Practicalities of the 14 – 19 curriculum

Jill Lanning

Learning and Skills Network

10th February 2009

14 – 19 Curriculum

- Four routes …. to employment…..
  - Apprenticeship
  - Diplomas
  - Foundation Learning Tier
  - General Qualifications
- Every Child Matters
  - Be healthy
  - Stay safe
  - Enjoy and achieve
  - Make a positive contribution
  - Achieve economic well-being

And more ….

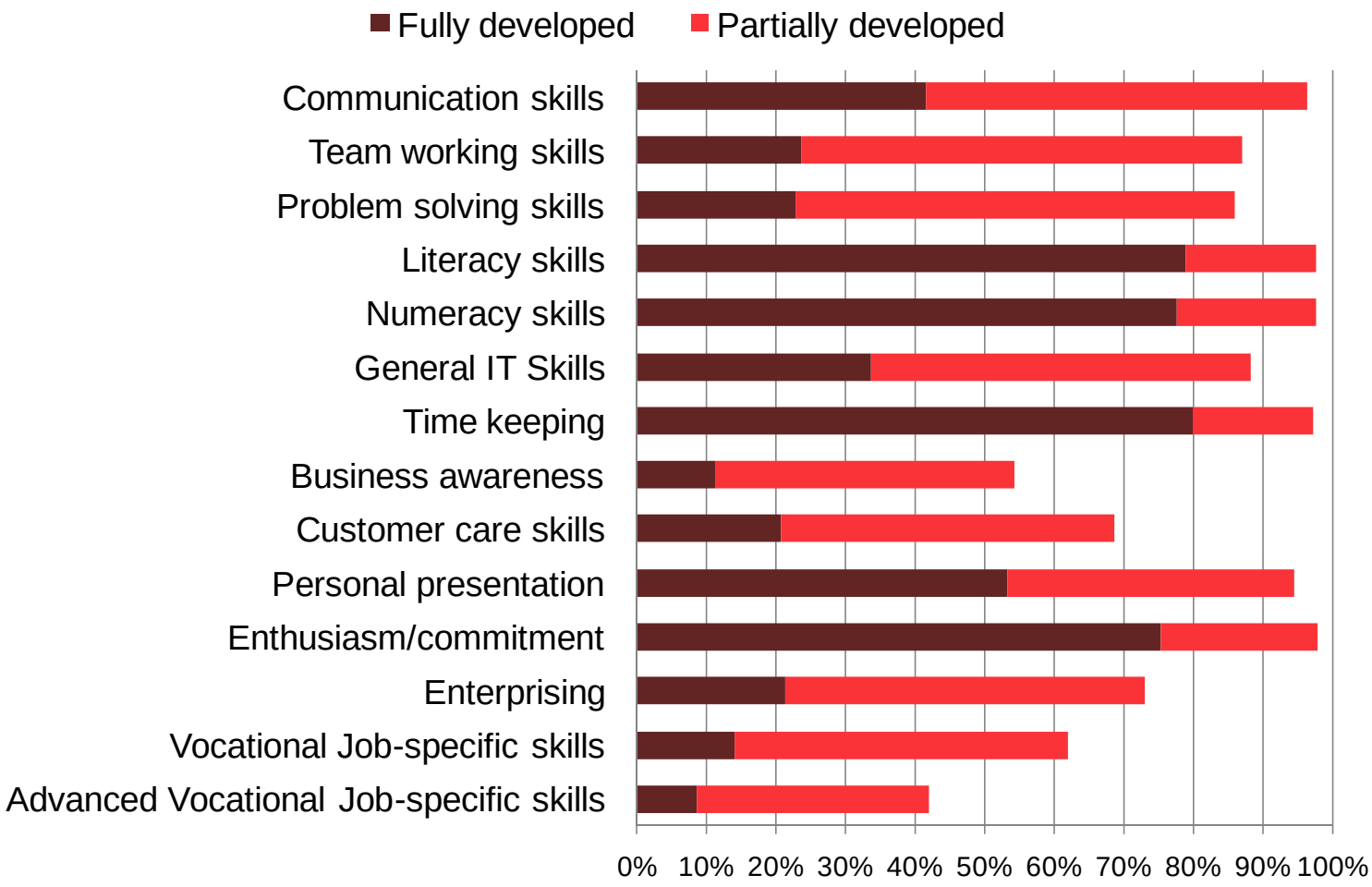
- Raising of the Leaving Age
- Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF)
- Functional Skills
- Personal Learning and Thinking Skills (PLTS)
- Personalisation
- Citizenship
- Enterprise…….

Learners expectations

- Skills for a job in the future
- A new language
- How the make right choices in life
- How to run a successful business
- How to present myself properly
- How to be a caring, trustworthy and loyal person

QCA research 2007

What are employers looking for?



The new curriculum demands….

