



Hampshire & Isle of Wight
Lifelong Learning Network

CHILDHOOD, YOUTH & COMMUNITY STUDIES
Curriculum Group

Minutes 01 May 09

Present:

Helen Briers (HB) (Chair)	Curriculum Group Development Manager
Dot Capes	University of Winchester
Anne Ottaway	Fareham College
Wendy Scott	Peter Symonds College
Jon Bramley (JB)	HI-LLN
Anne Oldfield (AO)	Brockenhurst College
Pia Parry	University of Chichester
Joy Chalke	University of Portsmouth
Keren Hurst	Fareport Training
Natasha Jeans	Fareport Training

Apologies:

Jane Joyce	University of Winchester
Joyce Goodman	University of Winchester
Kay Watling	Southampton EYDCP
Marie Kind	Andover College
Maz Stewart	IoW College
Ruth Bradley	University of Chichester
Jan Georgeson	University of Chichester
Irena Kettles	Fareport Training
Sue Malpass	St Vincent College
Jane Erricker	University of Winchester
Kim Chivers	BCoT
Debbie Simmons	ECCU, Hampshire County Council
Jan Wise	HI-LLN
Paula Allen	University of Winchester
Nicola Treagust	Tauntons College
Helga Stittrich- Lyons	University of Portsmouth

Date of next meeting:

23 October 2009

9.30 am - 1.30 pm (including lunch)

Macdonald Botley Park Hotel, Golf and Country Club, SO32 2UA

Please note this will be the last CYCS CG Meeting. It has been decided to hold a longer celebratory event. There will be opportunity to look back at and celebrate achievements and hopefully to hear some students' experiences of how their Early Years learning and qualifications have made a difference to them and their work.

2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

Minutes of the meeting 23 January 2009 were approved.

Matters arising:

ACTIONS from minutes of 23 January 2009

4.2 Action 1. HB had checked with the TDA about whether or not 'Use of Maths' GCSE was on their list of approved qualifications. TDA ITT requirements guidance stated that 'Providers may deem a grade C or above in the GCSE Use of Mathematics to be a suitable equivalent to a grade C or above in GCSE mathematics'. This guidance had been circulated to the CYCS CG. It was noted that ITT is very competitive and as a result ITT providers may not agree to accept the Use of Mathematics as an equivalent qualification.

4.3.2 Actions 2 & 3 outstanding



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3. CYCS Curriculum Group Activities Update

HB presented a verbal update of CYCS activities.

3.1 Progression Agreements (PAs)

3.1.1 Progression from CACHE L3 Diploma Childrens' Care & Education

Tauntons College, Southampton City College, Highbury College, FCoT and Totton College all now participating. Totton College had elected not to participate in PAs related to other foundation degrees.

9 existing PAs relevant to CACHE L3 Diploma CCE students:

BA / BSc Social Work (University of Chichester, Portsmouth and Winchester, Southampton Solent University)

BA Social Care Studies (University of Winchester)

BA Childhood, Youth & Community Studies (University of Winchester)

BA Childhood Studies (University of Chichester)

FD in Early Years Care & Education (University of Portsmouth)

FD in Early Childhood (University of Chichester)

3.1.2 Progression from BTEC National Diploma in CCLD and CACHE L3 Diploma in CCE to Early Years related FDs

The following PAs had now been signed. Copies of the PA documents to be sent out in the near future.

FD in Early Years Care & Education, University of Portsmouth

FD in Early Childhood, University of Chichester

FD in Childhood Studies, University of Winchester

FD in Early Years: Childcare & Education, FCoT

3.1.3 Progression from BTEC National Diploma in CCLD and CACHE L3 Diploma in CCE to Nursing and Midwifery courses at the University of Southampton

No change to the situation. PA documents are with the UoS legal team for consideration.

3.1.4 Progression from BTEC National Diploma & Certificate in Uniformed Public Services to FD in Public Services offered by Southampton Solent University

SSU reconsidered validating a FD and instead decided to validate a BA (Hons) in Public Service Management. This resulted in a delay to validation, with first entry now being expected 2010. BTEC providers had been informed of these changes.

SSU had signed the amended PA documents. BTEC providers were in the process of signing.

3.1.5 Mapping the Montessori International Diploma to local Early Years Related Foundation Degrees

HB had received a request from Kirsty Stickley (EECU, HCC) to explore the possibility of mapping the Montessori International Diploma (L4) to local foundation degrees. It was hoped that it might be possible to develop an HI-LLN PA involving APCL in a similar manner to the PA covering progression from NVQ L4 CCLD to local FDs. This possibility was discussed and it was agreed that it would be a valuable exercise.

