CoLRiC's Peer Accreditation Scheme (PAS) gives Further Education and Sixth Form Colleges the opportunity to initiate a supportive and rigorous assessment of Library and Learning Resource Services (LRS) against a set of specific criteria. The Scheme engages the entire organisation, raising the visibility of the LRS to senior College management, evidencing return on investment and helping to demonstrate the value and impact of the service in support of the wider teaching and learning agenda.

Benefits

PAS offers many benefits. The Scheme:

- **Provides** a stringent evaluation of the service within the context of the resources at its disposal;

- **Assesses** how effectively and consistently an organisation supports the development of its Library and Learning Resources Service;

- **Identifies** gaps in service provision**,** offering impartial professional advice on opportunities for service enhancements from senior library and information management professionals from across the UK;

- **Confers** a recognised and prestigious quality mark that can be showcased in quality assurance inspections, including Ofsted visits.

Assessment criteria

PAS is organised into four sections for assessment which emphasise vision, leadership, management and collaboration in teaching and learning. The Scheme embraces the holistic role that a Library and Learning Resources Service should play in the wider organisation. A key element of the assessment will be to determine the intent, implementation and impact of services on determining academic success and a positive learner experience. The four sections are:

Leadership and management: evaluates the mission statement of the Library and Learning Resources Service and its interface, collaboration and alignment with the wider organisation in strategic planning. It explores the role the senior LRS management team has in in the operation and development of College-wide policy, including legal compliance, safeguarding, equality and diversity, for example.

Resources: assesses the development, management, promotion and exploitation of print and electronic information resources across the organisation, including the physical and digital study environment, LRS staffing, financial planning and resource allocation.

Integration into teaching and learning: assesses the effectiveness of the Library and Learning Resources Service in supporting learner skills development, but also determines the presence of the LRS in curriculum planning and academic staff/student partnership.

Quality assurance: reviews the policies and procedures by which the performance of leadership, management and the Library and Learning Resource Service are measured, evaluated and reviewed

for improvement. External benchmarking activity and a commitment to the ongoing training and professional development of the LRS team are included in this section.

Each section will be awarded a mark that will contribute to the overall grade.

Who are the assessors?

The CoLRiC PAS assessors team is made up of especially trained, experienced senior library and information management professionals with extensive knowledge of quality assurance across the education sector.

What is the process?

There are two key stages to the PAS scheme: *registration and self-assessment* and *visit and post-assessment reporting and grading*.

Registration: When you express an interest in the Scheme you will be emailed a registration form. The initial registration fee is £300. On receipt of that fee, you will be sent two documents: the *PAS Criteria for Assessment* and the *PAS Evidence Checklist* enabling you to initiate an in-house self-assessment.

If you decide to proceed with the formal assessment visit, the CoLRiC administrators will confirm the full cost which is based on Jisc banding.

The checklist is an aide memoire highlighting the documents that need to be available to CoLRiC assessors in advance of a Peer Assessment visit. The evidence may differ according to the protocols and terminology used at each College. This checklist, alongside the criteria document, will enable you to determine an appropriate timescale and convenient date for the assessment visit.

Self-assessment: This part of the process will take the most time as it requires significant evidence gathering and the provision of hard copy and electronic documents in advance of the assessment visit. Assessors will use this information to build a profile of your Library and Learning Resources Service and to prepare questions for the visit**.** When you have completed this process**,** you will be required to draft a timetable for the assessment day in consultation with the CoLRiC administrators.

Assessment day: On the day, PAS assessors will continue to build on their knowledge of the organisation by observing the Library and Learning Resources Service in operation; interviewing staff, students and senior management and studying the data and information available. The College will be required to provide a base room with one hard copy set of definitive documentation for the assessors to refer to during the visit. The assessors will provide feedback on the day, articulating any service strengths, innovative projects or examples of good practice. They will also highlight areas for development or improvement, assigning an assessment grade. All the criteria for assessment will be awarded one of three scores: 2 (fully met), 1 (partially met) and 0 (not met.) There are four grades: Excellent, Good, Satisfactory and Inadequate. The CoLRiC assessors will offer advice and support before, during and after the accreditation visit. Colleges that achieve high scores will be invited to showcase their work at a CoLRiC event and in our e-newsletter CoLRiC Impact.

Post-assessment: Within 21 days CoLRiC will provide a formal report of the assessment findings. CoLRiC will also award a certificate citing the grade. This will be valid for three years.

Please contact our administrators Gary Horrocks and Val Skelton if you have any queries. They will be able to advise on the assessment process in more detail. **Email**: *colric@colric.org.uk*; **Telephone**: *07879 667347*; or visit the CoLRiC website *www.colric.org.uk*

© CoLRiC March 2020