

WM CETT Newsletter

March 2008

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

Dear Colleagues

Welcome to the second West Midlands CETT newsletter.

Since we published our first newsletter in December, WMCETT partners have been busy promoting quality improvement for teacher trainers in lifelong learning. Inside, you can read about how successful PTLLS Plus programmes are proving to be in the Shropshire Voluntary sector and on the back cover, you can find out what happens when 16 WMCETT colleagues get together 'In the wilds of Whitborne'.

During the past few months, WMCETT has been developing and running a number of new and innovative initiatives. We have been working with practitioners across the lifelong learning sector to:

- Develop bespoke PTLLS
- Develop workshops for teacher trainers
- Launch the Mentoring Project
- Commission a set of Action Research projects
- Launch a cross-sector PTLLS evaluation project
- Develop three new CPD Awards for practitioners in the lifelong learning sector

At a national level, the 11 CETTs have been working closely with QIA and LLUK to support the development of the new ITT qualifications and the licence to practice requirements.

WMCETT has been working with a number of other CETTs to launch the first cross-CETT conference. This event was held at the Institute

of Education on 15 February. The second event will be hosted by HUDCETT in May. West Midlands CETT will host the third event for practitioners at the University of Warwick in September. Please see our website for conference details and registration information.

This theme of cross-CETT collaboration will appear in the 2008-9 Business Plan. We plan to work closely with East Midlands CETT to develop a number of exciting resources for practitioners across the Midlands.

Thank you for your continuing support for WMCETT.

Best wishes

Fergus McKay
Director

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Shropshire Voluntary Sector PTLLS

Variety is the word to describe students on the WMCETT Preparation for Teaching in the Lifelong Learning Sector (PTLLS) course for the Shropshire voluntary sector.

Students have come from regional or county-wide branches of national charities, such as WRVS, Nacro, Citizens' Advice Bureau and Home Start, as well as local community organisations. People are also coming from a wide range of roles, from those who work as training officers to those who teach occasionally as part of a broader role. Plus, geographically, students travel from across the county to the course delivered in Shrewsbury – from Ludlow, Whitchurch, Clee Hill and Oswestry. With only one exception, all are paid staff who are teaching and training volunteers across a range of subjects, such as:

- Working with young people
- Debt counsellors
- Advocates for people with disabilities
- Food hygiene

Sharon Sinclair, WRVS Territory Manager, sums up being on the course: "Attending the PTLLS training course has been very informative and quite different to 'Train the Trainers'. Voluntary sector working does not mean we overlook the importance of appropriate training through qualified people. It's been a pleasure working within such a diverse range of organisations, with a rich experience of life."

The course has been delivered by Sue Spiers, from WMCETT, in one day sessions starting from November and finishing on 20 February.

The venue has kindly been provided by Adult and Community Learning at Shropshire County Council. The long-term plan is to build capacity in order to be able to continue to deliver PTLLS to meet the specific and varied needs of those in the voluntary sector in Shropshire.

WMCETT have also been able to fund an Action Research project proposal from North Shropshire Voluntary Action. The project will look at the ongoing support needs within the voluntary sector for those that have undertaken PTLLS from across this large and rural county.

Jean Garner

Sub-regional Priority Area Co-ordinator



Mentoring Project update

We are currently completing Phases 1 and 2 of the Mentoring Project, which a number of you have been involved in. It is anticipated that we should have a synopsis of our initial findings in early March, with a download available on the website.

We are also developing the mentoring toolkit for partner institutions and we intend to trial the new Mentoring Award in March. In addition, we will be hosting a mentoring workshop in May.

Please see our website for the project specification, progress reports and further information as it becomes available.

In the wilds of Whitborne...

In January, everyone who has been working on promoting the work of WMCETT came together on an Away Day. Despite the threat of further flooding in the Herefordshire countryside, we all braved the weather to meet at Whitborne Hall.



West Midlands CETT is extremely large and diverse geographically, which means that we only have the opportunity to get everyone in the same place three or four times a year.

Each of the four Priority Area Co-ordinators gave a report of the achievements within their own sector, followed by a fascinating insight into the work of East Midlands CETT from Director Ian Grayling.

