

WM CETT Newsletter

July / August 2010

www.warwick.ac.uk/go/wmcett/

Dear Colleagues

Our fourth year in business began with a general election, a new government and all the subsequent changes to the education landscape that brings. As the dust settles and the current academic year draws to a close, we are looking to build on work we have carried out successfully before, and meet the needs of our partners across the different sectors we work with.

We intend to work with the voluntary sector to help them meet their training requirements, and provide and disseminate more useful resources on line. We want to find out about the barriers stopping people progressing in training, and see if we can help overcome them.

We will liaise with work-based learners to spread information about progression routes for trainers who have taken first steps to get qualifications, and again develop short, specialist training courses as they require.

In the skills area we will continue to provide information, advice and

guidance and extend and develop an e-mentoring programme. We will also be running more of our very successful workshop days for practitioners. For those working as teacher trainers in colleges and HE we aim to create more training opportunities, and events to share good practice and resources, along the lines of our very popular HEI forum days held in the past year.

Supporting us with our business plan and our work generally is our new Advisory Board, chaired by Anne O'Grady, Regional Programme Director of NIACE, who is featured over the page.

As partners we look forward to working with you this year and invite you to contribute to the development of the business plan and to make contact if you have any specific issues or ideas you would like to discuss with us.

Fergus McKay
Director

Sharing ideas and good practice



■ On Page 2 find out more about the challenges that faced Skills for Life practitioners at two conferences organised by WMCETT this year (above left) and on Page 3 read about the third HEI Forum, attended by teacher educators who looked at the issue of Equality and Diversity (above right).

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**CENTRES
FOR EXCELLENCE
IN TEACHER TRAINING**

WM CETT

Profile of Anne O'Grady and NIACE

Anne O'Grady, who chairs the new WMCETT Advisory Board, is a Regional Programme Director with the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE), working across the East and West Midlands.

NIACE is a WMCETT partner and a charity which works to promote the advantages of adult learning. It supports improvements in the quality of adult learning, and the range of learning opportunities, whether in FE, HE or the broader learning and skills sector. NIACE also runs Adult Learners Week which rewards people who have made huge strides in their personal learning.

Anne said: "I'm working with key stakeholders across the region to influence their policies and ensure adult learning is on their agenda. This is easy when working with the CETT as it already realises how important adult learning is. We want to support an increase in adults involved in informal and formal learning and work across the field to widen access and general opportunities."

Anne's area of expertise is workforce development and adult language, literacy and numeracy. She is familiar with the work of

WMCETT, having been a member of its previous Board and also having worked with Priority Area Co-ordinator for Skills, Elaine Goodall, on research into lifelong learning policy and practice, and Priority Area Co-ordinator for AVC/ACL, Margaret Hunter, on workplace reforms and the voluntary sector.

She said in Skills for Life it is important WMCETT helps practitioners continue their professional development, and they are supported to keep up to date with new policies. In ITT access to training is an important issue and it is vital to work in partnership with providers.

Anne added: "As chair of the Advisory Board I hope we will work together to advise and steer WMCETT to improve its support for the sector and continue to work with the workforce to make them as aware as possible of the value of CPD and help them get the most appropriate opportunities to engage in CPD."



Skills for Life workshops were Gr8

WMCETT and the Essential Skills Resource Centre at the University of Warwick ran two Skills for Life conferences this spring.

The events at the RAF Museum at Cosford and the University of Warwick were for Skills for Life tutors and managers, and attracted 69 attendees from 35 organisations.

There were six workshop sessions at each, which including embedding IfL's REFLECT activity and sharing good practice. Workshops were on functional skills (literacy), helping learners progress with maths, creating lively ESOL lessons, and using Cuisenaire rods in teaching maths. A tutor from LSIS taught the numeracy sessions which were part of its Skills for Life Improvement Programme.

Sara Hattersley, teacher trainer for Skills, said: "I ran one workshop on using SMS text language in the adult literacy classroom.

Teachers complain that learners use SMS in their sessions, and inappropriately, but it is all about language changing. Adult literacy learners might not be able to use text language because it's challenging and teachers should be able to help them. This might mean brushing up their own skills and thinking about new and creative approaches in the classroom!"

Comments on the text session included: "I feel more confident to text in future. For short activities in class texting is an interesting way to get some of the younger learners to engage themselves in writing/reading texts" and "Gr8 fun! Very informative and very useful, thank you".

Please tell us what you would like to see included in two more conferences in the next year - contact Priority Area Co-ordinator for Skills, Elaine Goodall, on 024 7657 4558 or

e.goodall@warwick.ac.uk

Forum produces flood of Equality and Diversity resources

The final in a series of three Professional Dialogue seminars organised by WMCETT and the West Midlands HEI Forum looked at Equality and Diversity, a subject chosen by members of FE college teacher training departments who attended the second seminar.

The success of the series could be seen in the way the resources volunteered by delegates which can be used by practitioners has grown enormously with each seminar.

