



Hampshire & Isle of Wight  
Lifelong Learning Network

Protect Title: Mind the Gap: Developing Apprenticeship Progression Routes into Higher Education

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> June 2009

Lead Institution: Southampton Solent University (SSU)

Contact Person: Maggie Moss (Project Manager, SSU)

### Overview

1. Appointment of Project Steering Group with employer representatives.
  - Steering Group appointed and first meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2009.
  - SSU - Jenny Anderson (Dean FBSE), Elizabeth Selby (Dean LIS), Steve Rose (Deputy University Librarian, LIS) & Maggie Moss (Enterprise Projects & Delivery Manager FBSE)  
City College - David Murley (Director of Employer Engagement)  
Solent Skills Quest - Angela Wright (Chief Executive)  
BCOT - Pauline Rachman (HE Development Leader)
2. Appointment of Project Manager.
  - PM - Maggie Moss - appointed 13<sup>th</sup> March 2009
  - Appointment confirmed by Steering Group members on the 24<sup>th</sup> March 2009
3. Confirmation of the project schedule.
  - Steering Group agreed project schedule on the 24<sup>th</sup> March 2009
4. Appointment of Project Evaluator.
  - Evaluator - Liz Shrides - (to be appointed June/July 09)
  - Appointment confirmed by Steering Group members on the 24<sup>th</sup> March 2009
5. Appointment of Project Research Assistant
  - Advertised on GJS as a 4 month fixed term contract - April 09
  - Interviews 7<sup>th</sup> May 2009 - Panel - Jenny Anderson, Steve Rose & Maggie Moss
  - Leonie Webster appointed and post commenced 26<sup>th</sup> May 2009
6. Relationship to other LLN Projects.
  - **Apprenticeship Route to HE** - BCOT (Hampshire & IOW LLN - Round 2)  
Jenny Anderson (SSU) & Maggie Moss (SSU) met with Alan Gwyer and Pauline Rachman at BCOT on the 19<sup>th</sup> May to discuss/review the BCOT project.
  - **Step-In to Higher Education** (Aim Higher Manchester project)  
Maggie Moss (SSU) discussed both projects with PM in Manchester and Leonie Webster (SSU) and Maggie Moss (SSU) will meet with Advanced Apprentices and the Project Delivery team in Manchester on the 15<sup>th</sup> July 09.



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#### 7. VLE design and delivery.

- Maggie Moss (SSU) and Leonie Webster (SSU) met with Steve Rose (SSU) and Roger Emery (SSU) to agree the level of information required from the focus groups in order to design a supportive VLE. Timescales for materials has also been agreed (first three weeks delivery materials completed by August 09). Clare Denholm (SSU) has been appointed from Roger's (SSU) team to work on the VLE Bridging Unit.

#### 8. Research Finding Update.

- Progression from WBL FE into HE - Based on 9 Reports (Highlights)
  - Lack of knowledge relating to job roles or opportunities that may require higher level skills.
  - SME unsure whether they would allow Apprentices to progress into HE.
  - Larger companies already encourage participation into HE.
  - Lack of appropriate progression IAG available.
  - Concerns relating to funding Level 4 programmes, timescales, impact on working environment, cost of the programme, skills/ability of the young person and the flexibility of delivery.
  - HE undervaluing vocational education.
- Bridging Courses - Based on 6 Reports (Highlights)
  - Short flexibly delivered (blended learning) introduction to HE courses have had some success at supporting WBL Apprentices step-up into HE.
  - Issues around funding these Bridging programmes and the ability to accredit the learning (credits).
  - Generic content of Bridging Unit - confidence building, academic skills, relevant IAG, delivery mode and IT upskilling.
  - Only one Bridging Unit programme is running - Manchester AimHigher "Step-In".



Progress against 'Schedule of Work' #

Activity:	Target Date:	Actual Date:
Phase 1: Project Management Start-Up		
Appointment of Project Steering Group with employer representatives	1st April 09	24th March 09
Appointment of Project Manager	1st May 09	13th March 09
Confirmation of the project schedule	14th May 09	24th March 09
Appointment of Project Evaluator	1st July 09	TBC
Phase two: Research		
Research with 20 employers currently employing Apprenticeships	8th June 09 <i>(July 09)</i>	
Research into 4 relevant Foundation Degrees	15th June 09 <i>(July 09)</i>	
Research into 4 transitional/bridging courses	7th July 09	10 <sup>th</sup> June 09
Research with 20 Apprentices	21st July 09 <i>(July 09)</i>	
Phase three: Development of transition/bridging course		
Data gathering for transition/bridging course completed	1st July 09	
Recommendations presented to Steering Group	15th July 09	
Development of delivery model utilising blended learning/VLE	1st Oct 09	
Bridging/transitional course run & evaluated	20th Dec 09	



Phase four: Development of a Foundation Degree as an integral part of a Higher Apprentice Framework		
Identify one Sector Skills Council to develop Framework with	1st June 09 <i>(July 09)</i>	
Foundation Degree consultation complete	1st Oct 09	
Successful validation event	5th Dec 09	
Final evaluation	20th Jan 10	
Conclusion of project and dissemination complete	31st Jan 10	

#### Plans for the next update period

1. Networking at HI-LLN Conference - 24<sup>th</sup> June 09
2. Meeting with PM at AimHigher Manchester - 7<sup>th</sup> July
3. Presenting LLN Mind the Gap project at ALPHI meeting - 15<sup>th</sup> July
4. Meeting with David Murley (City College) to arrange Focus Groups with Apprentices and Employers - 18<sup>th</sup> June
5. Meeting with Angela Wright (Solent Skills Quest) to arrange Focus Groups with Employers (TBC)
6. Begin to develop first 3 weeks of Bridging Unit for VLE
7. Identify Sector Skills Council linked to a Higher Apprenticeship Framework
8. Identify appropriate Foundation Degree for Higher Apprenticeship Framework
9. Set-up a meeting with Georgina Andrews to discuss validation of Bridging Unit.
10. Complete AJF for Associate Lecturer to develop and deliver Bridging Unit and complete validation process.
11. Arrange second Steering Group meeting.

#### Budget

1. Too early to provide a realistic figure at this point.

#### Potential problems and issues

1. Funding for Higher Apprenticeship Framework (LSC/HEFC) - High Risk
2. CAT Points for Bridging Unit - Medium Risk
3. Slight slippage of Apprenticeship and Employer Forums

#### Anything else that is significant

1. Not at the moment.