

WM CETT Newsletter

June 2008

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

Looking back, moving forward



During the past 9 months WMCETT has been working with over 40 regional teaching and training providers and associate organisations in the Lifelong Learning sector. We have been delighted with the scale and scope of the collaborative work we have undertaken during this time and we would like to take this opportunity to thank our partners for their commitment to our successful development.

Over the coming year specific attention will be given to supporting Teacher Educators in FE within WMCETT. In June 2008, we will be launching the Teacher Educators (TE) initiative to support the professional development of the Teacher Educators teams in our partner colleges in WMCETT. TE teams will be able to bid up to £3000 to support any Initial Teacher Training (ITT) related development in their institution. More details will be available soon.

We are also encouraging the development of a community of practitioners in the West Midlands region. We would like to provide a space for our TEs to communicate with one another, share good practice and support the development of a FAQ site. Our website will provide direct links to a range of sources and resources. We produce a weekly synopsis of key developments in the sector and have also established a practitioners' area on the site, which over the course of the next few months will showcase a selection of resources from the national teaching change programme.

Fergus McKay
Director

A Winning Combination

Employers, colleagues from the Association of Training Providers (ATP), university tutors and candidates' families and friends joined together to celebrate success at the first Work-based Learning (WBL) PTLLS Plus awards ceremony at Worcester Rugby Football Club on 6th May. Twenty three candidates received certificates recognising their achievement of the Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (PTLLS) Plus Programme. This was designed in collaboration with Shropshire, Hereford and Worcester ATP in response to the needs of

the sector. The content and delivery mode was adapted to be set within a WBL context and includes a live teaching observation. Candidates enjoyed the programme and found it both interesting and beneficial to their teaching roles.

Penny Ottewill
Priority Area Co-ordinator

STOP PRESS!

WMCETT will be hosting a Cross-CETT conference on Friday 26 September 2008 at the University of Warwick. This event is held in collaboration with London CETT and Huddersfield CETT, and follows two extremely successful conferences in February and May.

The keynote speaker will be Professor Denis Gleeson, from the Institute of Education at the University of Warwick. More information will be released over the next few weeks on our website www.warwick.ac.uk/go/wmcett and we look forward to seeing you there.

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

Developing Support Networks in the Voluntary Sector

WMCETT is working with the voluntary sector to develop networks to support the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) needs of trainers within the sector to help to raise the standards of teacher training. Development projects in Coventry and Warwickshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire and Shropshire have been approved. Information will be gathered relating to individual tutors' expectations and the capacity of organisations in the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) to support the qualification, progression and ongoing development of staff.

The models for the three networks will be different in order to reflect area needs. However, when set up, the work of the networks will assist effective:

- gathering and disseminating of information relating to CPD
- delivery of teacher training
- mentoring of trainers
- quality improvement

Margaret Hunter
Priority Area Co-ordinator

Action Research Update

Three Action Research projects were sponsored by WMCETT in the first year. Two are ongoing this year and will be further developed in the next phase.

- Peer coaching and mentoring to improve tutors' practice and the outcomes for learners on non-accredited programmes with Workers' Educational Association West Midlands Region
- Building capacity and embedding sustainable CPD in work-based and vocational training organisations with Herefordshire, Worcestershire & Shropshire Training Providers Ltd
- Developing an infrastructure to support tutors and organisations in the Adult Voluntary and Community Learning (AVCL) sector in Shropshire with North Shropshire Voluntary Action

All of the projects achieved their primary aims. Some produced surprises, such as the enthusiasm found among private work-based training providers for developing their CPD provision. Another benefit of the projects was managers' appreciation of the possibilities for quality improvement highlighted by having external teaching observations carried out as part of WMCETT's PTLLS Plus programme.

Jill Hardman
Action Research Co-ordinator

Community First - WMCETT Provider Partner

Community First covers Herefordshire and Worcestershire to promote the work of the Voluntary and Community Sectors. Our aim in working with WMCETT is to raise the profile of the excellent quality of learning opportunities provided within the sector by:

- Raising awareness of the benefits of the new qualifications framework
- Running specific PTLLS courses for the sector
- Promoting progression onto CTLLS or DTLLS
- Organising specific CPD support for sector practitioners

A recent course had participants from such diverse backgrounds as Girlguiding, Ethnic Access Link, Malvern Gym Club, Crossroads for Care and British Red Cross.

