



Hampshire & Isle of Wight Lifelong Learning Network

Issue 3

Creating opportunities for vocational and work-based learners to access Higher Education

Welcome to the spring edition of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Lifelong Learning Network newsletter.



I'm pleased to announce that all of our cross curriculum projects are either underway or completed now that the third round of funding has been approved. 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.

The total cost of all the projects comes to nearly £300,000 and most are seeing results already. Specialist units are being developed for the new 'Hair and Beauty Foundation Degree' which is due for validation in the next couple of months. We've seen great results from the 'Hard to Reach Learners in Construction' project led by Eastleigh College; forty two per cent of the construction workers that sought follow-up details after receiving Information, Advice and Guidance are now enrolled on a vocational course. Particularly timely is the 'Access to Masters' project that aims to prepare senior staff for an MBA or other Masters level programme. This is being aimed at business managers who are currently unemployed, on short term contracts or working in vulnerable operations in the small business and voluntary sector.

These are just a few examples of the fantastic work that's been taking place. You can find out more about our other successful projects and get further information about all the items in this newsletter from our website: www.hi-lln.co.uk.

Jon Bramley
Project Director

HI-LLN Events

Our Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) event was held at The Winchester Hotel in May. This event is held annually for the benefit of IAG advisers working in the community with people who are considering entering higher education.

This year's Stakeholders Conference will be held at the Novotel in Southampton in June and the theme will be 'Showcasing vocational research'. This annual event is a chance to celebrate our successes and look ahead to future trends likely to affect the education sector.

For more details about our events contact Pam Virdee at pam.virdee@solent.ac.uk.



The Training Gateway

The Training Gateway aims to raise the national and international profile of the UK higher education sector as a provider of corporate and vocational training.

Since its launch in July 2008 membership has grown to over 1200 members from every higher education institution in the UK, in addition to a number of colleges. Over 350 new business opportunities have been promoted to members over the last eight months and approximately 170 applications have been submitted. Last November they won The Times Higher Education Award for outstanding Employer Engagement Initiative.

If you are interested in finding out more about the activities of The Training Gateway or would like to arrange a meeting with The Training Gateway staff please call **01904 435 360** or email info@thetraininggateway.com. Members can use the website to see what activities are happening at their own institution and to book spaces at exhibitions: www.thetraininggateway.com.

Comings and Goings

We would like to wish Ellie O'Callaghan, our recent Business and Management Curriculum Group Co-ordinator, all the very best in the future after securing a new post with the MOD. Ellie has been instrumental in leading a number of projects during her time with the HI-LLN and she will be greatly missed.



Congratulations to Louise Bates as well, who has been seconded for four days a week to the Southampton Skills Development Zone project being led by Southampton Solent University. Louise will remain as the Creative Industries Curriculum Group Co-ordinator and will be supported by Project Assistant Nicola King. Updated contact details are available at the back of this newsletter.

New information, advice and guidance service for vocational higher education – www.learning-opportunities.org.uk

By Maureen Haywood

We're delighted to introduce Learning Opportunities, which is a new Information, Advice and Guidance service for learners, potential learners and those who support and advise them. We've been working in partnership across the Lifelong Learning Networks in the South East to produce both web and paper resources. This builds on the successful work done by the Sussex Learning Network between 2006 and 2008 by extending and embedding their Learning Opportunities model across the South East, thus maximising the return on public investment. The project has attracted funding from the Learning and Skills Council South East and the South East England Development Agency.

What's on the website?

Learning Opportunities – www.learning-opportunities.org.uk – is a one stop shop which pulls together high quality resources into a user friendly website. If material exists, we link to it. If it doesn't exist, we produce it. It's a rich resource for all those with an interest in vocational higher education: people in work, returning to work or about to enter the workforce, plus those providing advice, support and brokerage relating to vocational higher education.

Our progression work is now embedded into Learning Opportunities and our progression agreements will shortly be merged with those of our partner Lifelong Learning Networks to provide South East routes – an enhanced version of our current progression tool that will enable users to search across county borders. In addition there's:

- ask a question, or email us if you can't find what you need
- download a Personal Planning Pack that includes advice about making a decision and applying for higher education
- practical advice about things like making the best of redundancy and returning to learning
- an advisers' pack to download or use online
- careers advice across the South East
- information sheets covering everything from finance and childcare to confidence building
- South East routes
- Foundation Degrees in the South East – all the HNCs, HNDs and FDs will soon be searchable online by location, subject or keyword, with direct access to individual course descriptions and email links to the providers.

Supporting resources

These will be available from May 09:

- a Learning Opportunities booklet for 2009/10 – all the basics about HE in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight
- publicity and marketing materials
- a workplace leaflet designed to encourage upskilling
- development and training help and resources

These resources will be distributed around the two counties, but if you want to make sure that your organisation receives some, please contact Moira Monk at m.monk@brighton.ac.uk.

For more information about the project contact Maureen Haywood, Project Director at m.haywood@brighton.ac.uk.



Screen shot

HI-LLN Contacts

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