

WM CETT Newsletter

December 2009

www.warwick.ac.uk/go/wmcett/

Merry Christmas

This edition looks at the exciting projects that WMCETT has been working on in the past few months, as well as a couple of tasters for the New Year.

Read about the new mentoring project funded by the LSIS Excellence and Improvement fund, our IfL workshops offer and our innovative CPD course on mental health awareness. As a special

Christmas treat, there is also a profile of our director, Fergus McKay.

We would like to wish everyone we work with best wishes for the Christmas season. We look forward to collaborating with you all further throughout 2010.

From all at WMCETT

Colleges start new mentoring project

Seven of WMCETT's partner colleges are taking part in a new mentoring project funded by the LSIS Excellence and Improvement fund.

The project is entitled Partnership Approach to Initial Teacher Training (ITT) Mentor Development. It hopes to increase the effectiveness and consistency of support for trainees, and also enhance the skills and abilities of mentors.

The colleges will collect data about the background, roles, skills and experience of their mentors, and the relationships between the mentors, the ITT tutors and Subject Learning Coaches. They will evaluate and assess activities and share their findings about good practice across WMCETT.

The colleges taking part are City College and Henley College in

Coventry, Herefordshire College of Technology, North East Worcestershire College, North Warwickshire and Hinckley College, Stratford College and Warwickshire College.

As part of the project, all colleges have to host at least one network training event for ITT tutors and internal and external mentors. Debbie Reardon organised the event at Warwickshire College which brought together mentors and mentees who are taking DTLLS courses at the college (below). She said: "This is a chance to get together to identify what each other is expecting from the relationship and take it forward so it becomes a long-lasting relationship."

"In the past any feedback we have had has been more informal but we have recognised the importance of this type of relationship model and in this project we can monitor it more effectively and build it for the future."



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Partner profile

North East Worcestershire (NEW) College is a provider partner of WMCETT, meaning it is directly involved in delivering teacher training programmes or overseeing them. NEW College Principal Neil Bromley also chairs the WMCETT Board.

NEW College is a general further education college on two campuses in Redditch and Bromsgrove, a Construction Centre, Business Development Unit in Redditch, and new HE Centre, plus approximately 50 community venues. The Teacher Education Programme Area is on the Bromsgrove Campus and is part of the Department of Quality and Professional Development.

Shelley Phelan, Head of Quality and Professional Development, said: "The College and Teacher Education team were very keen to play a proactive part from the very beginning and have benefited from involvement with the CETT."

The college's vision had been to develop a regional CPD centre for teachers and trainers.

"Involvement with WMCETT has ensured that our vision has been realised as we now offer a suite of accredited CPD programmes alongside the Initial Teacher Education programmes," she said.

Last year the college piloted several CPD programmes developed by WMCETT, and plans to deliver them again this year. The college was also involved in WMCETT's Enabling Access to Effective Mentor Support action research and is currently taking part in the Partnership Approach to Initial Teacher Training Mentor Development project.

Shelley added: "Our team have developed positive working relationships with the staff at WMCETT and our involvement with WMCETT has helped us to improve our practice by developing our programme offer in order to meet the needs of teachers and has contributed to our long-standing reputation of excellence."



WMCOP bulletin

The West Midlands Community of Practitioners (WMCOP) is a network of teacher educators who are interested in sharing best practice across the West Midlands. WMCETT's ITT Co-ordinator Vron Leslie produces a regular bulletin of information containing news of interest for the sector. The WMCOP bulletin appears on the WMCETT website. If you wish to join the Community of Practitioners and be sent a link to the bulletin when it appears each month please contact Vron Leslie on wmcop@warwick.ac.uk

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Mentoring resources now available

A toolkit to help people involved in a mentoring relationship has now gone live on the WMCETT website.

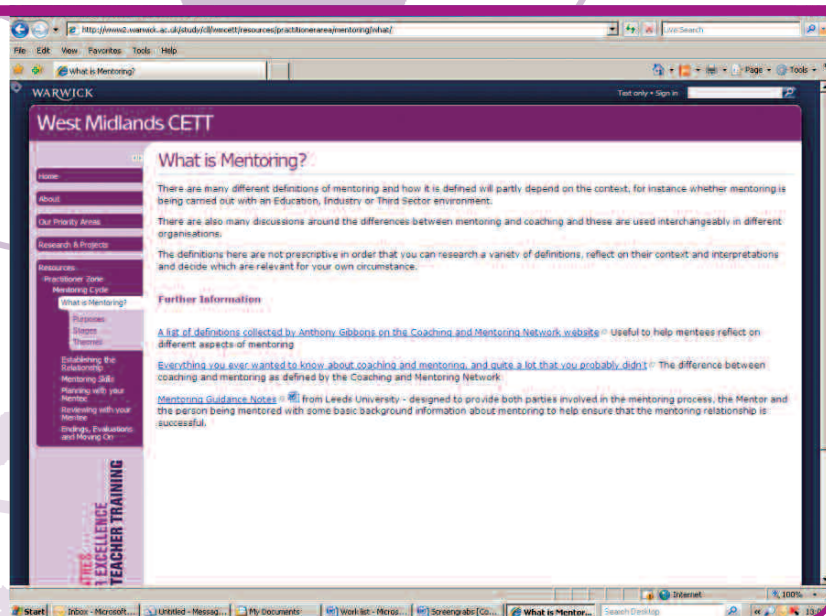
The Mentoring Cycle can be accessed via the Resources section of our website. It includes a look at what mentoring is, advice on establishing the relationship, skills needed in mentoring, different ways of planning with your mentee, reviewing how it's going, and evaluating the relationship at the end.