- Leadership with underpinning systems
- Local Authority support and direction
- Collaboration – communication and clear responsibilities are crucial
- New approaches to resources and processes
- Open progression and supported transition
- Good Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG)

Developing employability

- Already much happening – UKCES project
- Focussed provision – 28 qualifications, Deloitte programme, work with disengaged young people
- Vocational learning – designed to prepare young people for work
- Significant experience of and resources for Literacy and Numeracy from Key Skills and Skills for Life
- Less guidance on developing enthusiasm, commitment and timekeeping

Lessons from Vocational Learning

- Experiential learning is well proven
- Application of knowledge and skills development:
  - Doing
  - Reflecting
  - Conceptualising
  - Testing
- Learner centred
- Planned and structured

Embedding Employability Skills

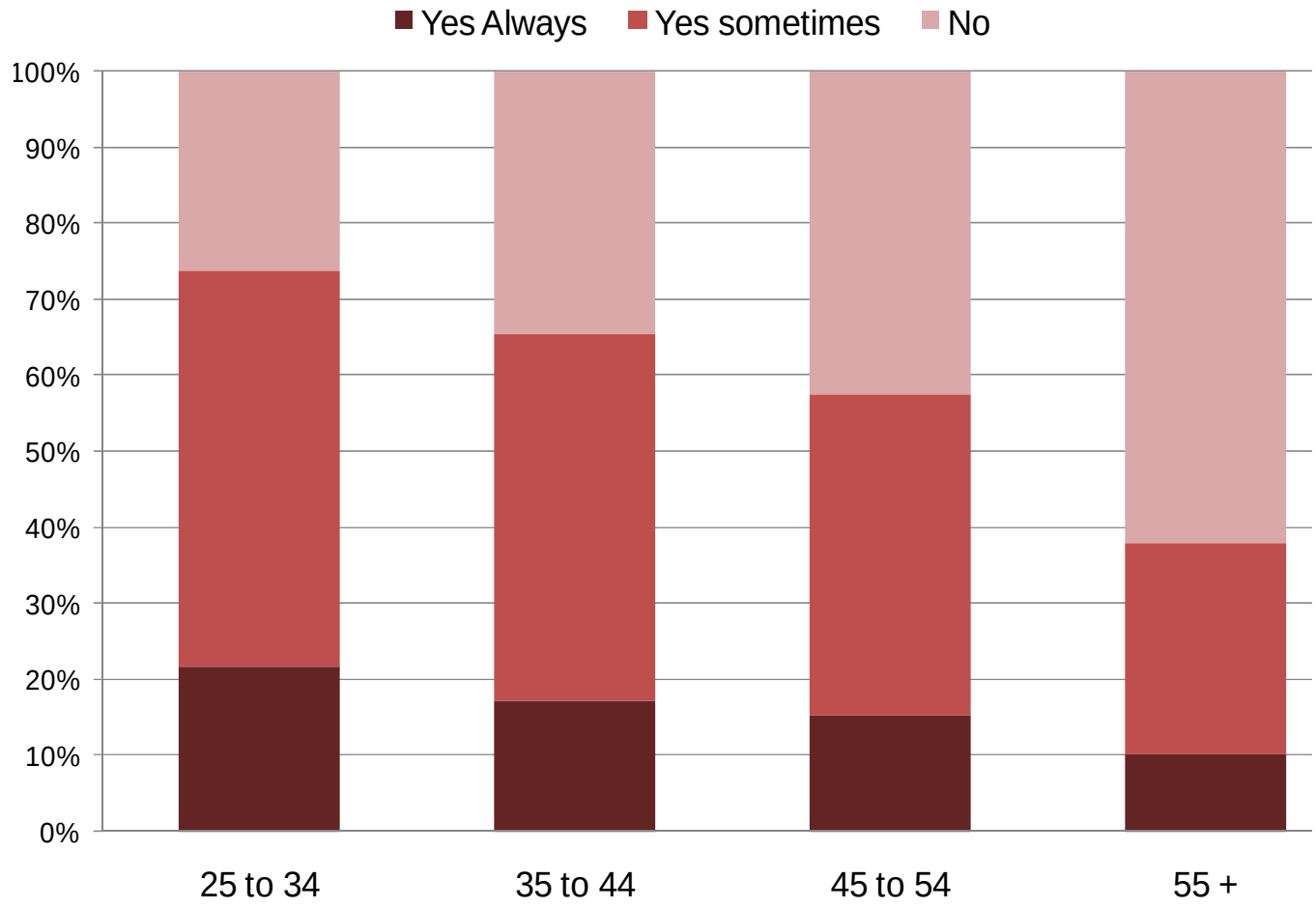
- Years of experience of embedding skills development
- Relevance supports motivation
- Needs
  - planning
  - whole-team approach
  - cross- team working
  - co-teaching potential
- Still need the specialist skills teacher

Employer involvement is key

- This is different from other skills
- May take a number of forms:
  - Work experience
  - Employer talks
  - Work visits
  - Part-time work
  - Virtual visits
- Need to seize the opportunities whenever they arise
- Getting employer involvement is a challenge

Employers experience of recruitment

Have you been able to recruit?



Joining Up

- Whole organisation approach
- Re-shape the curriculum to support the development of employability
- Supports a planned approach to the offer
- Provides a common basis for cross team working
- Examples:
  - Newham College
  - Walsall College
  - South Hunsley School

Policy and Practicalities

- Need to make sense of the four 14 – 19 routes for staff and students
- Enhancing the employability of all students can act as an underpinning theme
- This is now a collaborative rather than a competitive mission
- Developing relationships with local employers is important…. and a challenge!
- It’s a brave new world!