



*Welcome to the second newsletter from the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Lifelong Learning Network.*



*It's the time when you think back over the past year and reflect on what's been achieved, as well as look forward to the next twelve months. The time seems to have flown by since taking up my post as Director of the HI-LLN and it's a tribute to the hard work of everyone involved with the LLN how much has been achieved already.*

*However, it is clear from our funders HEFCE (Higher Education Funding Council for England) that sustainability is important. To achieve this, over the next few months we will work on embedding as much of the work as possible within universities, colleges and others so it can be of benefit to people long after the LLN funding ceases; an outcome I'm sure everyone involved in the LLNs will be proud to have been part of.*

*Since our last update we've been busy setting up the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Routes website. The site is an essential tool for rolling out Progression Agreements and will provide a one-stop-shop for learners, who can search for agreements and print their own version. It's hosting all our Progression Agreements, which now stands at an impressive 3000.*

*There's more on Progression Agreements and the development of the HI-LLN cross curriculum projects in this newsletter, which I hope you will enjoy.*

**Jon Bramley**  
Project Director

## Progression Agreements

We are delighted to announce that more than 3000 Progression Agreements have been signed with more in development.

A Progression Agreement is an arrangement between private training providers, colleges and universities that provides learners with clarity about routes from further education or the workplace into higher education.

For example, a Progression Agreement might guarantee an interview or a place on a higher education course to a student who successfully completes a particular programme of study with sufficiently high grades. Students are given information about Progression Agreements before they apply for a place in higher education.

To discuss progression opportunities contact Jan Wise, our Credit and Progression Manager. Contact details are available at the back of this publication.



Pictured: The Progression Agreement signing event with special guest the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills, John Denham MP

We offer our condolences to the family of Professor Caroline Thomas (seated far right) who passed away last October after a long illness. Professor Thomas, who was Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) at the University of Southampton, will be sadly missed.

## Hampshire and Isle of Wight Routes

Students can access Progression Agreements online from the Hampshire and Isle of Wight website at [www.hi-lln.co.uk](http://www.hi-lln.co.uk). The website also contains lots of useful information for anyone thinking of higher education study.

When the Learning at Work Information Service (LaWIS) for the South East is launched online Hampshire and Isle of Wight Routes will become part of this new facility. The design and function of the website won't change so there will be a smooth transition for users. Further information about LaWIS will become available nearer the time of its launch later this year.

## Farewell to Vivienne Ravis

We're sad to be saying farewell to Vivienne Ravis, who's been a member of the HI-LLN team for more than a year as our Employer Engagement Consultant. About her time with the HI-LLN, Viv said: *"Engaging with employers is a challenge for many universities and colleges, but I'm glad to have been able to help with strategies for greater collaboration in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. I've enjoyed my time with the HI-LLN and being part of a project that aims to improve the opportunities for people of all ages to progress into higher-level, work-related learning."* Viv will be greatly missed and we wish her all the very best for the future.



## Cross Curriculum Projects

Listed below are details of our Cross Curriculum Projects which are completed, underway or in development.

Each project aims to further one or more of the HI-LLN's main objectives, such as creating collaborative work between training providers and businesses or establishing new ways to improve the career progression of vocational and work-based learners. Further information about all the projects, with contact details, can be found on our website [www.hi-lln.co.uk](http://www.hi-lln.co.uk).

### Round One

Five projects were successful during the first round of bids at the beginning of last year, amounting to £65,500 worth of funding in total. Here's a brief summary of the projects and what's been happening:

**Developing SME Trainers and their Training Provision.** This project involves the matching of accreditation of business training provided by SMEs to National Occupational Standards. We're currently planning an event where private trainers can discuss with Train to Gain how they can access funding.

**HE for the Isle of Wight Chamber of Commerce.** This project has been set up to create recognition for the learning offered through the Isle of Wight Chamber of Commerce. Courses at the Isle of Wight College have been mapped against NVQ 4 or other National Occupational Standards. NVQ 4 is now an APCL (Accreditation of Prior Certificated Learning) opportunity to the Foundation Degree in Management at the University of Winchester.

**Developing HE Skills A Self Study Resource for Practitioners in Early Years, Health and Social Care.** This project will provide a resource for Early Years and Health and Social Care practitioners, with an NVQ background, to develop the skills needed at HE in preparation for Foundation Degree study.

**Progression between Further and Higher Education in Primary Care Management.** A six months project is proposed for the design and delivery of two new Foundation Degree modules in Primary Care Management and their related Further Education bridging course requirement. University module validation arrangements are in hand and will be progressed in conjunction with the University of Portsmouth for 2009/10.

**Foundation Degree for the Hair and Beauty Industry.** Extensive research carried out by HI-LLN staff identified demand for a Foundation Degree in Hair, Beauty and Spa Management. Modules for the new qualification have been developed with industry professionals and it is expected to be going to validation in May 2009. Employer support is being gathered at the moment.

### Round Two

The second round of project bids went before the HI-LLN Strategic Board in September 2008 and over £60,000 was approved for the following four projects.

**Access to Masters.** This project aims to develop a course for those who have professional qualifications and/or substantial experience in the workplace, but need to build confidence prior to

applying to a Masters course. It's also for those who may already have a first degree, but have not been in study for some years.

**Offenders into HE.** This project aims to identify offender and ex-offender aspirations and the obstacles to accessing HE. Participants will be interviewed to identify individual learning needs, aims and barriers. They will attend 'Taster Days' through Aimhigher and feedback their experiences through focus groups.

**Hard to Reach Learners in Construction.** The aim of this project is to raise awareness of higher education among construction site workers and managers. Mike Burns from the Construction Curriculum Group has been visiting managers, training officers and human resources teams of major local employers, as well as visiting major construction sites, with the aim of targeting workers and managers for face-to-face talks about HE. Experienced construction workers will be invited to attend events about accessing HE courses.

**Advanced Apprenticeship as a Route to Higher Education.** The main purpose of this project is to track Level 3 apprentices and discover what barriers exist that prevent progression to higher education. Data from this project will be used to make recommendations for future IAG.

### Round Three

There is funding available for a third round of project bids and interested parties are invited to tender. Terms and conditions are available from Jon Bramley (see below for contact details).

## Core Team

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## Curriculum Group Co-ordinators

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### SME...

stands for Small and Medium sized Enterprises and refers to companies whose headcount or turnover falls below certain limits.

### APL...

stands for Accreditation of Prior Learning and is the means by which previous experiences and training can contribute to qualifications taken later. Sometimes it's called APCL (Experiential) or APCL (Certificated).