

Continuity of Apprenticeship Training Policy

Purpose Statement

The purpose of this plan is to outline the continuity arrangements we have in place to safeguard our provision. The policy identifies reasonable measures in place to respond to and be able to mitigate business risks where there is a potential of significant damage to business operations.

Responsibility

Our Commercial Director is responsible for this policy and plan, it will be reviewed on an annual basis. All staff are responsible in adhering to this policy and plan.

Principles

The principles of this plan are to:

- Outline actions required in the event of an emergency or incidents which threatens to disrupt the normal working practices of our business
- Ensure limited or no disruption to provision in the event of an emergency or threat

We consider that the threats most likely to affect the services we provide are:

- Loss of key staff – Requiring change of communication
- Damage to main premises of business e.g. Fire
- Loss of critical systems – IT failure or breach of IT
- Telephone line failure
- Supply chain failure - Consumables
- Supply chain failure - Trainers
- Severe weather condition

In some cases, these incidents can be due to natural-causes e.g. severe weather, while in other cases, equipment failure or human error or involvement may be the cause. They have the possibility of leading to the following losses, which are likely to have a major impact on our operations:

- Expertise
- Buildings
- Equipment
- Facilities
- Data
- Personnel

- Reputation
- Funding and or contracts

General steps

- As this plan is stored on a remote server, it is secure in the event of a localised system failure, disaster or emergency and may be accessed by any team member, who is able to connect to the internet
- Telephone and e-mail contact details for team members and trainers are stored in the staff and managers' mobile telephones
- The business has buildings, contents, business interruption and practice expenses insurance policies, to meet the cost of repairs and other overheads, where necessary
- All data is backed up daily by back-up tape, which is stored off site. This is also supported by our IT company, who take a remote back-up, which is stored at their premises.

Staff

Every staff member must be aware of the evacuation and health and safety arrangements that will impact their working environment. Staff must ensure they report critical incident or concern to the lead of this policy immediately.

Staff will be made aware of this policy within their induction and reinforced within training and drills.

Consistency Team

The team responsible for managing serious incidents and supporting this plan are listed below:

Staff Name	Title	Area of responsibility	Phone number	Email
Sean Brogan	Commercial Director	IT & Communications	0151 236 2024	sean.brogan@datalaw.org
Jayne Cater-Sesay	Accounts Manager	Health & Safety	0151 242 0060	accounts@datalaw.org

Other Useful Contacts

Keith Smith, Director, Apprenticeships, ESFA
 Ministerial and Public Communications Division, Department for Education, Piccadilly Gate, Store Street, Manchester M1 2WD

National Apprenticeship Service
 0800 015 0600

Short-term Incidents

Power failure, water failure, heating and or severe weather will often lead to short term impacts on daily operations. These incidents are managed by the Commercial Director and key staff listed above.

Information to staff and stakeholders will be communicated by the Commercial Director to ensure each team has up to date information on the current situation. Where an incident prevents staff from accessing the head office, staff will be asked to stay home where possible to work from home until further notice.

Apprenticeship interaction and training delivery will almost exclusively be delivered remotely, so it is determined there will be limited disruption to apprentices and employers with short term incidents.

We will aim to rectify any incident as soon as possible to ensure minimal disruption to the operations of the business.

Continuity Plan

Continuity plan	
Communication Channel	<p>Website: Is externally managed allowing us to regularly update the site via a third party, ensuring updates regarding services are timely uploaded, communication channels such as change of personnel or phone numbers can also be updated.</p> <p>Apprenticeship Management Team: A central team that can support all stakeholders within apprenticeships. The Apprenticeship Management Team have direct phone and email to support further communication lines; Where there are changes to our Tutors, the Apprenticeship Management Team can directly call or email the apprentices or employer.</p>

	<p>Marketing: Can communicate on mass to apprentices and employers to ensure regular updates are provided where a significant change or incident has occurred.</p> <p>Email failure: IT systems will be rebooted, and email downtime will be monitored, where email is not available apprentices, suppliers, staff and employers can be contacted via phone.</p> <p>Telephone line failure: In addition to the landline telephone line, all company directors and delivery staff have business mobiles. These numbers are sent to all employers, delivery staff, and suppliers. Our telephone and internet supplier can redirect calls to the alternative numbers, so that we can continue to receive and make calls using our normal telephone number. If all our landlines fail, calls can be redirected to the Commercial Director’s mobile.</p> <p>E-portfolio message board: Communication updates to apprentices and employers can be added through our e-portfolio system. This gives real-time updates and ensures that there is limited disruption to any apprenticeship services.</p> <p>Delivery team / Tutors: Will predominantly deliver learning remotely, but can deliver training face to face, ensuring flexibility to meet the employer’s needs.</p>
<p>Modes of transport</p>	<p>Head office/central staff have multiple transport approach these being car, public transport and walking. We have localised staff to open and close the premises, they are able to reach the premises by foot in the event of severe weather.</p> <p>No apprenticeship delivery is carried out at our head office. We do not offer transport to apprentices as part of the provision.</p>
<p>Alternative site of operations</p>	<p>The Commercial Director is responsible for procuring alternative accommodation. The Accounts Manager will support the procurement processes and identify facilities and equipment required.</p> <p>Our delivery team / tutors have the flexibility to work from home when remotely interacting with apprentices and employers. Office based staff will also be able to work from home with provided equipment until alternative site is made available.</p>
<p>Supply chain (consumables) preventive measures</p>	<p>Our supply chain provides us with paper, printing services, courier, and learning support material. For each of these we have alternative suppliers, from whom we can source the same standard of services. We also store reserve stocks in the event of low supplies.</p>

<p>Back-up of business-critical systems</p>	<p>We renew IT systems on a regular basis. All IT hardware is protected by antivirus and antimalware software, that automatically updates from the internet on a regular basis. We also employ firewalls to protect our systems from unauthorised access and malicious damage. Our operating systems automatically download and install upgrades to reduce system vulnerabilities. The server contains a third hard drive that carries out an incremental backup every day. Data from the database is backed up across the network from the server to the office computer every working day. We also operate a "cloud" backup system, that copies all critical data to a remote site, which improves data security (there is no movement of physical media that could be lost, stolen or damaged).</p> <p>Data backups can be accessed on the server, the office computer and from the "cloud" backup held by Amazon Web Search. We have discussed the issue of catastrophic system failure with our provider and have been advised that the practice computer system can be reinstated within 24 hours.</p>
<p>Back-up and restore of data</p>	

Monitoring

Incidents that have triggered this policy are monitored to ensure there is a full record of events. The Quality Manager who manages the quality management system is responsible for working with the Commercial Director in recording the incident within the critical incident log.

The log will review trends in incidents, timeframes for resolution, and impact to ensure further preventative actions are implemented where possible.