

WM CETT Newsletter

April 2009

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

Ambitious plans for the coming year

As we embark upon the third year of WMCETT activities, there are a number of exciting initiatives planned. We will be hosting a series of regional information, advice and guidance seminars, supporting action research projects, and extending our popular teacher educator Community of Practitioners initiative. WMCETT will continue to promote CPD programmes for the wider lifelong learning sector and will be offering a series of new and innovative in-house training sessions. In addition, the WMCETT website will be extended to include sections about all the major regional workforce reform partners.

We hope our plans will support the important work you do and we look forward to seeing you at one of our events.

Fergus McKay
Director



Members of the WMCETT team l-r back: Margaret Hunter and Vron Leslie, l-r front: Jill Hardman, Elaine Goodall, Fergus McKay and Penny Ottewill

Community of Practitioners

WMCETT has set up a Community of Practitioners to share ideas and best practice amongst teacher educators within the West Midlands. The Community of Practitioners (WMCOP) is for teacher educators in the Further Education, Work Based Learning, Adult and Community Learning or Voluntary sectors who are part of the WMCETT partnership, although we hope to expand this to include other professionals in the near future.

The aim is to have an interactive relationship via our WMCETT website where resources and ideas can be shared. Documents are added to the website which we think will be of interest and feedback is invited, including sharing other useful resources, which can then be published on the website.

The trial commenced in January with our first document and this has had a very positive response with a large number of teacher educators looking at the website. We have now published our second document and circulated a bulletin to WMCOP members. The bulletin provides updates on areas of interest from professional bodies, shares ideas and resources, signals new and interesting articles, books and research in teacher education and has a section about events in the region.

For further information about WMCOP, please email us at wmcop@warwick.ac.uk

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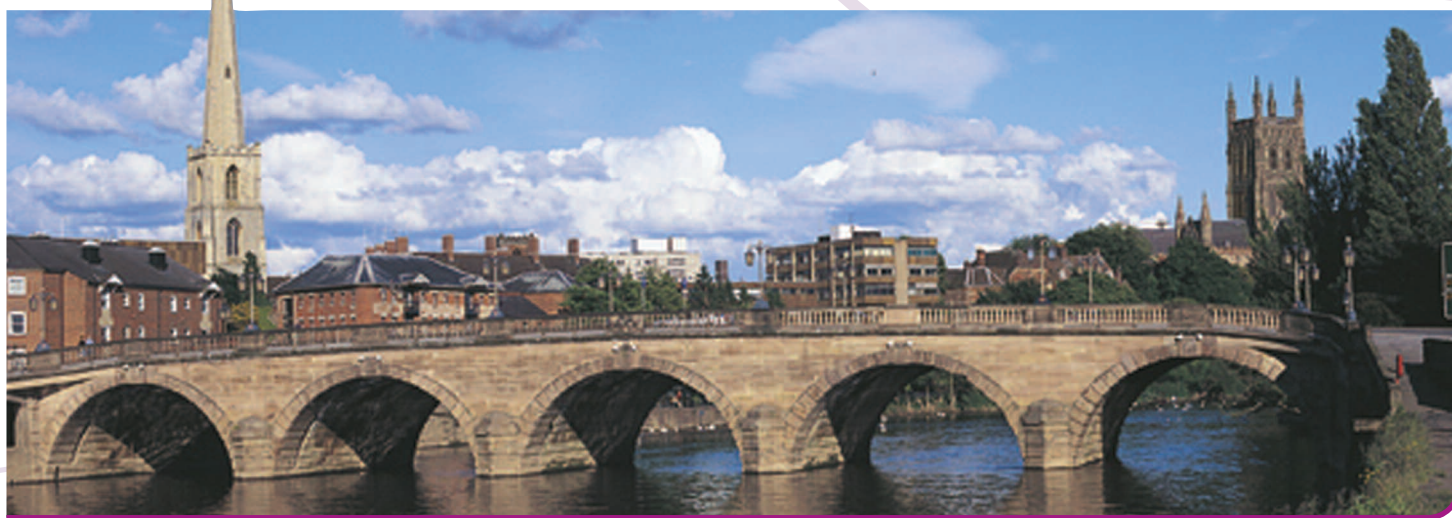
Partner Update – University of Worcester

Last year, the University of Worcester ran a programme of CPD workshops for people working in initial teacher training in the lifelong learning sector. This programme had been developed following an evaluation of the training needs of college-based teacher trainers and discussions with partner colleges and WMCETT. Outcomes from the workshops included a commitment to sharing specialist expertise and good practice across the partnership, ensuring consistent approaches and standards, and disseminating WMCETT activities.

Vince Russel from the Institute of Education at the University of Worcester commented, "We are looking forward to increasing involvement with WMCETT and the West Midlands Higher Education Network [set up by WMCETT in September 2007]. For us they have been very helpful in terms of broadening our perspective and increasing our networking."

