

## Dear Colleagues

Welcome to our December newsletter which brings you up to date with some of the projects we have been working on over the past few months. Inside you can read how one scheme we established has trained people in the AVC/ACL sector to deliver PTLLS training to others within their own organisations to ensure the course is contextualised to meet their requirements.

There are also some new developments for WMCETT. The chair of our Advisory Board, Anne O'Grady, has had to step down to take up a new post at the University of Derby, and we would like to thank her for all her help and advice over the past three years, and wish her all the best for the future. We are also delighted to be able to announce that we will be continuing past March into a fifth year. We look forward to working with you further in 2011.

**Fergus McKay**  
Director

## Inspections provoke debate at first of new Professional Dialogue seminars

A second series of three Professional Dialogue seminars organised by The Forum and WMCETT has begun with a day of debate about the Ofsted inspection process.

Representatives of West Midlands Higher Education Institutions which offer teacher training, and their partner colleges, spent a day at the RAF Museum Cosford looking at topics such as preparing for Ofsted inspections and improvements to the process, and the impact of inspections on practice. They also

talked about how they might prepare differently in future in light of their experiences.

WMCETT Director Fergus McKay said: "This meeting provided practitioners from FE and HE with the opportunity to reflect on recent IT Ofsted inspections in the region and to collaboratively consider issues raised by the inspection process."

A full report will be available on the WMCETT website soon. Two more Professional Dialogue seminars will be held in 2011.



## WMCETT sets out stall at adult learning conference

WMCETT was invited to attend and share its information at the Local Education Authorities Forum for the Education of Adults (LEAFEA) Adult Learning Conference, which was held at The International Centre, Telford, in July.

The aim of the conference was to celebrate adult learning and delegates were able to discuss how they could develop partnerships in adult learning, share good practice and network with colleagues from across the sector. There were representatives of local authorities from across the Midlands at the conference, plus many voluntary, community and charity organisations.

The first keynote speaker was John Gibson from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, and in the afternoon the delegates heard from Michael Cooke, Regional Manager of West Midlands Museums, Libraries and Archives.

Margaret Hunter, WMCETT's Priority Area Co-ordinator for AVC/ACL, said it had been useful for ACL networking. Many delegates visited the WMCETT stall and took away details of CPD courses, newsletters and the CETT journal, and some joined the mailing list.

*Delegates browsing the stall at the conference*



## Anne is back as IfL Regional Adviser



Anne Schofield has been appointed the Institute for Learning's Regional Adviser for the West Midlands.

Anne can offer free support around gaining Associate/Qualified Teacher Learning and Skills (A/QTLS), Continuing Professional Development (CPD) requirements and using REFLECT, IfL's on-line CPD tool. Support is available in a variety of ways:

- Workshops and presentations for teachers
- 1:1 telephone or email support for individual IfL members
- Support for those responsible for staff development
- Support for those responsible for teacher training

Last year the IfL funded similar regional adviser roles and the appointments were made through CETTs. Anne carried out that role in the WMCETT area, and a report of her work during 2009-10 can be read at [www.warwick.ac.uk/go/wmcett](http://www.warwick.ac.uk/go/wmcett) and then clicking the IfL link. For more information on how Anne can help you, please contact [ifl.adviser@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:ifl.adviser@warwick.ac.uk)

## Voluntary sector trainers run special PTLLS courses for colleagues

People working in the voluntary and community sector have been trained to deliver PTLLS courses to others in the sector.

The programme began with a meeting between representatives of Warwickshire ACL, WAYC (Warwickshire Association of Youth Clubs) and WMCETT Director Fergus McKay.

Sue Spiers, course co-ordinator of the Initial Teacher Training Programme at the University of Warwick, said: "We'd already got a number of people trained to teach PTLLS (Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector) in work-based learning so this was a similar thing but through the community."

There was an induction day for 12 people, and when their CVs and qualifications had been approved, there was a training day. They then went away with PTLLS materials and started planning their own course. Sue added: "My strong advice was to do some team teaching rather than just one tutor. They sent me their scheme of work and all the queries came my way so it was all sorted by email mentoring."

