Enabling Professionals
to demonstrate their professional capability
in the service of their industry

Educational Development Trust Case Study

The Educational Development trust (EDT) engaged Axia Digital to develop an ePortfolio that allows their clients to build a body of evidence to demonstrate organisational capability in relation to the national Quality In Careers Standard. The site went live for the initial cohort in January 2023 on time and on budget.

Managing Director, Richard Etheridge, said:

"The key difference in this project is that it's the school or college working towards the Quality Standard rather than an individual. Most of our ePortfolios allow individuals to build a portfolio of evidence to demonstrate capability. We have developed some new tools that allow the school or college to start an application and then add collaborators thus allowing a team rather than an individual to build and link the evidence to the Standard within our ePortfolio platform".

About the Quality in Careers Standard

The Standard is the single national quality award for careers education and guidance in secondary schools and colleges in England. It is "strongly recommended" by the Department for Education in its Statutory Guidance to schools and colleges on their careers duty.

The Standard is owned by the Quality in Careers Consortium which has appointed a number of Licensed Awarding Bodies across the country to assess, accredit and award the Standard. One of the Awarding Bodies is EDT.

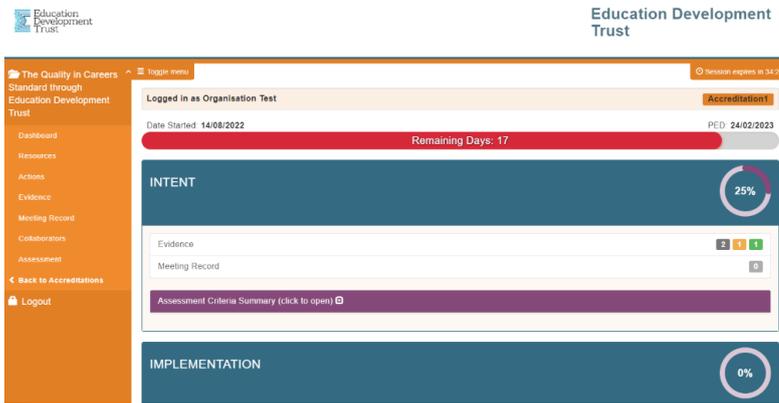You can find out more about the Standard at the Quality in Careers Consortium's website https://www.qualityincareers.org.uk/

How it works

The administrator for the school or college working towards the Quality Standard ("the applicant organisation") creates an account on the ePortfolio website, all the required information is gathered electronically and the contract is agreed and signed by both EDT and the applicant organisation as part of this initial step.

Once the contract is finalized the applicant organisation's admin can then invite other members of their team to collaborate on the application, an email is sent to the collaborator who is being invited with a link that allows them to either log in with an existing account or create a new account. After login they are able view the application they were invited to contribute towards. The creator of evidence is tracked so the team can see who did what.

At the heart of the ePortfolio is a **Dashboard** this visually shows progress against the predicted end date and against the Standard.

The EDT approach to the delivery of the Quality in Careers Standard has been broken down into three stages, **Intent**, **Implementation** and **Impact**, each section once fully evidenced can be submitted for assessment.
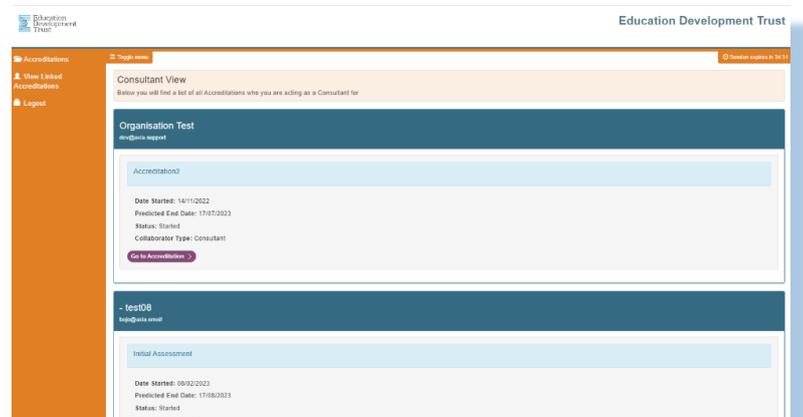
Progress at each stage is shown visually, when complete it is submitted to the assigned **EDT Consultant** who verifies it is ready for its Quality in Careers assessment.

Expanding the stages shows the assessment criteria and supporting evidence is one click away.

The evidence forms have been designed to allow an holistic approach, when adding evidence the user is able to link it to any assessment criteria within the whole framework. For example a piece of evidence created for the **Intent** stage could also support **Implementation** and or **Impact** assessment criteria.

EDT Consultants support an organisation as they progress through the Quality in Careers accreditation process. **EDT Consultants** have full access the application as the evidence is built up, they also form an integral part of the assessment process as they review stages before they are sent to an **EDT Assessor** for an external summative assessment.

Both **EDT Assessors** and **EDT Consultants** see a list of assigned applications when they log in, clicking on the application allows them access to the Dashboard and then any linked evidence.

Workflow is tracked on all Assessor and Consultant decisions. Reaccreditation is required three years after the school or college achieves the national Standard. This is completed within the site using the same tools they should be familiar with from the original application. In fact it makes sense to start building evidence during the accreditation period as they still have access to the site.

Our Client's Perspective

One of the challenges EDT has had using a paper based system is demonstrating the time and commitment of the **EDT Consultant** and the value it adds to the process. Axia Digital added a section that allows the **EDT Consultant** record their hours making the involvement transparent. When completing the external summative assessment **EDT Assessor** are able simply to bookmark evidence while reviewing the ePortfolio. The system remembers the bookmarked items and draws them into the final report which is a significant time saving.

EDT Operations Manager, Renu Jaswal, said:

> *"Working with Richard and his team has been nothing but excellent, they understood our needs perfectly and when certain things didn't work or could be improved, they came up with suggestions which really supported and navigated us through the whole process. I would recommend using AXIA in the future to any organisations thinking about moving to an E portfolio as for us, they understood the Quality in Careers Standard perfectly which in turn made the process a lot more less daunting for us."*