

Autumn/Winter 2010

Staffordshire, Stoke-on-Trent, Shropshire,
Telford & Wrekin LLN Newsletter

LEGACY
EDITION



Lifelong Learning Network
Staffordshire, Stoke-on-Trent, Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin

NetworkNews



EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS

The HEFCE report and review of targets

GETTING AHEAD IN ADULT SOCIAL CARE

Highlighting opportunities for Lifelong Learning in the Sector

LIVING THE LEGACY

Looking towards sustainability in collaborative working



ON THE RIGHT PATH FOR STUDY?

Pathways to Progression workshop
WORK-BASED LEARNERS
Improving access to APEL

FORTHCOMING EVENTS WORTH NOTING IN YOUR DIARIES...

WHEN:
19/20th November

WHAT:
NATIONAL EMPLOYABILITY CONFERENCE

WHERE:
Think Tank, Millenium Point, Birmingham



WHEN:
23rd November

WHAT:
NATIONAL LLN CONFERENCE

WHERE:
Manchester pre-conference dinner at aBode followed by the conference day at the Studio



WHEN:
1st December

WHAT:
COLLABORATION WORKS

A West Midland's Approach to Health, Social Care and Early Years

WHERE:
The Inspiration Suite, The Village Hotel, Walsall. WS2 8TJ.

WHEN:
6th December

WHAT:
STAFFORDSHIRE MANAGER EVENT

WHERE:
Octagon Boardroom, Staffordshire University, Beaconside, Stafford

WHEN:
9th December

WHAT:
EIAT CONFERENCE

– New Landscape, New Business Partnerships.. Rethinking higher level skills for a sustainable economy

WHERE:
Queen's Hotel, Leeds

WHEN:
26th January, 2011

WHAT:
NIACE, LLN & UVAC JOINT CONFERENCE

WHERE:
The Brunei Gallery, School of Oriental & African Studies (SOAS) Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London, WC1H 0XG

LLN Conference Success Creates an Impact at Ironbridge Gorge

Delegates at this year's Staffordshire, Stoke-on-Trent, Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin Lifelong Learning Network Conference had an opportunity to voice their LLN-inspired opinions to camera during the event which took place on 17th June at the Ironbridge Gorge Museum.

As the LLN enter into its final months, this especially significant occasion played out to great success against the stunning backdrop of Ironbridge Gorge. Attendance was high and throughout the gorgeously sunny day delegates enjoyed a varied mix of impressive keynote speeches, thought-provoking workshops, live acoustic entertainment and inspired theatrical performance.

Showcase success

Following the conference's chosen theme of "Landmark Achievements", the day's intentions were to celebrate the Network's valued collaborations and to showcase its successes. Many attendees were encouraged on the day to spare five minutes to speak with a roaming camera crew during the action at the venue's Coalbrookdale site. The conference, chaired by Keele University's Pro Vice Chancellor Kevin Mattinson was opened with a presentation by

SSSTWLLN Director Jill Ward which focussed on achievements, regional impact and the national situation. Dr Teeranlall Ramgopal, Pro Vice Chancellor of Staffordshire University took to the stage for the closing address.

Innovative Keynote

The day's informative keynote speeches were supplied by Professor Sir Geoff Hampton, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Education Partnerships) and Director of the Midlands Leadership

Centre, at the University of Wolverhampton and Dr John Chudley of the National Apprenticeship Service. In addition to the variety of workshops available delegates also witnessed an innovative LLN-inspired documentary theatre performance centred on the student journey entitled 'Casting the Net'. This exclusive performance was produced by New Vic Borderlines, the Staffordshire theatre's award-winning community programme' documentary theatre group, in conjunction with PIPS (Performance Industries Pathways

Scheme) students from Dudley College – a Foundation Degree course funded by Staffordshire, Stoke-on-Trent, Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin Lifelong Learning Network.

Thank you

All speaker and workshop presentations and a photo gallery of the day's events can be found at www.llnstaffordshireshropshire.org/conference. The LLN would like to extend a special 'thank you' to all who were filmed and this material will be released as a special DVD to be distributed at the end of this year.



Pictured: The Staffordshire, Stoke-on-Trent, Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin LLN team at Coalbrookdale on 17th June.

NEW VIC borderlines

“ The students have been brilliant and are a credit to their college. We have been proud to see them representing the New Vic, in what has been for many (if not all) their first collaboration with a professional theatre company. The fantastic relationship formed between New Vic Borderlines and Dudley College, particularly the students involved in this project, is yet another success story as a result of the work of the LLN. **”**

Julie King, Borderlines Theatre Practitioner

LANDMARK ACHIEVEMENTS

“ We were delighted that the students who participated were on courses which the LLN had supported the development of. It was amazing to see the students performing in a real work environment, having the opportunity to work with professionals and producing an outstanding performance which was the highlight of the conference. **”**

It is something I will always remember.