The opportunity to hear about the impact of the Centre across the region in each Priority Area certainly made us all realise the value of WMCETT's work. Be it working directly with partners or back in the main office at University of Warwick, WMCETT is stimulating important steps forward in the Lifelong Learning sector.

Susan Martin
Project Manager



Voluntary and Community Sector and Adult and Community Learning News

Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (PTLLS) programmes are proving to be very popular in the Adult Voluntary and Community sector. A Shropshire PTLLS is due to finish at the end of February and has been very successful, while Community First (in Herefordshire and Worcestershire) is working closely with WMCETT in developing another programme. A PTLLS programme is also scheduled to run in partnership with Warwickshire Adult and Community Learning Service.

Potential trainers from the voluntary sector are being identified with each programme run by WMCETT with the aim of building capacity in the voluntary sector. The trainees recruited will in turn be trained and mentored to deliver PTLLS in their own sectors. A second Shropshire PTLLS is scheduled to run in March and April, with the facilitator, from the VCS, having already been trained by WMCETT. She will continue to be mentored by a member of the WMCETT team.

A number of Action Research projects are being designed and planned in Shropshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire and Coventry and Warwickshire. These involve the voluntary sector and will help to develop appropriate systems to support ITT and CPD for the diverse range of trainers in the VCS across WMCETT's region.

Discussions have taken place with Fircroft College, a voluntary sector residential college in Birmingham, concerning the development of a PTLLS programme. This will run alongside 'Train the Trainers' courses at levels 1, 2 and 3 already offered by the College and will be piloted by the end of the academic year.

Margaret Hunter
Priority Area Co-ordinator

Development of the 'Work-based Learning PTLL Plus' Programme

In September 2007, 50 questionnaires were sent out to providers, via Coventry & Warwickshire Association of Training Providers and Shropshire, Hereford & Worcestershire ATP, to establish the Initial Teacher Training (ITT) and CPD requirements for the workforce in light of the new ITT reforms. The response was positive and led to a number of workshops being delivered to disseminate the ITT reforms in more detail.

Working with Shropshire, Hereford and Worcester ATP, a pilot programme was developed in response to the needs of the sector and set within the WBL context. Responding to providers' requests, a distinct delivery model was adopted, with candidates attending for 2 consecutive days of training, followed by a break of 6 weeks for assessment and observations, and finishing with a further 3 days of training (including tutorial). The initial pilots tested a live teaching observation rather than a micro teach, to which candidates responded positively, many stating that it was one of the most beneficial aspects of the programme. To continue this provision, four observer tutors were recruited from the WBL sector and trained to undertake the supportive and developmental observation programme.

The first two 'WBL PTLL Plus' programmes have just been delivered, with one aimed at trainers working with 14 – 16 year olds and the other set within the context of teaching adults (aged 16 upwards) within the WBL sector. Both groups were diverse in terms of teaching knowledge and experience: some completely new, others with many years of experience. However, all candidates were extremely positive and keen to develop their teaching roles.

Further 'WBL PTLL Plus' programmes are being delivered within the WMCETT region over the next few months. For more details, please contact Penny Ottewill on 07920 531142.

Penny Ottewill
Priority Area Co-ordinator

Profile of Mike Smith

Executive Officer, Herefordshire, Worcestershire & Shropshire Training Providers Association and WMCETT Sub-regional Priority Area Co-ordinator for Work-based Learning.



Mike represents the interests of 38 private training providers and FE college work-based divisions across the three counties of Herefordshire, Worcestershire & Shropshire. He is responsible for strategic planning and co-ordination of activities that promote work-based skills and vocational learning as viable pathways to Higher Education.

Mike sits on West Midlands' Regional Skills Strategy groups and 14-19 Schools Consortia in Worcestershire and is a strand lead for the Hereford-Worcester Aimhigher initiative.

Speaking on the impact of the WMCETT initiative, Mike says, 'This initiative has been long awaited and has the potential to bring about a step change in the way the work-based skills sector is viewed by educational institutions, employers and, most importantly, our learners. Through WMCETT, we will encourage individuals to take ownership of their own continual professional development and imbue that ethos within work-based training organisations.'

For more information about WMCETT, the projects we are running and the resources available for Teacher Trainers, please visit our website at: www.warwick.ac.uk/go/wmcett. You will also find an electronic copy of this newsletter, if you wish to send one to colleagues or staff.

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