

WM CETT Newsletter

September 2008

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

The WMCETT Partnership expands...

The team at WMCETT is pleased to welcome 7 new partners on board. They are: Birmingham Adult Education Service, City of Wolverhampton College, Derwen College, Fircroft College of Adult Education, the Royal National College for the Blind, Shrewsbury College and Solihull College. These organisations bring a wealth of experience and opportunity to the CETT and we look forward to developing solid working relationships with them all.

Our total number of partners is now 42, and there are a further 8 organisations with pending partner status.

WMCETT Conference



Dr Jean Kelly

Emerging Issues

The FE Workforce Reforms: One Year On

There are just a few more days to book your place at the Cross-CETT conference being hosted by West Midlands CETT on Friday 26 September at the University of Warwick. Speakers include Professor Denis Gleeson from Warwick Institute of Education and Dr Jean Kelly from the Institute for Learning. There are 3 workshops to choose from, covering a variety of subjects. We hope to see you there.



Professor Denis Gleeson

For more information, visit our website: www.warwick.ac.uk/go/wmcett

In this issue:

- New partner update
- WMCETT Conference
- Focus on Skills
- Voluntary and Community Service Update

Plus articles from:

- Chartered Institute of Education Assessors (CIEA)
- Institute for Learning (IfL)
- Quality Improvement Agency (QIA)

WEST MIDLANDS CETT
Centre for Lifelong Learning
University of Warwick
Coventry CV4 7AL

t: 024 7657 5522
f: 024 7652 4223
e: wmcett@warwick.ac.uk
w: www.warwick.ac.uk/go/wmcett/

**CENTRES
FOR EXCELLENCE
IN TEACHER TRAINING**

WM CETT

WM CETT News... News

Chartered Educational Assessor Pilot

On 24 and 25 June, WMCETT hosted a training and evaluation event for Chartered Educational Assessors (CEA) at the University of Warwick. There were 26 participants in total, from which 18 have been chosen to take part in the pilot scheme. Participants came mainly from the tertiary sector and included teachers, lecturers and self-employed consultants. The pilot scheme runs until spring 2009 and will measure the impact CEAs have on their institutions.

The focus of this pilot is on the FE and HE sectors and prospective CEAs will be working in their own institutions. CEAs will be looking at, and may be advising on, matters such as the choice of assessment model for a particular group of learners and the quality assurance processes that ensure these assessments are robust and fit for purpose.

For more information about the CEA Pilot, contact info@ciea.org.uk or telephone 020 7495 7753.

Graham Herbert
Chartered Institute of Educational Assessors

Institute for Learning – connecting with the CETTs

The final point of registration for teachers, trainers, and tutors in the learning and skills sector is fast approaching. There are more than 150,000 members at present but it is expected that by 30 September we will have a membership of at least 250,000. By listening to and supporting the needs of these members, the IfL hopes to raise the status of teaching professionals across the sector.

As part of this aim, the IfL is working closely with CETTs to capture the real enthusiasm for sharing good practice in the sector and the overwhelming commitment to professional development. The willingness of so many teaching practitioners to share their experiences with peers will further enhance the professional status and reputation of teachers, and have a profound impact on learners.

To support a teacher-centred model of professionalism, many participants from every part of the learning and skills sector volunteered at IfL events in June this year to become IfL *connections* or institutional champions of REfLECT. This is the online tool that we have provided for members to facilitate the sharing of practice and collaborative reflection on CPD. We will be holding workshops in the autumn for our *connections* and hope that they will be able to cascade the use of our personalised system for CPD in their organisation. WMCETT and other CETTs across the country are hosting some of these workshops and these will be published on the IfL website at the beginning of September.

Some of you will also be interested in achieving licensed status this year. We have just published details of the process of professional formation, which is the route to becoming a licensed practitioner and achieving QTLS or ATLS status. Full guidance on this process using REfLECT will be available from 1 September, but please do contact the CPD team at IfL for individual advice and help. We look forward to hearing from you, cpd@ifl.ac.uk or telephone 020 7190 1633.

Jean Kelly
Institute for Learning

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New resources from QIA's Teaching and Learning Programme

Exciting new teaching and learning resources have been released recently. Working collaboratively with teachers, tutors, trainers and learners, trials and pilots for the resources identified new ways of planning and managing learning, taking account of learners' experiences, interests and the wide range of environments in which learning can take place. Learners were encouraged to 'take the driving seat' and think about how they learn most effectively and to take control of their learning plans. A wide range of employers and stakeholders have also been involved in the development to ensure the resources help to foster the skills and attitudes people need to succeed in employment.