Jill Ward, SSSTWLLN Director

LIVING THE LEGACY

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PROGRESSION & IAG 6-7



LLN IAG Consultant Adrian Pitt reports on our "Pathways to Progression" workshops - Latest on Apprenticeships with trial badge scheme for HE providers - Improving access to APEL entering School of Education Foundation Degrees at the University of Wolverhampton - Curriculum Updates - the National Employability Conference.

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SSSTWLLN meets all targets in our HEFCE report - A new teacher's resource is produced to encourage girls to opt for the less traditional route.

THE LAST WORD 12

...from Staffordshire, Stoke-on-Trent, Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin Lifelong Learning Network Director Jill Ward.

This issue's cover image displays a selection of our LLN's IAG material past, present and future.

A special seminar to discuss the sustainability of our LLN's work took place at South Staffordshire College during September.

Working alongside its educational partners and some of the region's notable training providers and employers the remit of the Lifelong Learning Networks has been to catalyse innovative new learning opportunities for non-traditional, vocational learners, as well as to deliver formal agreements to enable such learners to progress into, and through, Higher Education, whether into full awards, such as Foundation Degrees, (FD's) or through other, novel forms of learning.

Strategic overview

However, once our LLN reaches the end of its funding period and ceases to be at the close of January 2011 how will this valuable work continue? This was the key question asked of a select gathering of attendees at our recent 'Living the Legacy' event which took place at South Staffordshire College's Rodbaston Hall on 29th September. The intention of this event was to take a strategic overview of what has been achieved and to generate discussion as to how the work can be taken forward by the institutions and organisations which we have worked with during our LLN's lifespan. The sessions centred on IAG, Work-based Learning and Progression, Progression Agreements and Apprenticeships and Maintaining Relationships.

Archive access

The LLN will soon be distributing a comprehensive overview of its work in a special end of year publication which will include a DVD of LLN resources to be retained by our collaborative partners after our organisation has ended. After January we are hoping that the LLN archive of resources can also be accessed via Staffordshire University and will also continue to be downloadable for a limited time from www.llnstaffordshropshire.org and also from selected partner websites.



Sustainability seminar in September at Rodbaston Hall



FINAL STAKEHOLDER MEETING

The stage is set for the LLN's final Stakeholder event to take place at Keele Hall on 4th November.

November will see this LLN's last ever Stakeholder meeting where we formally handover our knowledge and experiences to all our valued collaborators over the last three and a half years. Speaking at the afternoon event will be Dr Steve French, Senior Lecturer in Industrial Relations at Keele University, and Clair Schafer, Director of North Staffs based SBC Training.

A feature of the afternoon will be our 'ten minute tables'. These will offer an opportunity for all our delegates to listen to five concise and informative presentation sessions which will be taking place simultaneously over an hour long period. Subject matter for presentation will represent just some of our LLN's work and will include 'Making, Building and Maintaining Relationships' and Julian Hollington from the City of Wolverhampton College will be speaking about engaging Public Sector employers and the challenges of setting up the LLN funded Uniformed Public Sector Foundation Degree. Plus, we will explore the difference made via LLN Research, Progression and Apprenticeships and the positive impact of our LLN progression workshops. To find out more about this event visit <http://www.llnstaffordshiresropshire.org/content/lln-stakeholder-event>.



For further information visit www.llnstaffordshiresropshire.org

LEARNER JOURNEYS...

Rachel



Name: Rachel Leigh
 Age: 30
 Lives: North Staffordshire
 Course: Dementia Care
 Foundation Certificate,
 (30 credits at Level 4),
 Staffordshire University

"I qualified as a registered adult nurse in 2006 and have since worked in a specialised care home for people diagnosed with

dementia. As dementia is related directly to my field of work, I am very interested in this type of care and all its different aspects. I like to keep

myself up-to-date and the dementia award was an ideal, as it can be completed in modules." Rachel continues, "At the end of each module you

complete an assignment to the level of your own choice. I found all the lectures very interesting and they enabled me to meet other professionals within the field and learn from their individual experiences.

Fits with my lifestyle

I work 36 hours a week and have two small children and I found the course very easy to fit in with my lifestyle due to only attending university once a week. The support network from the lecturers is very helpful." "One of the best aspects to the course was meeting people who

had cared for family members diagnosed with dementia and their personal experiences, both good and bad, and how I could change my own practice to improve carer's/relatives experiences."

"By completing the award I am building up points towards my degree in nursing and in professional terms I hope to gain a promotion within my work environment. I have really enjoyed the course and it has expanded my knowledge and given me personal satisfaction."

- James Pearson-Jenkins, Senior Lecturer, School of Health and Wellbeing, University of Wolverhampton

"The Learning, Education and Progression Course (LEaP) has altered the way we progress people into HE courses within the School of Health and Wellbeing. I have noticed that LEaP students seem better prepared for using University systems and are also confident in engaging with different learning approaches. It is really inspiring to see the dedication and hard work of the LEaP students and see how successful they have been, progressing into a range of HE courses."

