

# WMCETT Newsletter

December 2008

[www.warwick.ac.uk/go/wmcett/](http://www.warwick.ac.uk/go/wmcett/)

## So far, so much

WMCETT has reached the halfway stage of its current contract with the Learning and Skills Improvement Service (LSIS, formerly QIA). Over the past 18 months a great deal has been accomplished throughout the partnership.

We now have in excess of 50 partners who represent the wider lifelong communities throughout the Midlands. Our team, in conjunction with our partners, have

- developed new resources to support the workforce reform agenda
- hosted conferences, including our own in September
- run workshops across sectors and subjects
- conducted important action research projects
- developed a sector specific website
- supported individuals and organisations in various aspects of teacher training

We are excited and optimistic about the future and have set ourselves an ambitious schedule for the next six months to support the development of the new ITT and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) requirements for the Lifelong Learning sector.

One of these exciting new developments is a series of roadshows at partner organisations that will give colleagues the opportunity to meet representatives from LLUK, IfL and WMCETT. There will be the chance to discuss live issues within the sector and ask any burning questions.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our partners and colleagues for supporting WMCETT. We wish you all a very peaceful and enjoyable festive season and look forward to continuing to work with you in 2009.

*Best wishes from all at West Midlands CETT*

## WMCETT Conference

WMCETT hosted a successful Cross-CETT Conference on 26 September, in collaboration with HUDCETT and LONCETT. The feedback about the day was extremely positive, and we would like to thank everyone who attended, especially those who presented workshops and spoke at the conference. For photos, or to see the presentations from the day, go to our home page: [www.warwick.ac.uk/go/wmcett](http://www.warwick.ac.uk/go/wmcett) and click on the link on the right hand side.

## Conference Thoughts



**Christine Robertson**  
Curriculum Team Leader, Education and Teacher Training  
Herefordshire College of Technology

"In the daily bustle of teacher training, it is easy to lose the bigger picture. The WMCETT conference was a chance to pause and reflect in a wider context, highlighted in the presentations on teacher professionalism. 'Moving on with the Minimum Core' explored the application of Bloom's Taxonomy to delivery, a systematic approach to embedded delivery. 'Using the VLE to support subject specialist development' introduced an innovative solution to finding appropriate subject mentors for trainees, of particular value in rural areas. The conference was a refreshing opportunity to share with partnership colleagues and engage with new developments in the sector."

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**WM CETT**

# WMCETT News... New

## Mentoring Project

The Mentoring Project entered a new phase in mid-September with the launch of the Mentoring Programme pilot at North East Worcestershire College in Bromsgrove with Shelley Phelan and her experienced team of teacher educators and senior teachers.

The Mentoring Programme is a 10 credit HE level 1 course involving three full days or six half days of tutor input on the theory, practice and ethics of mentoring. Candidates are expected to write a 1000 word assignment on an aspect of theory that underpins mentoring. They are also expected to carry out, document and evaluate a mentoring relationship in which they act as a mentor.

The Mentoring Programme offers a good way of fulfilling CPD requirements for the Institute for Learning and is one of several Open Studies programmes soon to be available from the University of Warwick. These include Observing Teaching and Learning, Training the Trainers for Teacher Development, and Assessor (Organisational Systems and Processes).

For more information, please contact me at [j.m.hedges@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:j.m.hedges@warwick.ac.uk)

**Jayne Hedges**  
Mentoring Project Co-ordinator



*Candidates on the Mentoring Programme*

## Skills for Life

I have recently started to work for WMCETT as the Skills Co-ordinator for Shropshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire, and I have been contacting and meeting with Skills for Life managers across the three counties. One of the aims of the meetings is to identify examples of good practice that can be shared with other practitioners. I am especially interested in hearing about 'small-scale' examples of good practice that others wouldn't necessarily find out about. It may be that someone has excellent ideas for increasing attendance or recruiting those 'hard to reach'. A further aim is to identify any training needs, and I will work with managers to address those needs. The meetings also provide good opportunities to promote WMCETT's excellent website.

Also, there are two courses that I am keen to promote:

- the Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (PTLLS) Plus Literacy course for those delivering or supporting literacy in the voluntary sector and
- an embedding learning course for vocational tutors needing to embed literacy and numeracy into their courses.