CPD within the sector poses a number of challenges. We have set up an active e-group as part of our ongoing practitioner support which will also include meeting up, sharing development opportunities, identifying needs for VCS-specific CPD and working with WMCETT to develop ways of meeting these. Our Action Research project will enable us to work closely with practitioners to meet the CPD challenge. This will involve close collaboration with those delivering CTLLS and DTLLS to ensure smooth progression and accessibility for volunteers and paid staff.

Jan Brant
Sub-regional Priority Area Co-ordinator

An Outstanding Result!

WMCETT has been working with Fircroft College of Adult Education, a voluntary sector residential college in Birmingham, to develop a progression route into ITT from NQF level 1 to level 3/4 for the voluntary sector. Fircroft College recently received 'Outstanding' status following their OFSTED inspection, and WMCETT are delighted to be working with them on the first residential PTLLS course in the country.

Fircroft College has run a Train the Trainer programme since 2000. This is a residential programme accredited by the Open College Network and achievable at NQF levels 1 to 3. Since 2000, 1,027 people from across the UK have taken the course, of which 400 have come through MENCAP. The Train the Trainer programme includes topics which will be developed further in the NQF level 3/4 PTLLS programme. Less confident participants are better able to build on previous learning. The residential experience will allow those who lack confidence to access additional support from staff and peers. The two courses, Train the Trainer and PTLLS, will be delivered as stand alone courses but with the option of providing a progression route in a familiar setting where deliverers are known to the participants. On completion of the Train the Trainer course, those achieving at NQF level 2 for whom the PTLLS course would be appropriate will be given information and advice to prepare them for entry onto the course.



The PTLLS course will be delivered in two parts. Both parts will run over four days, including three nights. There will be a six week interval between the parts to allow for reflection and the completion of a number of assignments including a presentation, and tutors can be contacted by email for support during this period. WMCETT and Fircroft College look forward to launching the first PTLLS programme for those having completed the Train the Trainer programme in September. The partners are also planning to develop other CPD courses together.

Margaret Hunter
Priority Area Co-ordinator

Mentoring Project

Fourteen FE and two HE providers contributed to an online survey of current mentoring practices in WMCETT and the initial analysis is available on our website www.warwick.ac.uk/go/wmcett/researchprojects. Apart from the immense diversity of practices found, the data raises some interesting questions around, for example, the effects of formalising the relationship between mentor and mentee, the use of line managers and the impact of assessment on the mentoring relationship. The experience of mentoring in the WBL and AVCL sectors remains to be explored. The findings have already been used to inform Lifelong Learning UK's plans for the next phase of their work. Jill Hardman and Susie Knight worked with Jenny Hankey (Westminster Partnership CETT) to produce a *Scoping Study of Coaching and Mentoring in the Lifelong Learning Sector*, the first of its kind.

Jill Hardman and Susie Knight
Action Research Co-ordinators

Profile of Elaine Goodall

Priority Area Co-ordinator for Skills



Elaine is the Manager of the Essential Skills Resource Centre at the University of Warwick. Her role in WMCETT means she is heavily involved in teacher training, including the Diploma for Adult Literacy Teachers' course, the PTLLS Plus Literacy course and the certificate for Key Skills Teachers course. She has also developed a CPD workshop

on addressing the minimum core with generic teacher training programmes which was delivered at the CETT conference in London in February. She is now looking forward to delivering the PTLLS Plus Literacy course in Shropshire in June, and commencing delivery of a two year partly integrated DTLLS programme in the Autumn at the University of Warwick.

The Quality Improvement Agency (QIA) are developing the National CETT website over the next few months and CETTs have been asked for their input to the restructure. Fergus recently met with QIA and East Midlands CETT to discuss ideas. There will be more news about this in future editions of this newsletter.



*From left: Ian Grayling (EMCETT),
Deirdre Kimbell (QIA) and
Fergus McKay (Director, WMCETT)*

Check out the website...

Over the past few weeks, we have been hard at work restructuring the WMCETT website to enable the provision of more resources and information. You can find:

- Details about research and projects
- A weekly news summary from the sector
- A new resource area provided by practitioners, for practitioners
- A download centre containing reports, evaluations, templates and newsletters

Look round and please encourage your colleagues and staff to do the same.

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