Theresa says: "The reason that I chose to apply for the LEaP course is that it offered me the opportunity to experience what it means to be a university student prior to applying for a course in Nursing and I was excited at the prospect of being part of a brand new course. In June 2010 I successfully completed LEaP and have now started a degree in Nursing at the university."

Advantages

"This has definitely given me an advantage as I progress on to my current course. On this

course I have been encouraged to explore my abilities of working in groups, independently and participating in learning, which has given me more confidence in my own abilities.

Exploring health

The course exposed me to a range of health related topics including introducing concepts of health, psychology and exploring health from a social perspective, all of which will be useful in my new course."

"I definitely learned the art of time management and the importance of

planning and managing my workload. Finding a balance between being a parent, working and studying was a challenge at times. However, this is all part of the reality of being a university student. I certainly feel that this course has given me a valuable and realistic insight into the level of commitment that is required in undertaking

a course of study at a higher level."

Entry requirements

"I would recommend this course to anybody who is considering undertaking a health course at the university, but does not possess the entry requirements. LEaP provides students with a sound foundation of skills and knowledge for starting a programme of study at the university.

The course is taught by lecturers who I felt had a real genuine interest in my growth and success as a student. I feel proud of my achievements on the LEaP course and feel that I have well and truly earned my place on the Nursing Degree at the University of Wolverhampton. I look forward to my future career in nursing."

Theresa

Name: Theresa Noble
 Age: 31
 Lives: Dudley
 Course: Level 0
 (LEaP) Programme



LLN WORKSHOP MOTIVATES

Skills for Care Apprenticeship Event

On 18th October Skills for Care in the West Midlands ran an event to help people to understand the role of apprenticeships within the social care sector.

This event, which took place at Walsall's Village Hotel, was aimed at those involved in promoting apprenticeships to employers and/or potential apprentices. Our LLN were present in an engaging workshop lead by Anne

Longbottom (Health & Social Care and Cross Cutting Themes Coordinator) and our Apprenticeship Progression Coordinator Kevin Buckley. This motivating session elaborated on progression routes for apprentices including career routes, Level 2-3, Foundation degrees, Honorary degrees and what tools are available to the learner.

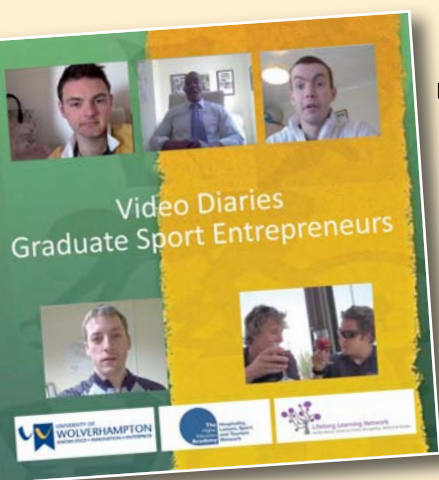


Looked After Children progressing into HE

In May 2010, twenty foster carers attended a workshop funded by our LLN at Burton Connexions Centre which was organised by Connexions Staffordshire and Aimhigher.

The session aimed to bring foster carers up to date with information on the choices and pathways with which young people are faced, including the types of qualifications which exist and progression to Higher Education. A further session is being held on 5th November in Stafford.

GRADUATE SPORTS ENTREPRENEURS LLN Fund 'Video Diaries' DVD



The project 'Entrepreneurial Skills and Social Interaction amongst Sport Learners in Enterprise Education' was funded in 2009 by the Staffordshire, Stoke-on-Trent, Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Lifelong Learning Network and the Higher

Education Academy Network for Hospitality, Leisure, Sport and Tourism. This small research project provides a unique opportunity to explore and to understand more about sport graduates in relation to the development of their entrepreneurial competencies, both short and long-term. It also captures information on how their business develops and to what extent social interaction impacts upon

their enterprise learning.

Flying Start

The research was facilitated through the first ever 3 day National Council for Graduate Entrepreneurship (NCGE), 'Flying Start' Sport Business enterprise intensive programme held in June 2009. Flying Start is a national programme dedicated to getting student and graduate businesses started.

Take a look

The SSSTWLLN in conjunction with the University of Wolverhampton and The Higher Education Academy within the Hospitality, Leisure, Sport and Tourism Network have funded a special Graduate Sport Entrepreneurs' 'video diaries' DVD. To find out more and to

view footage visit the SSSTWLLN website.

Karen Bill, Associate Dean, School of Sports, Performing Arts and Leisure at the University of Wolverhampton, who has been leading the project, told us: "The sports enterprise project developed out of an initial Flying Start 'Sport Business' programme which was held in June 2009 in partnership with the National Council for Graduate Entrepreneurship, Wolverhampton Wanderers FC and the University of Wolverhampton. It was a 3 day event aimed at sports graduates to support them in the development of their business ideas."