For further information, please contact me at [anne.schofield@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:anne.schofield@warwick.ac.uk)

**Anne Schofield**  
Sub-Regional Priority Area Co-ordinator

## What WMCETT means to us

"Solihull College became a member of WMCETT in July 2008, so we are relatively new partners. However, we already feel part of a community that shares ideas and good practice. Membership has encouraged the ITT team at Solihull to identify opportunities for CPD both on an individual and team basis. We spotted the e-learning programme in the latest newsletter and, as we are keen to improve our skills in this area, we intend to complete it as part of our team development for this year. The CETT has great potential for collaborative working which will benefit the sector as a whole, and we look forward to being increasingly involved in it."

**Shirley Alabaster, Head of School**  
Education, Training and Development  
Solihull College



# s...News...News...

## Teacher Support Network Launch

The Shropshire Teacher Support Network was launched on 20 October 2008 at Shrewsbury Town football stadium. The event hosted a number of workshops for providers of adult education in Shropshire. These included sessions on working with people with sensory impairment, mentoring, ICT development, training volunteers, and CPD requirements and the Institute for Learning.

The Shropshire Network is one of three sub-regional networks. The Coventry and Warwickshire Network was launched in August, and

the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Network is to be launched in the New Year.

The networks will support the work of practitioners across the region by informing them about new developments, CPD opportunities, accessible mentorship support and relevant quality issues.

**Margaret Hunter**  
Priority Area Co-ordinator



## PTLLS Celebration

A celebration event was held on 9 October 2008 at Community First's offices in Malvern to present the Introductory PTLLS awarded by the University of Warwick to the PTLLS Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) pilot group in Worcestershire. Members of the group were drawn from a diverse range of organisations including the British Red Cross, Ethnic Access Link, Worcestershire Council for Voluntary Youth Service, Malvern Gym Club and Crossroads for Carers.

In addition to the presentation of certificates by Jan Brant, who had co-tutored the event,

the occasion was also used as an opportunity to explore the structure and content of a VCS ITT support network. The group were very enthusiastic about a network and suggested a range of innovative and exciting ideas, which will be incorporated into its design and development.

Members of the group also had plenty to say about their CPD. There was recognition that there are particular challenges facing tutors and trainers in the third sector. A range of creative suggestions and ideas for CPD were discussed and the group expressed the wish

to work together to share expertise, knowledge and experience.

One final item on the agenda centred on a discussion about what the support members could expect for their tutoring practice from their managers and employing organisations. The group agreed that it was important for managers to be able to identify the benefits of providing support to tutors. A lively discussion followed as to how this could be achieved.

**Louise Jones**  
Sub-Regional Priority Area Co-ordinator



## Profile of Vron Leslie

I was appointed as ITT Co-ordinator for WMCETT in September and I am currently supporting colleges with the Teacher Educator Initiative. This project is focused on supporting the continuing professional development of teacher educators in partner colleges.



I have been a teacher educator for over 20 years, working with both the FE and HE sectors. I've set up mentoring programmes in both Education and Industry.

I am interested in helping professionals to engage in new ideas and continuing professional development. As part of my own continuing professional development, I have worked on a number of research and evaluation projects. These have covered Coaching and Mentoring, Professionalising the Workforce, Evaluation of PTLLS courses, Functional Skills and the Gold Dust project.

I am currently exploring ways to make resources accessible for teacher educators in the Practitioner and Professional Development zones of the WMCETT website. If you have any ideas for this area of the website, please feel free to contact me at [v.leslie@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:v.leslie@warwick.ac.uk)

## Learning Achievement Awards

Olympic medallist Sharron Davies presented Steven Harrison with his WMCETT-sponsored award at the Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Shropshire Training Providers Association Learning Achievement Awards held in September. More information about the event can be found at: [www.warwick.ac.uk/go/wmcett/priorityareas/work](http://www.warwick.ac.uk/go/wmcett/priorityareas/work)



## Database Update

We have been working hard to ensure our database is up to date and contains accurate information. If your contact details have changed in the last year, or you know of someone who would like to be added to the database, please email us at [wmcett@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:wmcett@warwick.ac.uk). If you would like to be removed from our database altogether, please also let us know via any of the means below.

**Lucy Moss**  
Project Administrator

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