

WM CETT Newsletter

September 2009

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

Seminars to assess training reforms

Three professional dialogue seminars taking place in the next few months aim to explore how institutions across the West Midlands are getting to grips with the new teacher training qualifications.

The seminars are being held by the West Midlands HEI ITT (Lifelong Learning Sector) Forum. The Forum was set up by WMCETT with the Universities of Stafford, Worcester, Wolverhampton, Warwick, Birmingham City, and JISC, in December 2007 to support the development of the new initial teacher training (ITT) qualifications and continuing professional development (CPD) requirements.

The Forum is about getting together people who are delivering the new teacher training qualifications, and discussing what issues have emerged on teaching, learning and assessment relating to the programme. It will be attended by representatives of the colleges in the partnership so we get views from right across the region.

Those delivering the PTLLS, CTLLS and DTLLS courses will be able to share experiences and opinions. Each of the seminars will have a different theme. The first, at the University of Wolverhampton, will focus on initial assessment, supporting trainees, the minimum core and developing critical thinking. The second, at the University of Worcester, will look at the use of ICT.

The third, at the University of Warwick in March 2010, will examine whether the new qualifications meet the needs of the sector and trainees, what is missing and what purpose mentoring serves.

A synopsis of issues raised at the seminars will be published on the WMCETT website and sent to LLUK.

Fergus McKay
Director

'Gold Standard' training for work-based mentors

Twelve senior practitioners from work-based learning came together for 'Gold Standard' mentor training as part of a WMCETT Action Research project undertaken by the Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Shropshire Training Providers Association (HWSTPA).

The twelve, from independent training providers, deliver work-based skills and skills for life qualifications as part of apprenticeship and foundation level programmes. They will become part of a mentor bank to support candidates taking the Work-Based Contextualised, Blended and Extended DTLLS (CBED) programme. The three-day mentor course was delivered by Jayne Hedges, WMCETT's Mentoring Project Co-ordinator, pictured here with the twelve practitioners.

Mike Smith
Sub-Regional Priority Area Co-ordinator



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Partner update – Warwickshire Community And Voluntary Action



Warwickshire Community and Voluntary Action (WCAVA) is an associate partner of WMCETT. WCAVA was formed on 1 April 2008, as a result of the merger of the Councils for Voluntary Service (CVS) of North Warwickshire, Nuneaton and Bedworth, Rugby, and Warwick District, and the Volunteer Centres of Rugby and Warwick District. It is the biggest organisation representing and supporting voluntary community groups and promoting volunteering in Warwickshire.

Chief Executive Paul Tolley (left) said: "We have offices based across the county supporting the voluntary and community sector, from assisting small groups to set up, to supporting organisations to secure funding of several hundred thousand pounds. Our volunteer centres are key in matching local people who want to volunteer their time with exciting and rewarding volunteer placements."

Paul has joined the WMCETT Board, and WCAVA is looking at ways to work with WMCETT, especially in developing PTLLS. WCAVA Training and Quality Development Manager Alison Orr is committed to supporting a trainers' network, and WCAVA has brought in £6,000 of external funding to promote PTLLS in the sector and meet the challenge of becoming PTLLS accredited.

WCAVA members also attended the WMCETT training reforms roadshow held at Wolston Leisure Centre earlier this year. Paul said: "It was extremely helpful. I was also particularly pleased to see the event held within a voluntary and community sector building and resource."

Paul said high-quality trainers have always been extremely hard to retain in the voluntary sector. He said: "As a much larger organisation we now hope that we are able to embed our training provision and support through working with strategic partners such as the LSC and WMCETT."

For more information about WCAVA see www.wcava.org.uk

IfL advice at PDP showcase

WMCETT had a stand at a huge CPD event attended by nearly 300 people. The Three Counties PDP (Professional Development Partnership) organised the showcase at the Royal National College for the Blind in Hereford, with more than 60 exhibitors, plus workshops, presentations and sporting activities to try out.

The WMCETT stand was staffed by ITT Co-ordinator Vron Leslie, representatives of SVUK (Standards Verification UK), and IfL (Institute for Learning) Connections Adviser for WMCETT Anne Schofield.