Karen continues: "The aim of the sports enterprise project

was to capture some natural footage, through the use of video diaries of a few of the sports graduates that attended the event, in order to obtain an insight into their perceptions and experiences of developing a business. The idea was then to create a teaching resource which could be of benefit to students and enterprise educators to be used alongside other curriculum support materials."



Are your learners on the right path?

The next few months will be busy for IAG Consultant, Adrian Pitt as he's rolling out the LLN's "Pathways to Progression" workshop to Training Providers and Colleges across Staffordshire and Shropshire.

The two-hour interactive session aims to focus staff on what qualifications are available for their learners post Level 3 and how they can access them. Adrian says: "The programme offers staff the opportunity to discuss whether they feel there are any barriers to their learners

progressing and how they can potentially overcome them, which qualifications learners can access and where, the application and admissions process to Higher Education and that all-important issue of funding."

Raise awareness

Adrian continues: "The session concludes with each member of staff producing a three-point Action Plan around what they or their organisation can do to raise awareness of progression opportunities. We want staff to be realistic – what can they embed in their working practice to support

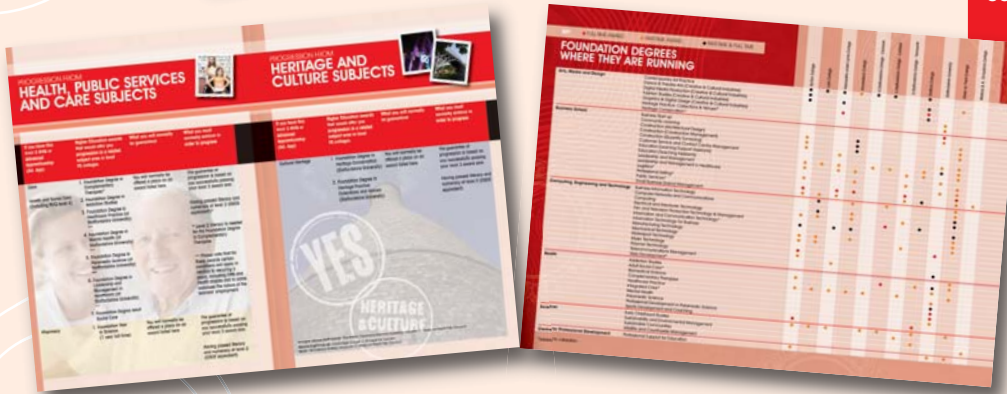
learners who have the ability and aspirations to progress beyond Level 3?"

Positive feedback

Adrian has facilitated several workshops so far with work-based learning providers and claims the feedback has been really positive. "The great thing about the sessions for me has been when staff say: "Well, I never knew that!" I hope they will pass on this information to their learners and raise awareness that opportunities shouldn't stop for them when they've achieved their NVQ 3. Already I've had Managers come up to me and say: "We really need to think about doing some work with our learners around progression and revise our Exit Strategy." That's excellent news! It's one of the reasons the workshop was designed. With "progression" high on OFSTED's agenda, staff, learners and organisations benefit by having me come and visit them."

If you'd like to book a "Pathways To Progression" workshop with Adrian, get in touch with him now! You can telephone him on 07854 929 869 or email him at

adrian@develop-meant.com



Apprenticeships Update

by Kevin Buckley

Working with staff from the National Apprenticeship Service we have launched the trial of a recognition and badge scheme for HE providers in the West Midlands who display a positive attitude to applicants with the advanced apprenticeship qualification. Under the scheme

universities, colleges and private training providers offering higher education courses are encouraged to adopt a policy statement recognising the advanced apprenticeship as a suitable entry qualification and encouraging applications. The statement also contains a commitment to other positive steps

such as ensuring advanced apprenticeships are listed among entry qualifications and supporting the development of new higher apprenticeship frameworks. The second element of the scheme is a 'kite-mark' style badge scheme for institutions that show their support for advanced

apprentice progression by adopting a recognition statement.

Positive award

The proposal is for institutions to be awarded a badge, incorporating the NAS Apprenticeships logo, to indicate their positive attitude to apprentices. This would be the higher education equivalent of the existing NAS badge scheme

for employers. If the pilot is successful we hope that NAS will launch the scheme nationally next year.



CURRICULUM UPDATES

Post Graduate CPD Art Practitioners

This course at University of Wolverhampton and Staffordshire University is designed to enable former students and those established professionals who have yet to display art works the experience of working alongside successful practitioners in their field with successful exhibitions.

Credits from this qualification can be counted towards a Masters Degree.

Lifelong Learning Network supports the National Employability Conference in the West Midlands

The Lifelong Learning Network, together with partners, the National Council for Graduate Entrepreneurship, Speed WM, Entrepreneurs for the Future and the Birmingham Skills for Enterprise and Employability Network, is supporting a major conference event at the Think Tank in Birmingham on Friday and Saturday 19th-20th November. The conference will showcase the diversity of

practice and engagement between higher education, students, graduates and employers in the West Midlands.