It was noted that the Montessori qualification had good curriculum content and 4 modules at L4. Thought to be 600 hours of study.



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Both the University of Winchester and the University of Chichester had had students progressing from the Montessori qualification onto their FDs.

ACTIONS:

- 1) HB to check if the Montessori qualification is a 'valid' qualification on the CWDC qualifications database
- 2) If a 'valid' qualification, HB to facilitate the mapping exercise

3.2. Curriculum Development

3.2.1 Development of an 'Early Years' pathway in the FD in Management offered by the University of Winchester

Validation event scheduled for 9 June 09.

Stella McKnight and Debbie Simmons (EECU, HCC) had been working with The Faculty of Education at the University of Winchester to develop a new module called 'Early Years Policy Management - The National Context'.

3.2.2 Maths and English GCSEs for the Early Years Sector

- The 'Introduction to Maths GCSE' course was advertised via the HCC Horizons magazine. Initial interest from potential learners was very promising.
- As a result, 3 'Get Ready for Numeracy' courses organised and delivered by EECU, HCC and the ESSU respectively, are being run during June and July 09. The courses are being run at Bushy Leaze in Aldershot, The Aviary Centre in Eastleigh and at Oak Meadow in Fareham.

3.2.3 Playwork

HB reported that she had had discussions with Sandy Bennett from Create Training Ltd (Portsmouth based) and Liz Wolfenden from FCoT, regarding the possibility of some L4 continuing professional development Playwork courses / units, which could potentially form part of a Playwork foundation degree. Discussion of this possibility ensued.

It was noted that Ofsted still accept Early Years qualifications for playwork in out of school provision. If this requirement is tightened up it was felt that there may possibly be more pressure for Playworkers to obtain specific playwork qualifications (rather than early years qualifications). It was again noted that while providers had a lot of initial interest in Playwork NVQs, these courses often didn't run due to low numbers of students. It was also noted that assessors with playwork qualifications were difficult to find.

The possibility of creating a playwork pathway in existing early years or youth and community FDs was considered. It was noted that the University of Winchester FD in Childhood Studies has a playwork L5 module (Developing Play Based Activities).

Overall, there was little energy for the idea of further exploration of the development of a Playwork FD.



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3.3 Staff Development

3.3.1 Academic Writing Workshops

A series of three, short workshops called 'De-mystifying Academic Writing and HE Jargon' had been organised.

- 27 April 09. What is academic writing? Why have it? Essay structure, content and key points
- 02 June 09. Referencing; why bother? The 'dos' and 'don'ts'
- 17 June 09. Top tips for unpacking HE jargon and analysing the question *Re-arranged from 01 April 09.*

The workshops were being facilitated by Tracey Pugh from the University of Southampton.

AO reported excellent feedback from colleagues at Brockenhurst College who had attended the workshop on 27 April.

Workshop presentations will be available from the HI-LLN website. www.hi-lln.co.uk

3.3.2 Early Years Staff Development Event 30 April 09

Twenty five people had attended. Eight colleges, four universities, 1 private training provider and two local authorities were represented.

Themes for the event were:

- EYPS Pathways including local provision and an EYP's view
- Getting to Grips with the Role of the EYP
- The Early Years Workforce Qualifications Index

Colleagues from the Universities of Winchester and Portsmouth gave an overview of the four EYPS pathways available. Cathy Coles, an EYP, talked passionately about her experience of completing the EYPS long pathway, the enormous benefit to herself, the knock on effect on other staff in her setting and to introducing exciting new practices.

Liz Brownhill from the Children's and Young People's Directorate of the IoW Council gave an overview of the Early Years and Childcare 10 Year Strategy and summarised progress made towards targets at this, the halfway point. Liz then facilitated lively small group discussion focussed on the EYP role.

The event was rounded up by a very informative and clear tour through the New Qualifications Database given by Debbie Simmons of the Early Education and Childcare Unit, Hampshire County Council. From September 09 the database, which is being introduced by the Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC), allows settings, local authorities and Ofsted to check if current qualifications held by staff meet the seven criteria stipulated by CWDC for 'valid' qualifications. Guidance is supplied by the database when additional training / qualifications are required in order for staff to meet the required qualification standard.