Teachers, tutors, trainers and learners working in the trials and pilots embraced three key challenges:

- they explored the idea that learning can take place any time, anywhere
- they adopted specific approaches or pedagogies to engage learners' interest and motivation as they get to grips with learning and move towards independence
- they worked together so that learners became effective in planning learning

As well as new subject-based resources, resources contextualising cross-curricular themes are available. Employers increasingly want employees with customer-facing skills, who take greater responsibility for their health, safety and well-being and have an entrepreneurial approach at work. They emphasise that employees who display appropriate attitudes and behaviours in these areas are more successful.

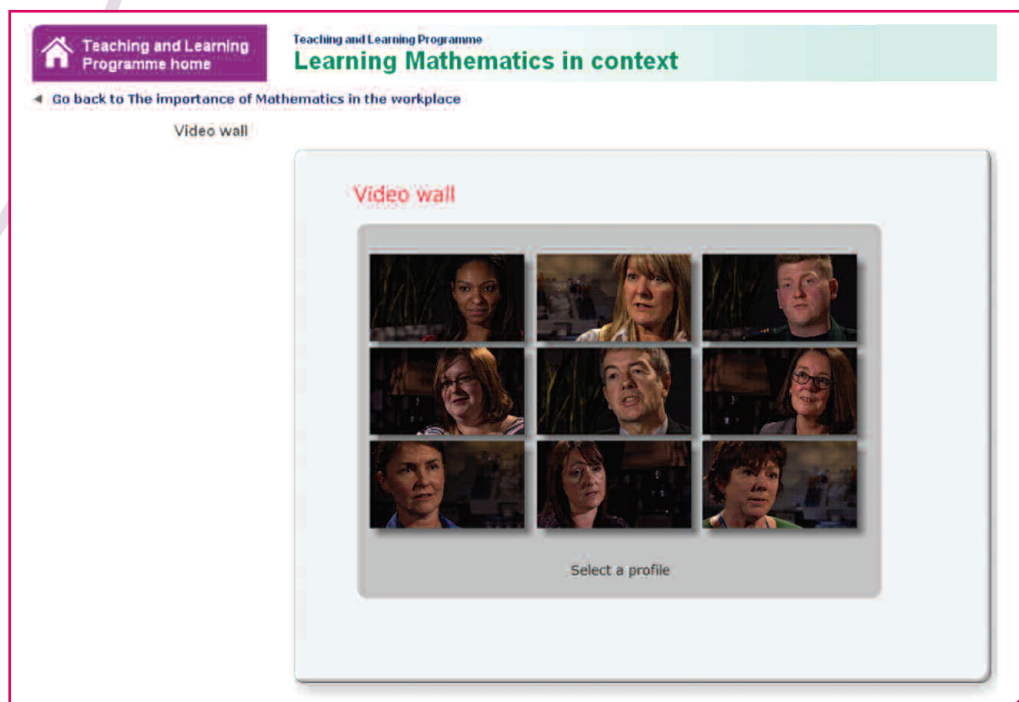
These new resources provide stimulating ideas and activities to help learners explore the themes in a wide range of learning contexts. They include learner-facing and CPD activities and guidance notes, using a variety of multi-media and pedagogical approaches.

Nearly every teacher, tutor or trainer, regardless of their subject, will find themselves teaching an area with some mathematical elements. For instance, Childcare learners may need to balance a budget for an outing and calculate the staff-to-children ratio. Mathematical skills are essential in the workplace and day-to-day life, yet often Mathematics is regarded with trepidation.



The guidance in the new 'Learning Mathematics in context' resource focuses on helping teachers, tutors and trainers with their approaches to teaching Mathematics, whilst at the same time addressing the key issue of teachers', tutors', trainers' and learners' confidence with the subject. Case studies from pilot providers illustrate how obstacles have been overcome.

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The web-based resources are available at <http://excellence.qia.org.uk/teachingandlearning> and the hard-copy supporting materials can be ordered through <http://www.subjectlearningcoach.net/programme/resources/#get>



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Skills for Life Conference, 27 June 2008

The Skills team, in partnership with the Three Counties Professional Development Partnership and NEW College, delivered an extremely successful one day Skills for Life conference. Almost 50 Skills for Life practitioners and managers from all corners of Herefordshire, Shropshire and Worcestershire took part in a series of workshops.