Anne was busy answering queries about the need to record CPD for the IfL. She said: "I had a lot of queries about CPD and Professional Formation. Some people came with technical queries about difficulty accessing the right parts of REfLECT. People are not always clear about how much CPD they need and they are not always sure about what counts as CPD. It was great to have the opportunity to discuss their concerns face to face."

To find out more about how Anne can help call her on 07824 541145 or see www.warwick.ac.uk/go/wmcett

Teacher Educator Initiative results are shared

Ten partner colleges from WMCETT showcased projects to colleagues under the Teacher Educator Initiative (TEI) at the University of Warwick.

The TEI was set up for Teacher Educator teams to undertake a CPD project of their choosing that would benefit the whole teacher

training team. The event provoked lively discussion and a professional sharing of ideas and good practice around the themes:

- Technology to enhance Learner Engagement
- Mentor Engagement
- Curriculum and Programme Development

It was a very successful event as the feedback from colleagues shows:

'Fascinating, provoking much thought and discussion about how to incorporate colleagues.'

'Thought provoking, mind blowing; challenging; interesting. Lots of ideas of terms and concepts to explore with colleagues...'

'All the discussions were open, interesting and informative. Some eye-opening stuff.'

'Great opportunity to network/share ideas/practice.'

Vron Leslie
ITT Co-ordinator



Conferences focus on Skills for Life teaching

WMCETT has been involved in running two recent conferences with a Skills for Life focus.

The first was held in Ludlow, Shropshire. The 30 participants had a very successful day attending literacy and numeracy workshops and really appreciated the local nature of the small but friendly venue.

On the hottest day of the year almost 60 delegates attended a Skills for Life event at the University of Warwick. Everyone appreciated the opening presentation by Anne Schofield demonstrating the accessibility of the REFLECT tool on the Institute for Learning website.

This was followed by six subject specialist workshops, all of which were very well received.

Elaine Goodall
Priority Area Co-ordinator for Skills



Profile of Penny Ottewill

Penny Ottewill is the Work-Based Learning Co-ordinator for WMCETT and got involved through her existing role at the Centre for Lifelong Learning, University of Warwick.

Penny spent 10 years working at City College, Coventry, developing, managing and teaching on the 14-19 curriculum. She developed a continuing professional development (CPD) course for teaching staff at the college which the University of Warwick accredited. As the programme grew, this led to her working at the university.

She said: "Within my role for WMCETT I have been involved with disseminating the new teacher training qualification reform agenda. In response to the needs and concerns from the work-based learning sector we have developed the contextualised PTLLS as well as CPD programmes of study. The contextualised PTLLS have been a great success and to date 14 programmes have run across the region, with three additional PTLLS tutors being appointed from within the work-based learning sector."

Penny said the success of PTLLS led to the development of the CBED - the Contextualised, Blended and Extended DTLLS (Diploma to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector).

Penny has worked with Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Shropshire Training Providers Association on their Mentoring Action Research Project run through WMCETT. This aims to provide a mentoring framework which will attract, train and support work-based mentors attached to DTLLS candidates and is being piloted with the CBED DTLLS programme. Penny said: "We are hoping to find a model that's effective in meeting the requirements of the mentee, the employer and the provider and most importantly support trainee teachers in their role."

She said WMCETT had been a highly effective facilitator in providing work-based training providers with opportunities to meet the demands of the new requirements. Eight CPD programmes of study, including working with the younger learner and managing behaviour, have been developed and are currently being marketed.



High demand for new specialised PTLLS course

With funding successfully secured from the Skills for Life Improvement Programme through LSIS, WMCETT has been able to develop a further contextualised PTLLS programme. Drawing on experience gained from delivering the work-based learning PTLLS and Skills for Life PTLLS, we developed a programme which concentrated on the delivery of numeracy within a Train to Gain context.

Originally we planned to offer 10 places but demand

was so high we opened it up to 18 participants. What surprised us was that people were prepared to travel long distances to attend. The range of participants was interesting; most were from training providers engaged in vocational areas, such as business, IT, care, HGV transport, catering and the prison service, and two participants completely new to teaching.

Elaine Goodall
Priority Area Co-ordinator for Skills for Life