Apprenticeships

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University of Huddersfield
Inspiring global professionals

Inspection Related Activity

- Inspection readiness for level 6 and 7 apprenticeship provision
- Inspection readiness for ITE inspections
- Inspection nominee training
- Leadership and management effectiveness reviews
- Personal development programme effectiveness reviews

Office for Students Compliance Activities

- Compliance review with OFS condition B1, B2, B3 and B4
- Review of performance outcomes to create clear, measurable improvement plans

Training and Development

- Coaching and mentoring for leaders and managers
- Leadership development
- Apprenticeship leadership and management development
- Teaching and learning innovation
- HE strategy development

Our offer to Local Authorities

We understand the essential role local authorities play to ensure high quality further education and skills that supports and enables individual and community growth and development. Whether working with Local Authority adult learning providers or supporting you with an area SEND Review, our experts will support you to build your capacity for excellence.

Inspection Support

- Area SEND inspection readiness
- Post 16 inspection readiness (with an adult learning focus)
- Nominee training
- Strategies for supporting learners who are NEET

Quality Assurance and Improvement Planning

- Comprehensive review of quality assurance systems and processes
- Effectiveness of Self-Assessment and Quality Improvement Plans
- Alignment of quality improvement to purposeful CPD

Training and Development

- Effective teaching and learning strategies
- Use of baseline assessment to measure, monitor and demonstrate impact
- Coaching and mentoring for leaders and managers

Our offer to Specialist Colleges

At FE Associates we have a highly skilled team of expert consultants who are experienced working within specialist colleges. They are clear on what makes an ambitious and successful curriculum for learners with an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) and have in-depth insights and experience of supporting providers to succeed.

Inspection Readiness

- Inspection readiness
- Evaluation of educational effectiveness across key inspection judgements
- Inspection nominee training
- Safeguarding effectiveness review

Curriculum Effectiveness

- Joint curriculum reviews
- Personal development programme effectiveness reviews
- Curriculum implementation reviews
- Use and impact of therapeutic support and multi-agency services

Quality Assurance and Improvement Planning

- Effectiveness of quality assurance systems and improvement processes
- Effectiveness of Self-Assessment and Quality Improvement Plans
- Use of baseline assessment to demonstrate learner progress

- Quality of CPD to raise standards in teaching and learning

Training and Development

- Developing highly effective teaching and learning strategies
- Designing and implementing a successful curriculum strategy
- Ensuring a culture of high expectation for all learners
- Leadership development
- Coaching and mentoring for leaders and managers

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For more information on all our leadership
development opportunities please visit:

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www.fea.co.uk/leadership-development.

To discuss your leadership development
and training requirements contact:

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quality@fea.co.uk

