The shape of things to come
DART Training LTD

DART’s development to date

DART’s core business is the provision of government funded training programmes for young people and adult workers who want a nationally recognised qualifications and additional skills to advance, or secure, their job prospects in land based industries. DART is a private limited company, established in 1999. The office and operational base is in Shardlow, Derbyshire and we cover the East & West Midlands and Yorkshire. With the assistance of the Support Programme, we had embraced functional skills for our apprenticeship frameworks, developing both materials and a new approach to delivery. We now needed to ensure that, given the remote nature of the delivery, the materials and approach are accessible and usable by both assessors and apprentices. We also need materials that have sufficient shelf-life to enable all relevant stakeholders to adapt to need. To realise this we have developed OLIV, an online resource store with materials which can be accessed by both assessor and trainee.
Building on good foundations

The main support required from the improvement partner was to act in the role of critical friend and advisor. Consultancy visits and in-house Peer Exchange Group meetings with sector heads and the Skills for Life team helped address difficult questions and teased out challenges. DART Training Ltd hope that the OLIV resource store will maintain and increase timely success and achievement (and increase learner satisfaction) within apprenticeship frameworks, by preparing learners for functional skills assessments. We also anticipate better teaching and learning by preparing vocational tutors for English and maths delivery in an efficient and effective way.

Progress is on-going

OLIV is up and running, and gradually being populated with materials. There is still a considerable amount of material to be uploaded in order to encompass all levels of functional skills, and the Skills for Life team have yet to develop interactive content. In order to get buy-in across the organisation, a user-friendly support package for assessors is also needed.

However, we are also conscious that accessibility will always be a challenge, and versatile and flexible alternatives are being developed for learners or staff not having access to the virtual learning environment.

We are satisfied that the principles, ideas and models developed with the help of Derby College fit together.