Expert seminars

The conference will also host expert seminars from marketing and business start-up specialists for graduates who are interested in starting their own enterprises as well as offering opportunities to get one-to-one advice from employers, recent graduates and others.

For further details about the conference and to book online, visit

<http://nec.eventbrite.com/>.

Attendance at the conference is free.

The National Employability Conference takes place at Think Tank in Birmingham on 19 & 20th November.



STUDENT-FRIENDLY APEL PROCESS

Improving access to APEL for Mature Learners entering School of Education Foundation Degrees at the University of Wolverhampton

This project, funded collaboratively by the SSSTW and BBS Lifelong Learning Networks, is aimed to develop a student-friendly APEL process for Foundation Degree students in education and early year's settings.

Achieve credits

The goal was to produce a clear information package for prospective students showing how they could achieve APEL credits, which would encourage them to undertake a Foundation Degree as they would see that their work experience is valued, and that they already have the experiential learning to claim up to 40 credits. The project team have produced a booklet which includes an introduction which clearly explains how

work-based learners can use their experience to gain credits. Case studies from previous students show how APEL benefits students, and then applicants are guided through the process. The application is arranged in two broad areas: learning in the workplace and learning with partners outside the workplace such as parents/families and local authorities. These areas are further broken down into easy-to-manage steps. For example, students are asked to write 200 words where 'reflecting on the past two years, outline an important and positive learning experience at work that resulted from an action you took'. They are further encouraged to discuss what their skills and

knowledge they learnt, as well as how this brought about change in the workplace.

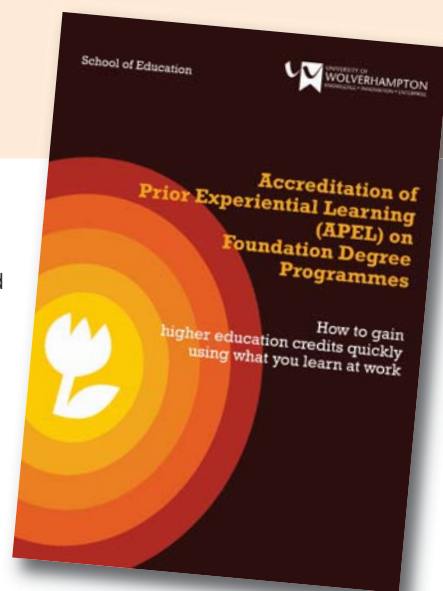
Learning experiences

An important part of the process is that students are asked to discuss their learning experiences with their line manager, who we ask for a Professional Witness Statement, where the manager is asked to comment on how, for example, the applicant 'Seeks advice and guidance toward problem-solving'. This employer engagement with students' learning is a key feature of the APEL process.

The project team passed the booklet to a critical friend in another HEI for feedback, and the booklet is currently being trialled with the first group of students (over 100).

Their comments will enable final adjustments to be made. The team have been asked to present the project at an LLN event in December and at the National Meeting of

Sector Endorsed Foundation Degrees in Early Years, demonstrating regional and national interest in this student-friendly APEL process.



THE APPLICATION IS ARRANGED IN TWO BROAD AREAS: LEARNING IN THE WORKPLACE AND LEARNING WITH PARTNERS OUTSIDE THE WORKPLACE SUCH AS PARENTS/FAMILIES AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES.



Ongoing Research Projects

FLYING HIGH

Recognising and celebrating success across in South Staffordshire and Shropshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust...

In June 2008 South Staffordshire and Shropshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust launched its annual Staff Awards Scheme with an aim to recognise and celebrate individuals and teams who have made an exceptional contribution to patient care and the services the Trust provides, either directly or by supporting the staff who do.

Staff recognition

Across the twelve award categories we were thrilled that the Education Programme Support Team within the LLN funded South Staffordshire Health Informatics Service was shortlisted in the "Success in Partnership Working" category. This award recognises those staff who have developed integrated services

which are person-centred and that cross professional and organisational boundaries. In addition to the core criteria, assessors were looking for evidence of effective multi-agency working and partnership arrangements with local agencies, shared vision and values across all teams involved and a creative approach to developing services which shows real benefits for patients, service users and/or carers and that which actively encourages the engagement of all those in support services

Ceremony

This year's Awards Ceremony was set to take place at RAF Shawbury, Shropshire on 21st October so good luck to the team!

LEADING AND MANAGING IN FE

The LLN has recently agreed to fund some work around a developing a Leading and Managing in HE postgraduate modules to be delivered at a local university.

The research team are in the process of sending an online market research questionnaire to staff in FE across the region which will look at the potential market and allow staff to have a say in the content that they would like to see on the module.

THE ADVANCED DIPLOMA PROJECT

This project aims to evaluate the experiences and aspirations of learners who are enrolled on the Advanced Diploma (the level three 14-19 diploma).

