



Hotlink: Who Should Apply?

As an independent provider of CPD for teachers, I found the application process really helpful as an effective form of self-review. The questions challenged me to think about what I'm providing, and how effectively I am meeting the professional development needs of the people who attend my courses. I had always taken note of feedback from clients, but admit to having settled into a comfort zone around my own planning and delivery of courses and resources. This process provided some objective standards against which I could measure my own performance – and certainly 'raised the bar' for me.

Having a 'stamp of approval' from a nationally recognised and respected body makes a difference when I am establishing relationships with new clients.

As a national organisation, for several years operating at the forefront of development of professional standards in physical education and school sport, we had set our own standards for the determination, design and delivery of professional development programmes. This accreditation process gave us the chance to compare our principles, policies and practice against a new, challenging set of standards. It prompted us to bring together key personnel from across the organisation to undertake the review process. We were reassured that much of what we did was at least as good as the afPE standard. We also identified some aspects of our work that needed review. We intend to use this as an annual review process and hope that we can contribute to raising standards across the sector, by sharing our own development ideas.

The most important aspect of preparing our application for accreditation was the opportunity for an in depth self review. As an 'excellent and improving' LEA it would have been simple to lapse into complacency but this application helped us, not only to celebrate our real strengths but also, to identify gaps in our provision. As a result of the application we made many substantial changes to our practice, which resulted in higher quality continuing professional development for teachers and AOTTS in our schools.

Having the accreditation also raised the profile of physical education within our service and we were given opportunities to share much of our good practice with colleagues in other subjects.

(Kirklees School Effectiveness Service)