For the full version of the interview with Vince Russel go to:

www.warwick.ac.uk/go/wmcett/about/partners/regionalpartnership/worcs/interview/



Great news for Skills

A PTLLS course is being developed specifically for people teaching numeracy on Skills for Life Train to Gain courses. Elaine Goodall, WMCETT Priority Area Co-ordinator for Skills, has been successful in a funding application to the National Research and Development Centre (NRDC). The funding was directed at projects that would improve quality in teacher education through literacy and numeracy training.

Elaine has worked with Mike Smith, Executive Officer with Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Shropshire Training Providers Association, to recruit people for the PTLLS course. Elaine has previously written a PTLLS course contextualised for literacy and numeracy, and Penny Ottewill, Priority Area Co-ordinator for Work Based Learning, has written one contextualised for training providers. The combination of the two specialisms offers a novel course, which it is hoped will continue to be delivered following the pilot.

Cross-CETT Collaboration

WMCETT is sharing some of its experience with the East of England CETT. Elaine Goodall, WMCETT Priority Area Co-ordinator for Skills, visited EECETT to talk about the flexible delivery learning module which leads to the Additional Diploma for adult numeracy teachers. EECETT are interested in improving the co-ordination of their numeracy provision by using flexible delivery.

Teacher Support Networks

One of WMCETT's priorities for teachers and trainers working in the adult voluntary and community sector was to set up practitioner networks in the regional areas. The overall aims for these networks were to keep practitioners aware of developments in teacher training nationally, to assess CPD needs of the sector and to help provide for those needs.

All three networks have now been launched and are each working on programmes to suit the needs of their particular members. Raising awareness of training reforms, an enthusiasm for mentoring, and sharing skills and knowledge are some of the key themes that are being developed.

The regional activity plans include:

- Shropshire - setting up a mentoring scheme and organising a further day of workshops for members following the successful sessions held at the launch event
- Herefordshire and Worcestershire – running accredited CPD courses and compiling a directory of members' training skills
- Warwickshire – organising a community sector PTLLS course with Adult Community Education and setting up a members' blog site

Members of the support networks have also been attending the Workforce Reforms Roadshows being run around the region. For more details of what is happening in each support network area see:

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

WMCETT on the road

The Workforce Reforms Teacher Training Roadshows are spreading information about CPD requirements in lifelong learning and provide an opportunity for everyone involved in teaching in the lifelong learning sector to discuss the implications for their work.

The first roadshow was held in Worcestershire in January, in conjunction with Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Shropshire Training Providers Association. Sessional speakers included representatives from WMCETT, Lifelong Learning UK and the Institute for Learning.

The thirty participants, from work-based learning providers in the local area, also took part in three workshops:

- staff development and e-learning run by the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) Regional Support Centre
- qualifications for teaching Skills for Life run by Anne Schofield, Skills Co-ordinator for WMCETT
- the role of mentors in teacher training, run by Jayne Hedges, WMCETT Mentoring Project Co-ordinator

Three further roadshows broadly following this model have been held in February and March throughout WMCETT's three regions. These have been attended by a wide range of delegates. Feedback from people who have attended the events has been extremely positive, with many commenting on how they felt much better informed and had a lot of information to feedback in to their organisations.

"This was the best event I've been to for some time. It was well run [and] informative."

"I found the roadshow very useful, particularly the workforce reforms/lfl session which I need to feed back to my team and to a wider range of cross-college colleagues."



Participants at the Wolston Roadshow

Profile of Margaret Hunter

I have been a team member of WMCETT since it was set up in 2007. My role involves the co-ordination of WMCETT's work with the Third Sector and Adult and Community Learning. Previously, I co-ordinated the work of the Coventry and Warwickshire Adult Education Providers' Professional Development Hub based at the University of Warwick.

I have worked as a teacher and manager in education for over 30 years. Much of this work has been community based with Third Sector organisations and Local Authority Adult and Community Learning Services. I was Lifelong Learning Officer for Warwickshire County Council for six years before I joined WMCETT.

I am interested in the development and promotion of the excellent teaching done in the Third Sector and in Adult and Community Learning and in helping the sector to build its capacity to deliver high quality learning to its target groups.



An Alternative Route

The General Professional Recognition Learning and Skills (GPRLS) scheme enables competent and experienced teachers to be recognised according to the requirements established by the FE Teachers' Qualifications (England) Regulations 2007. The scheme is designed for those for whom undertaking an initial teacher training qualification would be inappropriate. Successful applicants are in a position to commence the process of professional formation prior to applying for Qualified Teacher Learning and Skills (QTLS) or Associate Teacher Learning and Skills (ATLS), the new licences to practise that are conferred by the Institute for Learning (IfL).

What will GPRLS give?

- Professional recognition to those with extensive experience, expertise and credentials

- Professional recognition for generic teaching and/or for subject specialist

Who is it for?

- Those who are currently fulfilling the full teaching role either full time or part time
- Those for whom undertaking the qualifications would be inappropriate

For further information, visit the SVUK website:
<http://www.standardsverification.org/2927.htm>

If you would like more information about how we can support your individual circumstances, please contact Anne Schofield at anne.schofield@warwick.ac.uk. In some instances, workshops can be arranged through WMCETT for groups of prospective applicants and their referees to support the application process.