

WM CETT Newsletter

June 2009

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

Dear Colleagues

Welcome to our June newsletter, where we are able to report on a busy few months. WMCETT took to the road to lead a workshop at the national conference of CETTs at the Eden Project in Cornwall, where experiences were shared across the sector. Another journey was made to RAF Cosford for one of our Co-ordinators' meetings. This newsletter also includes an update on our Mentoring Action Research Project, and you can read more about one of our Shropshire partners, the Professional Development Partnership.

Fergus McKay
Director



Lucky 13 take mentoring course

Thirteen tutors are embarking on the WMCETT Mentoring Programme in order to support the introduction of an exciting new mentoring scheme within Coventry Adult Education Service.

They have undertaken an initial two days' training in mentoring theories, skills and processes. They will now be allocated mentees who are either new to their roles, or existing practitioners, who are wishing to enhance their skills in particular areas as part of their continuing professional development.

For further information on the Mentoring Programme contact Jayne Hedges: j.m.hedges@warwick.ac.uk



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**CENTRES
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Partner update – the Professional Development Partnership

The Professional Development Partnership (PDP) is an associate partner of WMCETT, helping inform and disseminate policy and practice. The aim of the PDP is to provide access for its members to high-quality, low-cost collaborative CPD activities, and its partnership with WMCETT fits in well.

Members recently attended the WMCETT roadshows held in Stourport-on-Severn, Shrewsbury and Worcester to find out more about CPD requirements in lifelong learning. PDP Manager Katie McCombe has also worked with Anne Schofield, Skills Co-ordinator for WMCETT, and Elaine Goodall, Priority Area Co-ordinator for Skills, on events in Telford and Hereford to raise awareness of the general professional recognition route to Qualified Teacher Status and specialist diplomas for skills for life.

Looking to the future, a Skills for Life conference is planned for July which Elaine, Anne and other WMCETT colleagues will participate in, and the CETT will also be taking part in a mini-education show on July 7 at the Royal National College for the Blind in Hereford, organised by the PDP.



Bev Parry, PDP Administrator, and Katie McCombe, PDP Manager

Katie said: "What we do is support what the CETT does. When the CETT was looking to do the series of roadshows I fed that information out to the PDP network. It's about putting people in touch with other people, or bringing information back to them from the network."

Training experiences inspire at Eden

WMCETT inspired debate on work-based learning at a workshop held at the national conference of CETTs at the Eden Project in Cornwall. 'Just Suppose' was hosted by the Peninsula and SWitch CETTs.

WMCETT Director Fergus McKay and Priority Area Co-ordinator for Work Based Learning Penny Ottewill led a workshop about their experiences of working with the work-based learning sector. The conference organisers banned all Powerpoint presentations and handouts, instead asking all workshop facilitators to host a professional discussion with their session attendees.

Fergus said: "It was a great day. There was a lot of discussion around people's own experiences which was inspirational."

The conference took its title from the research work by Frank Coffield, Professor of Education at the Institute of Education, London, entitled 'Just suppose teaching and learning became the first priority'. Prof Coffield carried out the research for the Learning and Skills Network, and it argues that teaching and learning should regain their place as the main focus of the post-compulsory education sector. Prof Coffield attended the conference, joining delegates to discuss different topics, and concluded the day by summarising the various debates.

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Action Research mentoring project

An Action Research project focusing on mentoring across all four WMCETT priority areas has reported back on progress at its half-way stage, with people already making changes as a result of what they have discovered.

The 'Enabling Access to Effective Mentor Support' project was launched with a start-up seminar in January. In April another workshop was held where the six participating organisations produced interim reports. WMCETT Action Research Co-ordinator and project manager Jill Hardman said: "People were picking up different ideas and learning from what others were doing. That learning was as useful as doing their own projects has been."

Another meeting takes place in June where participants will look at writing up their projects. But the work for some of them will go on - so far, Birmingham Adult Education Service, Shropshire County Council, HWSTPA and Community First have secured funds from the LSIS Excellence and Improvement Fund to further develop their projects.

Goodbye to Lucy



In May, we said goodbye to Lucy Moss, our Project Administrator. We wish Lucy and her husband Julian every success with their new life on the Wirral.

New West Midlands IfL role created



A new role has been created through WMCETT to raise awareness of and promote the work of the Institute for Learning (IfL) across the whole of the West Midlands.

The IfL is the professional body for teachers, trainers and assessors across further education, which includes FE colleges, adult and community learning, the emergency and public services, the armed services and the voluntary and work-based learning

sectors. At the start of this year it had more than 180,000 members.

A West Midlands Institute for Learning Connections Adviser has now been appointed by WMCETT with funding from IfL to promote the work of the IfL amongst its members. Anne Schofield, who is also WMCETT's Skills Co-ordinator, will hold the part-time role until the end of March 2010.

Anne said her work will consist of providing on-line information and support for members, running designated workshops, supporting the volunteer Connections – people who work in colleges and promote the work of the IfL – and linking up with teacher educators to spread information.

Anne said the IfL's REFLECT portal was not understood by many members, but by the autumn everyone was supposed to have recorded their hours of CPD on it, and what reflection they had done. Applying for Qualified Teacher Learning and Skills (QTLS) status was also misunderstood by many members.

Anne said: "I think what's happened is everybody's registered but fewer people have really got to grips with it. I will maintain an on-line page with information about the role, Frequently Asked Questions, and a link to email me so I can give some advice immediately if that's appropriate. I am also going to do some designated workshops. We have to manage what could be a huge demand."

More information about the West Midlands Institute for Learning Connections Adviser role can be found at:

www.warwick.ac.uk/go/wmcett

Profile of Jill Hardman

Jill Hardman is the Action Research Co-ordinator for WMCETT and has been involved since before the start, as she helped put together the bid to set up the CETT.

She has a PhD in Industrial Relations from Warwick Business School and for most of her working life has been involved with trade unions and employment rights. Jill used to run the teacher training programmes at Solihull College and was Equality and Diversity Officer, and equal opportunities is still a big part of what she does. As well as working for WMCETT, Jill does work for LLUK, is a Development Adviser for the University of Warwick teacher trainer programme and an Ofsted Inspector for ITT for further education.

Jill's original work with the CETT involved supporting groups of people who had been given small grants to carry out action research projects. This has developed into larger research-based projects, and Jill is currently supporting the Mentoring Action Research Project, which is featured on Page 3.

Jill said she finds the work of WMCETT very exciting. She said: "The remit for our CETT is brilliant because it has a focus for work-based learning, the voluntary sector, adult and community learning, FE and skills. It's enabled us to get out and find really good people doing interesting things. With the CETT we have been able to get involved and be supportive where we can."



RAF Cosford hosts Co-ordinators' meeting

On 1 May the WMCETT team held one of their regular Co-ordinators' meetings at the RAF Museum in Cosford, Shropshire.

The museum recently constructed a hangar to house its Cold War exhibition, and part of the building was given across to use for education-related meetings and conferences. The excellent meeting and conference facilities are available to educational organisations. For more information, please contact their Education Officer at philip.clayton@rafmuseum.org

The visit also coincided with the Museum's 30th birthday celebrations, which included a Spitfire flypast, a special exhibition of modern warplanes, including a helicopter just returned from Afghanistan, a brass band

and cake. To find out more about the museum and its work, go to www.rafmuseum.org.uk/cosford/



Fergus McKay (centre) presents Phil Clayton (Education Officer) and Sue Fitzsimmons (Head of Access and Learning) with a donation of books to support their Conflict Studies courses

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