Our
future.
It's in
our hands.

Structural Change: New Opportunities and Challenges

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Structure of presentation

- Summary of the issues
- Risks and opportunities of the current structural change
- Case study of York College's experiences
- Required focus and reputational priorities
- Role of FERSG

Extremely turbulent time: nationally and for the sector

Issues faced by the sector:

- Impact of ‘Credit Crunch’ – not sure what this will be yet (Capital projects, funding spend, College deposits, TtG and Apprenticeship recruitment...)
- Machinery of Government changes
- New 14-19 qualification structures (Diplomas, A levels, Apprenticeships, Progression Pathways (FLT), mix and match)
- Impact of other strategies (FfE, new funding methodology, sixth form presumption etc)
- Will all this change distract from what really matters?

All may impact on reputation…

- Already seen the damage to the reputation in the banking sector
- Already seen national reputations threatened (eg Iceland).
- Could these changes damage the reputation of:
  - Local Authorities
  - FE Colleges
  - The sector?

But if planned properly change can enhance reputation…

- York College - £60 million new build
- Two sites on one
- New principal
- Much upheaval – curriculum/recruitment/staffing structures etc

Serious risk...could have damaged reputation…results…staff morale…

YORK
COLLEGE

But…2008 saw

- Move into brand new College
- Improved results (substantial)
- Enhanced reputation (new build, results, student/parent feedback, sector visits/talks etc)
- Increased recruitment (+6%, 220 more students)
- All as a result of meticulous planning
- Getting it right really benefits all at all levels

Benefits for staff, students, community, city…

Opportunities present in structural change:

- Change can be for the better!
- FE is now seen as central to Government strategy
- There is a duty on all to collaborate
- Opportunities to work closely with LAs and local communities/schools
- Value of learning and skills clear
- Self regulation could bring real results
- New proposals around qualification structures – real benefit for students

Colleges have…

Massive expertise

- Real knowledge of our community
- Good employer relationships
- Valuable experience in partnership working
- Real progression opportunities through to HE

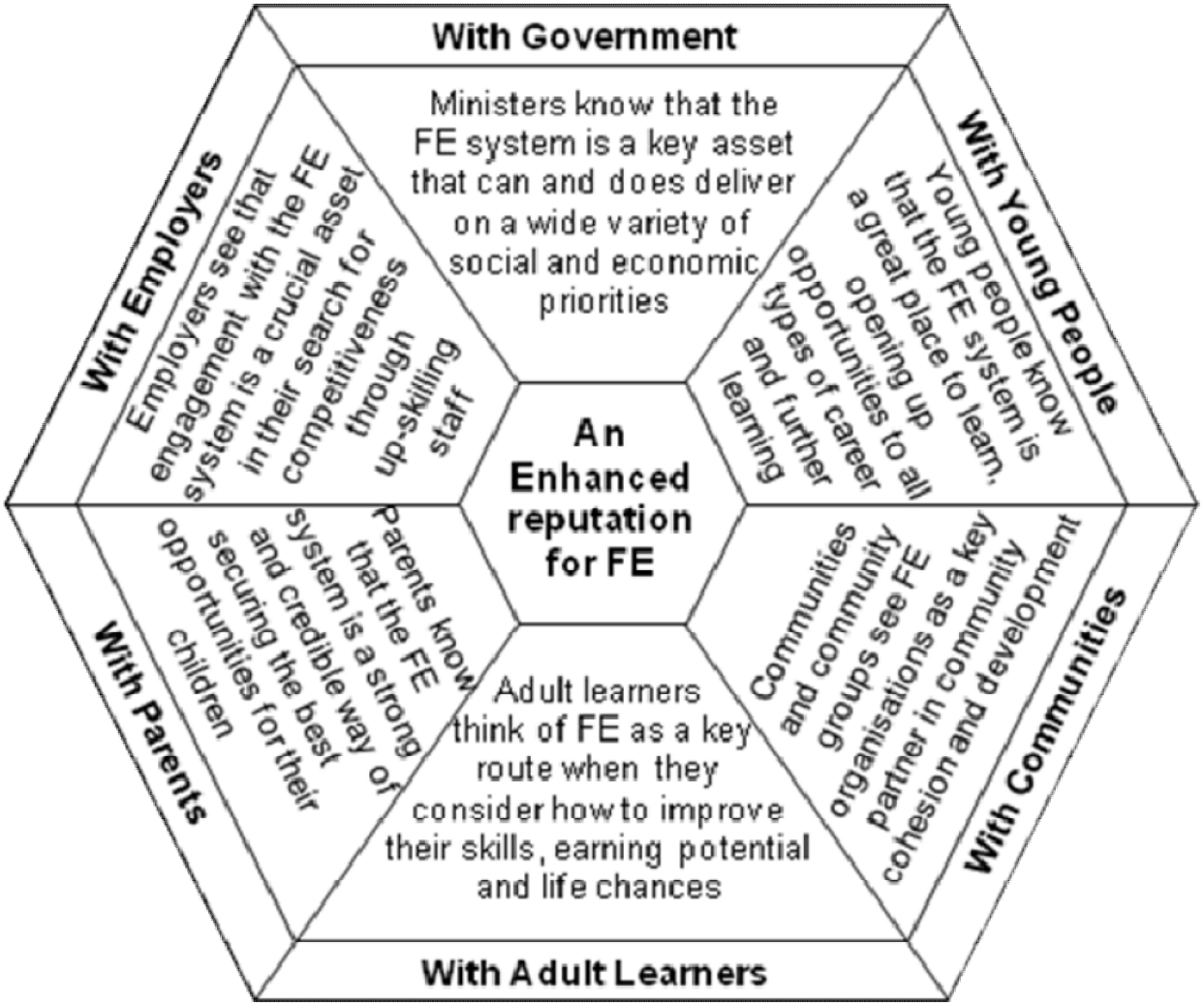
FERSG working to promote this for FE nationally.

Huge opportunities for FE to:

- Work with Ministers via the Single Voice
- Use FERSG to promote FE reputation nationally
- Get Self Regulation right
- Embed ourselves in the work of the Local Authorities
- Keep people in work via Employer Engagement
- Respond – as we always have done
- Develop Higher Level Skills (via HE partnerships)
- Get Progression Pathways, FLT, qualification structure right

FERSG hopes to build reputation

With apols to Frank Villeneuve-Smith/LSN



So that we ensure

- A vibrant and rich curriculum meeting the needs of
  - Students (at all levels)
  - Employers
  - Government
  - The country
  - And across national boundaries

We all must continue to focus on

- delivering high quality
- the right strategic direction
- student success

especially in times of change.

Our future. It's in our hands.