



RightStep™ Case Study

department for
education and skills
creating opportunity, releasing potential, achieving excellence

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Background:

The Department for Education and Skills (DfES) is responsible for children’s services, education and lifelong learning in England. It also has wider responsibilities for a range of policies, some of which it shares with other government departments.

The Data Services Group (DSG), within DfES, collates and disseminates educational data for analysis purposes. One of their key responsibilities is the School Achievement and Attainment Tables.

The Business Challenge:

Anna Barker, DSG’s Data Warehouse Manager explained “we had been looking to undertake a review of our data warehouse for some time, as we had difficulty in realising the business benefits – particularly in the area of providing flexible information back to schools. We had a variety of tools, approaches and implementation models and we really needed an expert steer on the best course of action to move us forward.”

The Solution:

During an open procurement process, Clarity proposed the use of its RightStep™ BI Effectiveness Review methodology for this project. The methodology consists of three main phases:

Insight - delivers two parallel analysis streams to understand and collate a clear view of the business requirements and strategy and the technical landscape, strategy and constraints.

Analysis & Options - uses a workshop approach to “hothouse” ideas and to ensure all options are considered. A standard scoring process is then applied to the options to grade them based on the prioritised set of business requirements identified and agreed during the first phase.

Recommendations - identifies the most suitable options and completes the selection process to allow a final recommendation to be made.

As an optional addition to the standard methodology, DfES requested a condensed version of Clarity’s ‘An Introduction to Business Intelligence’ 1-day course to be incorporated into the process.

The project delivered two clear recommendations, regarding data dissemination tool procurement and the data warehousing architecture. These recommendations, with some options

around deployment approach, were whole-heartedly approved by the key stakeholders.

Business Value:

DSG had been contemplating the direction for their data warehouse for some time, but felt that the only way to reach any conclusions was to engage with a third party. The DSG team have taken Clarity’s recommendations on-board and subsequently engaged Clarity in further work to flesh out a Business Intelligence roadmap.

The roadmap will be used as the cornerstone of a major new data warehouse development, which will see, for the first time, cross-sector information being available in one place with direct data dissemination being made available to schools and local authorities.

Why Clarity Integration?

Catherine Blackham, Customer Services Manager within DSG said “we selected Clarity Integration because they put a tick in every box during our procurement process. They convinced us that they had the knowledge and experience to deliver the solution that we required. But the thing that impressed us most was the RightStep™ methodology, which seemed to be exactly what we were looking for.

Our decision was vindicated during the process itself. Clarity Integration’s consultants were extremely knowledgeable about Business Intelligence, but could also translate what can be a very technical subject into terms that were understood by all. Their final presentation to a very senior group of civil service stakeholders was extremely well received.”

Clarity Integration:

Clarity Integration is an Information Management Consultancy and Systems Integrator that helps organisations increase the value they are getting from their existing data and by utilising our experience and capabilities in Data Migration Business Intelligence and Information Delivery.

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