The seminar was held at the Centre for Lifelong Learning at the University of Warwick, with the first session on the pedagogy and practice of equality and diversity, with discussions around ideas and approaches and how these are embedded into the ITT programme. The second session focused on activities and resources the participants used which had a significant impact on learning.

Participants said they had found the day "valuable to find out where other people are at with E&D and to find out ways in which people present what they deliver".

The seminars were held as a result of a funding bid to LSIS, but the Forum has vowed to continue and plans more events.

Fergus McKay, WMCETT Director, said: "The series of three professional dialogue seminars has been very successful and has provided practitioners with an opportunity to share resources, exchange views and offer opinions about current teacher training programmes."

To read more about the seminars, and access the resources produced, see <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/study/cll/othercourses/wmcett/researchprojects/dialogue/>



Work-based learning DTLLS is recruiting for autumn

The Contextualised, Blended and Extended Diploma in Teaching in the Lifelong Learning Sector (CBED DTLLS) for work-based learning providers started in September 2009 and 14 people are currently studying on the programme.

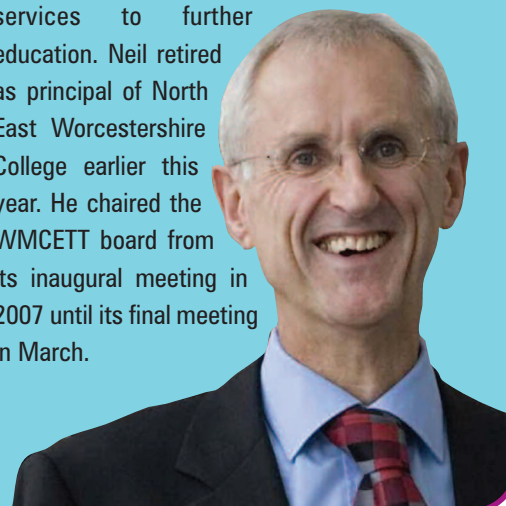
Initial reviews and additional demands have produced such positive results it is planned to run a second programme. It offers candidates the opportunity to gain their teaching qualification with:

- Contextualised application - delivered within the WBL context
- Blended delivery mode - face-to-face sessions, online activities, tutorials and teaching observations
- Extended - from September 2010 to September 2012

For an expression of interest form, please contact Penny Ottewill on p.ottewill@warwick.ac.uk or 07920 531142.

OBE for Neil

Congratulations to the former chair of the WMCETT Board, Neil Bromley, who was awarded an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours list for services to further education. Neil retired as principal of North East Worcestershire College earlier this year. He chaired the WMCETT board from its inaugural meeting in 2007 until its final meeting in March.



First Peer Tutoring course reaps benefits

A training course piloted by WMCETT has equipped teachers within Coventry Adult Education service to improve the impact they have on teaching and learning, and manage meetings better.

Jayne Hedges taught on the Peer Tutoring for Continuous Professional Development in the Lifelong Learning Sector course held in Coventry over two full days and two half days.

Elaine Agnew, ICT Programme Manager with the Coventry Adult Education Service, said the 12 participants were all either Subject Learning Coaches or e-leads. She said: "They are involved in teaching and learning; they all line manage tutors and they deliver themselves. They were selected because of their roles in cascading information and training to other people in those roles.

"Most people saw it as a real benefit both in the way they can impact on teaching and learning and in the way they participate and organise meetings they go to."

Jayne Hedges said the pilot course, which was supported with funding from LSIS to Coventry Adult Education Service, had gone very well. She said: "They did practice sessions in facilitating and teamed up to do key things like learner voice, safeguarding and looking at embedding IT throughout the service. They ended up with staff development sessions they could offer throughout the service."

The feedback forms included comments that people had learned about "allowing/encouraging people to manage their learning rather than instructing/directing", that "I will model my approach when facilitating in a group to bring in what I have learned about the difference between teaching and facilitating" and "it was a very good atmosphere with like-minded colleagues".



New observing teaching course is piloted

A new two-day course for people who have to carry out lesson observations was piloted by WMCETT with its partner the Professional Development Partnership (PDP) in Shropshire.

The Observing Teaching and Learning in the Lifelong Learning Sector course was taken by 30 people and was held at Derwen College near Oswestry.

It was designed and taught by WMCETT Project Co-ordinator Jill Hardman, who said participants were teacher trainers, managers who do quality assurance observations and staff learning to do lesson observations.

She added: "It was training them in using classroom

observation to support teacher development and development of teachers' skills. I think it's a very new type of course because a lot of observational programmes focus on the quality assurance side using grading, whereas this covered that, but it had a particular focus on using observation to help teachers improve their practice."

The course could be taken as an accredited or non-accredited version, but to gain accreditation participants have to carry out a teaching observation accompanied by a University of Warwick tutor. This course was run for those in the FE sector, but can be adapted to suit other sectors such as work-based learning and AVC/ACL. For more information contact J.chamberlain@warwick.ac.uk