The trainers are now being observed as they teach. The 12 people trained to deliver so far include Alison Orr, Training & Quality Development Manager with Warwickshire Community and Voluntary Action, and Tracy Hayes, Training Manager with WAYC. Both had already taken a PTLLS course.

Tracy said: "From WAYC's view it's been a huge success and it's been brilliant to bring everybody together and develop those organisations, and partnership working in the sector is great.

"It's a core part of our role and we would like to continue it. There's obviously a great need for it. People who go into

colleges to do PTLLS struggle to see how they can apply it to their workplaces when they get back there. Because all my own training was in a college and a lot of the situations my tutor was talking about didn't apply, it's that relevance that we have got in our course."

Alison said: "The support we have had from WMCETT has been great and it's been a really good experience for us and we can now take it forward. We have 12 people who are trained to deliver PTLLS within the sector and the idea is we have a good quality of training across the piece."

Alison has now taught the PTLLS course twice with Tracy, and said: "It was absolutely brilliant. Our two personalities, and our skills and talents, bounced off each other very well so to us it was a pleasure delivering together. There are mandatory things we had to get across but how we did that was left to us, and we could make it interesting to teach it to the voluntary and community sector bodies. The fact that Sue gave us the freedom to do that was brilliant."

Courses have this autumn been delivered at the Town Thorns Care Centre in Rugby, Bath Place Community Venture in Leamington and Foleshill Fire Station in Coventry.

There has been some funding from Coventry and Warwickshire Infrastructure Consortium (CWIC) which has helped make the courses more affordable for the voluntary sector, and it is hoped more funding can be found to continue them.



Rookhsana Mohamed is teaching a PTLLS class in Foleshill, Coventry, with support from Tracy Hayes (left) and Alison Orr (right)

## Help offered with functional skills

WMCETT is teaming up with education consultancy Key Concepts in Education to offer support with functional skills to post-16 education providers in the West Midlands.

Functional skills replaced key skills from 1 September 2010 in the 14-19 programmes and replaces them in apprenticeships from next April. KCET and WMCETT are developing a programme of training and consultancy to meet the needs of senior managers and practitioners who are responsible for introducing functional skills qualifications.

These include a 30-hour CPD programme, Supporting Functional Skills in the Vocational Curriculum, accredited by the University of Warwick, networks to provide national and regional updates, surgeries for small numbers of providers with a functional skills expert and bespoke training and consultancy to meet individual institutions' needs. To find out more email [wmcett@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:wmcett@warwick.ac.uk) or call us on 024 7657 5522.

## Podcasts recorded for work-based learning site

Three members of the WMCETT team have recorded podcasts to share information about what we do with the work-based learning sector.

Director Fergus McKay, former Priority Area Co-ordinator for Work-Based Learning Penny Ottewill, and Project Co-ordinator Jill Hardman spent a morning recording information with prompter Derrin Kent, managing director of The Development Manager in Bewley.

The conversations have been edited down into podcasts of up to 10 minutes long, which will be broadcast on the [www.WBL-Shots.org.uk](http://www.WBL-Shots.org.uk) website, an online radio show and community discussion space dealing with a range of issues from the work-based learning sector.



## Survey to identify extent of training in the voluntary sector

WMCETT has been carrying out a survey of professional development programmes delivered in the voluntary and community sector.

Some of our partner organisations around the Midlands have been sent a link to the simple, on-line questionnaire.

Questions ask about the individual and their organisation, then focus on what professional development programmes people deliver, if they lead to a qualification, who they are delivered to and how they are paid for. Finally, it also asks what further professional development would be useful to the person filling in the form to improve their own

teaching/training skills and what barriers may stand in the way of that development.

Margaret Hunter, WMCETT's Priority Area Co-ordinator for AVC/ACL, said: "We want to promote the fact they do deliver high quality CPD in house and to external organisations, and we are trying to find out what areas their expertise is in. We also want to find out what their qualifications are and if they want further professional development to help them deliver more effectively or develop their work further."

If you work in the sector in the West Midlands and would like to take part in this survey, email [J.chamberlain@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:J.chamberlain@warwick.ac.uk) to be sent the link.