

New quality standard for education recruitment businesses welcomed

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Leading recruitment trade body, the Association of Professional Staffing Companies (APSCo (<http://www.apsco.org>)), is launching a new quality standard for education professionals, supported by the National Association of Head Teachers, the Association of School and College Leaders, Voice, the School Governors One Stop Shop and the National Association of School Business Managers, which supersedes the Department for Education's old Quality Mark .

As the only independently audited quality standard for the education sector, Compliance + will tackle the issue of safeguarding, but crucially it will also focus on the quality of teaching, and help schools to ensure standards are continually rising.

Duncan Baldwin of the Association of School and College Leaders said, "ASCL warmly welcomes the approach being taken by APSCo with its Compliance+ initiative. Recruitment businesses meeting this new standard will not only have demonstrated very high standards in safe recruitment practices but will also have focussed on helping schools achieve the best outcomes for their students. We particularly welcome the emphasis on working in partnership with schools."

Compliance + will make a difference in the following ways:

Safeguarding will measure against best practice standards, well beyond the statutory minimum.

An annual and independent audit will ensure recruitment processes are kept up to date and that

Compliance+ maintains credibility in the sector.

It will encourage the provision of access to professional development for education professionals and use a post -placement evaluation passport displaying their skills, qualities and experience.

The National Association of Head teachers and education union, Voice, have also welcomed the initiative. Russell Hobby, General Secretary of NAHT describes it as, "a service that facilitates the consistent recruitment, selection and deployment of supply staff [which] can only benefit our members." While Deborah Lawson, General Secretary of Voice said: "Voice has enjoyed being a part of APSCo's external stakeholder group, giving us the opportunity to represent our members' needs in a new, uncompromising quality standard. Supply teachers and schools need confidence when they use the services of a recruitment firm. Compliance+ will be a strong indication of best practice in this sector."

CEO of APSCo, Ann Swain said, "The recruitment and development of talent in the education profession is perhaps more important than in any other sector. It is vital that the right candidates are placed in the most suitably matched schools. It is essential that all parties in the sector work together for the greater good. Compliance + is an uncompromising quality standard for the future which will reassure schools when they partner with an accredited recruitment firm"

Compliance + will launch in January 2014 and is truly a standard for the future.

ENDS

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