The findings will be used to make recommendations around engaging learners, curriculum development and progression agreements. The project will ask a number of questions starting with looking at the local picture in terms of numbers of learners and the national picture by looking at what related research has carried out. The research report will be disseminated to stakeholders including all the local authorities, schools, further and higher education institutes across the network. Additionally we will aim to ensure the results have national coverage for example through a conference paper or journal publication.

CT MONITORING AND LLN EVALUATION RESEARCH

This final activity of the research team has two main aims; to collect final monitoring information from projects funded by the Network and to evaluate the LLN.

The results will have a number of uses, for example, dissemination, information for our event and HEFCE reporting. The method is electronic questionnaires with open and closed ended questions; delivered via Qualtrics. The closed questions will be analysed using descriptive statistics and the qualitative data from the open ended questions will be summarised. Questionnaires will be sent to all our project lead and project partners as well as the teams involved in writing progression agreements across the Network.

The project has received ethical approval from Staffordshire University, and the questionnaire has been piloted with members of the LLN team and the main data collection phase is ongoing.

CHECK IT OUT!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR LIFELONG LEARNING IN THE ADULT CARE SECTOR

LLN attend Staffordshire Social Care Workforce Partnership Annual Employer Conference

October saw SSCWP's 7th Annual Employer Conference, entitled "I did It My Way" Approaching the Sunset of Life", which again managed to attract the highest calibre of speakers and workshops, in a hugely entertaining, informative and thought provoking day. More than 220 people, representing all areas of private, independent and voluntary sector within social care and health, attended the event, held at the County Showground, Stafford. The event was opened by Acting Head of SSCWP, Lindsey Clayton, followed by Councillor Matthew Ellis, Cabinet lead for Adults and Wellbeing within Staffordshire County Council, Michelle Roberts, Chief Executive of Douglas Macmillan Hospice, Ian Smith, Director of the Joint Commissioning Unit, and Mike Allen, Chief Executive of SCIO.

Passionate and dedicated

The day also featured eight workshops for delegates to attend, ranging from 'Power: Used and Abused', 'Recruitment: Right Person, Right Job' and a 'Question Time' style discussion group on End of Life issues. Kate Daw, of Church Terrace Nursing Home said, "The workshop facilitators were passionate and dedicated in their individual subjects. They made their sessions very interesting and challenging." In the afternoon, delegates were then treated to a particularly reminiscence session from Andrew Storr, a resident at Church Terrace Nursing Home, Cheadle, who painted a candid picture of his life; how he came to be in care; and the excellent service that he now receives at Church Terrace. Simon Weston, Falklands War Veteran, also spoke inspirationally

about his experience of social care; his experiences post war; and the struggle of dealing with injury. Sue Johnson from Skills for Care, then rounded off proceedings with an insight into the support that they will continue to give within the Social Care Sector through the Dignity Challenge. Staffordshire, Stoke-on-Trent, Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin LLN had a stand at this recent event, which showcased the launch of our latest publication 'Getting Ahead in Adult Social Care' (pictured) which highlights opportunities for Lifelong Learning in the Adult Social Care sector.



"THE SSCWP CONFERENCE WAS AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO LAUNCH OUR NEW IAG BOOKLET 'CHECK IT OUT! GETTING AHEAD IN ADULT SOCIAL CARE'. THE EVENT WAS WELL ORGANISED AND GAVE US THE OPPORTUNITY TO TALK TO EMPLOYERS ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES IN HIGHER LEVEL LEARNING FOR THEIR STAFF" – ANNE LONGBOTTOM, LLN HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE COORDINATOR

The booklet is currently being distributed within some 523 care homes with Staffordshire and Shropshire. For more information about SSCWP, or the Annual Employer Conference, or to view the presentations by the keynote speakers, visit www.sscwp.org.uk.



IN THE NEWS...

The SSSTWLLN team contributes to fdf magazine and the British Journal of Healthcare Assistants...

fdf and Lifelong Learning Networks (LLNs) share a focus on widening access to higher education through embedding vocational pathways, and have collaborated around their shared agenda both regionally and nationally.

In her role as SSSTW LLN Director and Chair of LLN National Directors' Forum our Jill Ward's contributed the article entitled, 'Lifelong Learning Networks: vocational learners and research', to 'Foundation Degree Forward' magazine back in June.



Also in June, Research Officer Amelia Rout and our Health & Social Care Coordinator Anne Longbottom joined forces to produce an article for the British Journal of Healthcare Assistants

The article entitled "Higher education learning and development in care homes" presents a project exploring higher education learning and development in the Shropshire care home sector. The overall research question was: 'What are the challenges, barriers, opportunities and successes both internally and externally which influence learning and development in Shropshire nursing and residential homes?'



WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES, BARRIERS, OPPORTUNITIES AND SUCCESSES BOTH INTERNALLY AND EXTERNALLY WHICH INFLUENCE LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IN SHROPSHIRE NURSING AND RESIDENTIAL HOMES?