The day was designed to provide two opportunities each for ESOL, literacy and numeracy practitioners to develop and share their practice. Workshops were deliberately planned to be over 2 hours long so that people could get involved, try out and discuss strategies



presented. More importantly, however, the conference marked the launch of the increased attention on Skills for Life in this geographical area of WMCETT.

The participants were friendly, welcoming and, above all, committed and passionate Skills for Life practitioners, eager to engage in CPD opportunities. Consequently, as trainers, we had a

great day and can't wait to get started on more in September.

For a full report and photos from the conference, go to www.warwick.ac.uk/go/wmcett/priorityareas/skills

Profile of Anne Schofield



Anne Schofield will be joining the Skills team this September. She is an extremely experienced and well qualified Skills for Life manager and practitioner, and has over 16 years experience in this area. She has taught literacy and numeracy in an extensive range of contexts: adult and community; FE; probation; learners with learning difficulties; embedded literacy/numeracy; and family literacy/numeracy (FLLN). In addition, Anne has delivered FLNN and Step into Learning training on a national level for the Basic Skills Agency. More recently, she has delivered the level 5 Diploma for Literacy Subject Specialists at Leicester College.

Her role in Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Shropshire will be to liaise with Skills for Life managers and tutors to identify good practice or examples of innovative provision in order to facilitate the sharing of ideas that could improve quality (in its widest sense). She will also be collecting information about future CPD needs in the area. We also plan to deliver a Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (PTLLS) Plus Literacy course in the Herefordshire and Worcestershire area in conjunction with a local provider.

So, if you work in Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Shropshire and you are interested in any aspects of Anne's role, get in touch with her at A.Schofield@warwick.ac.uk

Teacher Educator Initiative

Nineteen eligible colleges have been invited to participate in our new initiative looking at the staff development of teacher educators. Each college has been invited to submit a bid detailing how they will develop their teacher educator teams over the coming year.

The Teacher Educator Initiative will enable teacher educator teams in partner colleges to bid for up to £3000 to support their professional development. Funding allocations will be made based upon relevance to the project aim, themes and bid criteria.

If you are interested in finding out more please go to our website www.warwick.ac.uk/go/wmcett

Voluntary and Community Sector News

The enthusiasm of voluntary sector organisations to develop their skills in delivering adult learning continues. Many teachers who have undertaken the PTLLS award have asked for ongoing support and information to keep them up to date with new developments and CPD opportunities. To help with this, WMCETT is working with the sector to develop practitioner networks. Warwickshire Community and Voluntary Action will launch the first of the networks on the 27 August in Warwickshire. The Shropshire Practitioner Network for Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) adult learning providers will be launched in October. This will build on the network of adult teachers in the area who have undergone PTLLS training.

The networks will support the work of practitioners throughout the counties by assessing CPD needs and providing information on where CPD opportunities can be accessed. They will also provide information on mentorship support and quality issues.

To assist the VCS to further develop the quality of adult learning provision, WMCETT delivered a training session for sector providers on the observation of teaching and learning on the 31 July. This trained delegates on how to observe sessions run in the sector.

WMCETT and the Children's Workforce Development Council are running a PTLLS course in September and October for Voluntary and Community Organisations involved with children and young people and their carers in Shropshire. As well as training practitioners, this will offer a mentorship opportunity for VCS teachers who will deliver PTLLS programmes to VCS groups in the future.

Margaret Hunter
Priority Area Co-ordinator

Award in E-Learning for Teachers and Trainers

This summer the Essential Skills Resource Centre and WMCETT began a pilot of a new programme designed to help teachers and trainers to embed e-learning approaches into their practice. The *Award in E-Learning* is a short, 15 credit qualification at HE Level 1 with an emphasis on learning about new technologies, and writing and adapting e-learning materials for participants' subject specialisms. The course was established following collaboration with LSN and uses their *Professional Development Framework for E-Learning*.

The course utilises a blended approach with three taught sessions, distance study tasks and a final project. Twelve enthusiastic participants from a range of settings, including FE, Adult Community Learning and prisons, have joined us for the pilot, which is due for completion in the autumn term.

Following this course, those with more advanced skills and an interest in staff development within their organisation can use the *Award* as a stepping stone to the higher level *Diploma in E-Learning*, due for pilot next year.

For more information on the Award in E-Learning, please contact Sara Hattersley at S.Hattersley@warwick.ac.uk

Sara Hattersley
Essential Skills Resource Centre