As well as background information, guidance and practical resources to print out, the toolkit contains links to dozens of other studies and resources which can help in mentoring. The information was all put together by Jayne Hedges, WMCETT's Mentoring Project Co-ordinator.

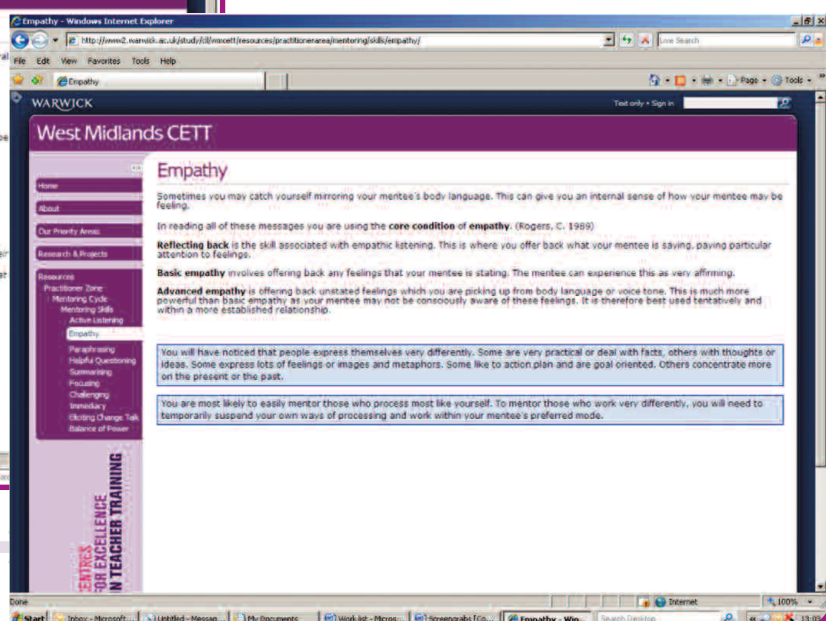
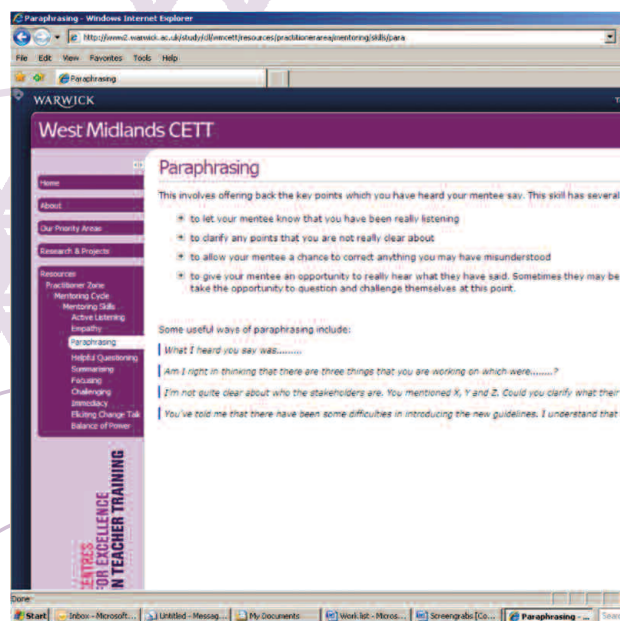
She said: "It's aimed primarily at people undertaking the mentoring programme through the CETT, but it's also of use to people employing mentoring or coaching skills in the workplace."

The site can be accessed via a link on the front page of the WMCETT website or can be found at :

<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/study/cll/wmcett/resources/practitionerarea/mentoring/>



Any feedback on the site can be sent to Jayne at J.M.Hedges@warwick.ac.uk



Course raises mental health awareness

A new mental health awareness CPD course pioneered by WMCETT was created to meet a demand from people working in training, predominantly in the Third Sector.

The HE Level 1 (NQF Level 4) Mental Health Awareness in an Educational Setting programme is being delivered at the University of Warwick and has attracted 17 students. The course is being taught by Jackie Moulsher, who has wide experience in the field and is currently mental health adviser to the Open University.

Margaret Hunter, Priority Area Co-ordinator for AVC/ACL, said the course came about from finding that people wanted to understand how to improve their practice in teaching people with mental health conditions.