LLN HAS SURPASSED EXPECTATIONS ACROSS ALL AREAS:

EXCEEDING ALL EXPECTATIONS

The SSSTWLLN prepares to testify a positive performance in its last report for HEFCE.

As we reach our funding period at the close of January 2011 outputs and outcomes relating to all aspects of activity across our LLN including progression, curriculum development, IAG, progress towards sustainability and institutional commitment and partnership working are set to be explored in our last report to HEFCE. This comprehensive report to the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) highlights that across all aspects Staffordshire, Stoke-on-Trent, Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin LLN has surpassed expectations across all areas:

“Be-TWIN IS A GENUINE EXAMPLE OF HOW THE LLN HAS HAD AN IMPACT ON THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR VOCATIONAL LEARNERS OUTSIDE OF ITS INITIAL REMIT.

AREA	TARGET	ACHIEVED
Mapping	4	23
Progression Agreements and Progression Pathways Developed (priority progression pathways, leading to progression agreements)	15	22
Curriculum Development - Development of enabling curriculum awards)	5	30
Curriculum Development - Additional Foundation Degree programmes	15	35
Curriculum Development - Additional Honours and Master's Degree programmes	10	14
Additional CPD packages	5	37
Total student numbers	800	1803

EUROPEAN LATEST

The Lifelong Learning Network continues to support a collaborative European project that aims to enhance opportunities for non-traditional, vocational learners across the European Union to access learning in countries other than the one in which their course is being delivered.

The recent meeting which SSSTWLLN's Tim Crossfield attended in Venice was part of the 'Work Package 5: Exploitation Phase of the 'Testing a joint ECVET/ECTS Implementation. This is a project which aims to devise a tool-kit for teachers, educationalists and trainers in Higher Education, Further Education and vocational training to more fully understand how the two systems can map across one another satisfactorily, enabling enhanced mobility for students and learners during the course of their study.

The Be-TWIN project is one of 11 concurrent projects aimed at fully integrating the European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training, ECVET, and is supported by the European Commission Discipline Group for Education, Training, Culture and Youth, funded through Leonardo da Vinci organisation (previously Erasmus).

The Be-TWIN project is structured into five distinct areas, given the title of 'Work Packages' (WP), each with a detailed plan of work, meetings and outcomes.

These are listed here:

WP1: Project Coordination

- Application & call for proposals
- Contractual & Financial management
- Coordination
- Participation in common activities
- Steering Committee

WP2: Design of Methodology

- Integrating ECTS & ECVET
- Identification of common methodology
- Specification of evaluation procedures
- Cognisance of WP4 outcomes
- Update from WP3 outcomes

WP3: Operational Testing

- Identification of case studies
- Diagnosis of ECTS/ECVET readiness to each case study
- Implementing the methodology to each study
- Test situation
- Exchange of practice

WP4: Expertise and Evaluation

- Assessment of the bases for the common methodology
- Evaluation of the methodology
- Assessment of the implementation of the methodology
- Evaluation of the case study results

WP5: Dissemination and Exploitation of Results

- Identification of relevant stakeholders for exchanges
- Coordination with WP2 and production of the practical guide
- Dissemination of guide (paper & e:version, and web based)
- Final Conference

The LLN is involved in all of these exciting elements of the project and was represented at the latest WP5 meeting in Venice, where some intriguing discussion and decision-making took place concerning how the results of the project are to be disseminated across the EU. This is a genuine example of how the LLN has had an impact on the opportunities for vocational learners outside of its initial remit.