Feedback from the event was extremely positive. 18 feedback forms were returned from the 25 handed out. 94% of participants stated that the event met their expectations very well. The most useful parts of the event were stated to be; the content and balance of the programme, the opportunity to share / discuss ideas with colleagues and general networking. The venue was warmly received by all!



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Presentations and a summary of points from the group discussion on the EYP role are available from the HI-LLN website www.hi-lln.co.uk and from Helen Briers. helen.briers@winchester.ac.uk

4. Continuation of CYCS Activities

4.1 JB reported that HI-LLN partners were discussing continuation of the HI-LLN website, communications and the Progression Agreement tool (currently Hampshire & IoW Routes <http://hampshireiowroutes.dotco.co.uk/index>)

4.2 The summary of key CYCS activities, emailed with papers for the meeting, was used as a starting point for consideration of which activities the group thought would be valuable and feasible to continue.

The following points were agreed:

- One of the most valuable aspects of the CYCS CG had been to establish effective links and communication between L3 / 4 providers and the universities. The CYCS CG meetings had filled a gap in networking.
- L3 - L8 Map of Early Years related provision had proved to be extremely useful.
- Other guidance materials produced by the CYCS CG had been very useful (e.g. requirement for maths and English GCSEs, Career Guide for Early Years Education, Childcare & Playwork, Summary of Eligibility for APCL from NVQ L4 CCLD to local FDs)
- Continuation of regular meetings was not felt necessary. Better to put Lifelong Learning on the agendas of existing meetings.

Agreed:

1. To hold an annual meeting in early spring (early February suggested), organised by the universities.
 - Arrangements between institutions could be reviewed, e.g. progression agreements, curriculum content changes, updating provision for the coming academic year, updating staff and policy changes.
 - Opportunity to update on recent changes in the Early Years sector
 - The meeting would also provide a networking opportunity
 - A 'conference fee' would be levied to cover costs
 - CPD certificates would be made available
2. HB to explore with the local authority Early Years teams the future updating and production of the L3 - L8 map of early years related provision
3. HB to explore with CWDC and SkillsActive the future production of the career guide
4. JB to explore with Aimhigher the future production of the career guide
5. HB to request local authority Early Years Teams to invite HE representatives to relevant meetings
6. All to establish Lifelong Learning on agendas of current, relevant meetings.



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5. HI-LLN Core Team Update

Jon Bramley, Director HI-LLN reported the following points:

- HI-LLN was placing a greater focus on publicising all that had been achieved through LLN work. This was an important factor in supporting sustainability.
- HI-LLN had produced a pamphlet 'Are you Ready for HE?' 10,000 copies had gone into a range of 'non-educational' community settings such as pubs.
- A diary for 2009 / 10 with key reminder dates for activities (e.g. PA reviews) was being produced for current HI-LLN partners
- LAWIS - Learning Opportunities at Work (IAG on-line resource) will be funded for another 2 years. www.learning-opportunities.org.uk Hampshire & IoW Routes will migrate into this web site. Expecting to talk with the emerging Adult Advancement Careers Service about continuation of www.learning-opportunities.org.uk
- £2500 available to institutions to support Open Days/ Evenings that focus on adult learners. Contact Jon Bramley jon.bramley@solent.ac.uk
- HI-LLN Stakeholders' Conference 24 June 2009. Falls on VQ Day (Vocational Qualifications). The Conference will be a retrospective on all that has happened from those who have moved the Lifelong Learning agenda forward, both nationally and locally.
- Information from the HI-LLN Strategic Board (SB) meeting 01 April 09.
 - Quite large over-subscription to HE across the whole area. Applications to HE from those with vocational qualifications has increased. This, along with the current financial situation leading the SB to be of the opinion that little else is required to be done.
 - Wish to celebrate LLN work achieved and to make result of projects actively available across the partnership. A dissemination strategy will be put on the HI-LLN website
 - 14 - 19 Diplomas. HEIs are supporting the diplomas. All Additional Specialised Learning required by HEIs so far, has been identified as 'A' Levels

Date of next meeting:

23 October 2009

9.30 am - 13.30 pm (including lunch)

Macdonald Botley Park Hotel, Golf and Country Club, SO32 2UA

It was decided to hold a longer, celebratory, event as this will be the last CYCS CG Meeting.

The following suggestions for the meeting programme were made:

- to hear some students' experiences of how their Early Years learning and qualifications have made a difference to them and their work
- to invite some book publishers to the event
- to explore the possibility of CWDC giving a presentation on the forthcoming L3 qualification for the Children's Workforce

Close of meeting

Helen Briers 29 May 2009