She said: "It's about the learning strategies and teaching methods that are needed to teach people who may have difficulties in learning due to their conditions and therapies. You are not always delivering to people in a discrete setting so creating the right group dynamic is important.

"What Jackie always comes round to is it's about good learner-centred teaching. We are trying to bring mental health into the inclusion agenda."

Participants on the course mainly came from local authority adult and community education services, along with some from work-based learning and one from an adult residential college.



Skills for Life – what do you want?

WMCETT is planning to run two more Skills for Life conferences in March.

In the summer, similar successful conferences were held at the University of Warwick and in Ludlow, where participants took part in literacy and numeracy workshops, and learned about the REFLECT tool on the IfL website.

For the forthcoming conferences, which will be run at RAF Cosford on Thursday, 25 March 2010 and at the University of Warwick on Tuesday, 30 March 2010 organisers are keen to hear the thoughts of Skills for Life teachers on what they would like to see delivered. Contact Elaine Goodall, Priority Area Co-ordinator for Skills, on 024 7657 4558, or e.goodall@warwick.ac.uk

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Forum seminar sparks debate



The first in a series of three professional dialogue seminars taking place across the Midlands prompted wide and lively debate.

The seminars have been organised by the West Midlands HEI ITT Forum, which was set up by WMCETT and a range of regional higher education institutions, to explore how institutions are dealing with the new teacher training qualifications.

The seminar was attended by representatives from the teacher training teams at the HEI partner colleges, staff from the HEIs in the Forum and from the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC), which promotes the innovative use of IT to support education and training. There were two themes discussed at the first seminar, held at the University of Wolverhampton's Walsall campus: the implications of initial assessment and the minimum core in curriculum design and the wider college context, and developing the skills of critical thinking and reflective evaluation.

The next seminar is being held on 11 December at RAF Cosford, where the discussion will centre on the integration of blended learning and new technologies into curriculum design, and the effectiveness of different technologies in a teaching context. There will also be a demonstration by JISC.



IfL workshops offer

Workshops providing help with using the Institute for Learning's REFLECT portal and understanding Professional Formation are being run by the IfL's West Midlands Connections Adviser Anne Schofield.

Anne's role was created through WMCETT and is funded by the IfL for a year to support improvements in teaching, training and learning through CPD.

Anne said: "The workshops have been well received and feedback suggests that I have helped to demystify the use of REFLECT and the process of Professional Formation. People perceive both as being quite complex and I am able to show they aren't.

"The events are not just for colleges. I have been to training providers too, and the events are available free of charge for between 12 and 15 people at a time."

The workshop focusing on using REFLECT to record CPD is two hours and each attendee needs a PC with internet access. The presentation on working towards Professional Formation and gaining Qualified/Associate Teacher and Learning Skills is one and a half hours and needs a room with access to the internet.

If you are interested in holding a free workshop contact Anne on 07824 541145 or email:

ifl.adviser@warwick.ac.uk

Profile of Fergus McKay

Fergus McKay has been the Director of WMCETT since its establishment in 2007. He is also co-ordinator of the Initial Teacher Training pathway programme in Post Compulsory Education and Training at the University of Warwick's Centre for Lifelong Learning.

He said over the past two and a half years the CETT had created excellent working relationships with colleagues in the West Midlands region. "It is important to support practitioners in the field, whether they are in the voluntary sector, work-based learning or further education. All organisations need a link to resources and ideas and someone to act as a facilitator of those ideas. The CETT has been very successful in linking people with other people and with bringing to life ideas that have come from its partners, producing resources and sharing good practice.



"WMCETT has created a haven in which people can talk freely and openly not only about problems they have but the solutions to the problems. We have demonstrated there's a need for an organisation to not only liaise with the practitioners and policy makers but to provide an opportunity for practitioners to link with one another in a particular region."

Work-based DTLLS is piloted

A Diploma level teaching course specially designed to meet the needs of teachers and trainers from within the work-based learning sector is now being piloted.

A total of 18 candidates from training providers across Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Coventry, Warwickshire and Birmingham are enrolled on the Contextualised, Blended and Extended Diploma in Teaching in the Lifelong Learning Sector (CBED DTLLS) which began in September, supported by WMCETT.

Penny Ottewill, Co-ordinator for Work-Based Learning for WMCETT, said: "The CBED DTLLS programme is a progression from the success of the contextualised PTLLS and hopes to meet the demands of the sector."

The course runs from September 2009 to January 2012, with six two-day block sessions, plus tutorials

and observations negotiated individually with candidates.

Penny added: "A really interesting aspect of the programme is the diversity of the subjects the candidates are delivering including engineering, hairdressing, construction, painting and decorating, IT, mechanics, sport and outdoor education and e2e programmes."

The candidates have all been matched with a mentor, who came from a bank of senior practitioners from work-based learning. These mentors undertook a CPD course organised by Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Shropshire Training Providers Association (HWSTPA) as part of the WMCETT Enabling Access to Effective Mentor Support action research project.