EXPLORING POTENTIAL IN THE CLASSROOM

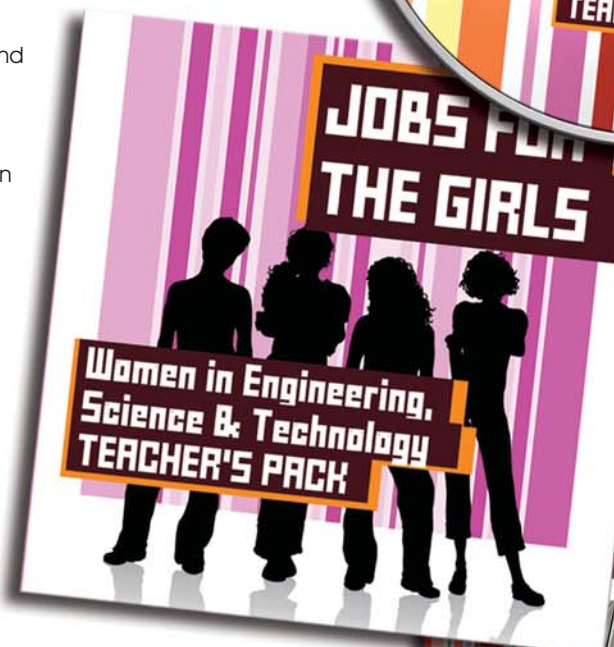
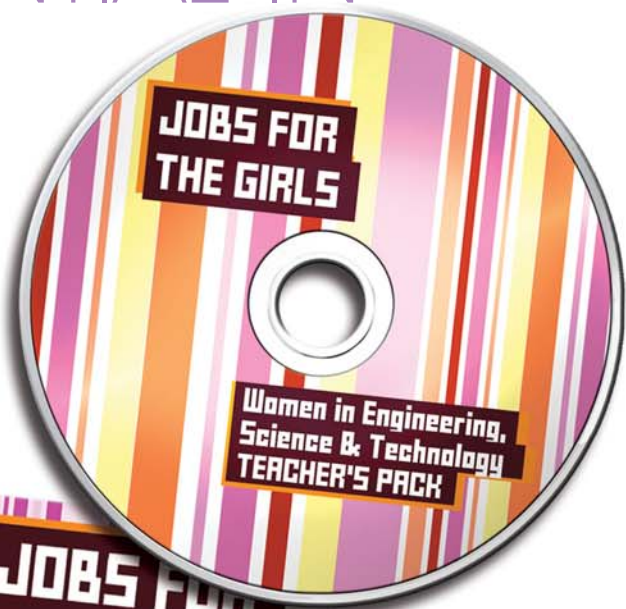
LLN produce CD resource to encourage girls to consider career paths in engineering, science and technology...

At the time of our newsletter going to print our teacher's resource CD 'Jobs for the Girls' is almost ready for distribution to some 140 schools in the Staffordshire and Shropshire region. This special CD has been devised on the back of our LLN's 'Women in Engineering' research project findings (see last issue) which highlighted the importance of introducing engineering to female learners from a younger age, potentially in secondary schools to those girls aged 11-14 years old.

The LLN developed and funded teacher's pack, 'Jobs for the Girls' will do exactly that. This valuable resource which, in part, has been developed using resources from organisations such as WISE (Women Into Science and Engineering) the UK Resource Centre (UKRC)

and STEM NET (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Network) encouraging girls to consider these less traditional career paths, while challenging gender and other stereotypes about careers in engineering, science and technology. The CD features handouts/worksheets to be delivered in a session of about an hour and includes thought-provoking material to present to class to encourage discussion and group work.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN OBTAINING A PACK PLEASE CONTACT LLN MARKETING OFFICER LISA BLACK ON 01785 353811.



Name: **CARY MARSDEN**
Job: **DIGITAL ENTREPRENEUR**

She is the CEO and Founder of Mydeo, graduated with an honours degree in Manufacturing Engineering from The University of Birmingham.

She joined Mydeo in 2005 following a DTI and Development grant for Technical Education. She has since gone on to raise over £1m funding for her start-up. Mydeo was the first European hosting service to be fully integrated into Microsoft's Windows Movie Maker software. She now provides high-quality streaming video and content delivery services to thousands of individuals and businesses around the world.

In October 2007 Mydeo announced that Best Buy, the largest consumer electronics retailer in the US with a market cap of over \$20bn, were taking a minority stake in Mydeo, and would be using the Mydeo platform for its own bespoke video hosting service. Mydeo won a commendation in the 'Best Streaming

Awards

THIS RESOURCE PACK FOR TEACHERS CONTAINS ALL THE NECESSARY MATERIAL FOR A LESSON WHICH WILL...

- CHALLENGE GENDER AND OTHER STEREOTYPES ABOUT CAREERS IN ENGINEERING, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
- ENCOURAGE GIRLS TO CONSIDER CAREER PATHS IN THESE SUBJECT AREAS
- PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT THE SKILLS AND APTITUDE NEEDED TO STUDY SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SUBJECTS

THE LAST WORD...



The last three and a half years have been exciting, positive and fulfilling - Jill Ward

It is with sadness that I write this, for what is our last newsletter. The last three and a half years have been exciting, positive and fulfilling for all of those working in the LLN as we have seen the results of our work transform the landscape for vocational learners. Furthermore, we have steered the development of partnerships where they previously did not exist and this too has brought a different perspective to the offer our partners and stakeholders are able to make. The LLN has not just been a project about meeting and exceeding targets but it has been about culture change in organisations with long established norms.

I am hopeful that the work of our LLN will continue through the embedding of its

work in its partner institutions. This will, of course, depend on the commitment of those partners to do so and, in challenging economic times, this will be difficult. Nevertheless, at a national level much of the work steered by the LLNs is having a very positive outcome and coming to fruition through alliances and partnerships.

Finally, I would like to thank all of our partners that have worked with us over the last few years and I hope that you have enjoyed it as much as we have.

Jill Ward

Jill Ward
SSSTWLLN Director
Chair of LLN National Directors' Forum

"WE HAVE SEEN THE RESULTS OF OUR WORK TRANSFORM THE LANDSCAPE FOR VOCATIONAL LEARNERS."

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