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EAST MIDLANDS SKILLS FOR LIFE STRATEGY FORUM BULLETIN

Bulletin 16
December 2003

News

PUT YOUR OWN RESEARCH IDEAS INTO PRACTICE

An opportunity to reflect and to explore issues arising from the *Skills for Life* policy

This is an early announcement of the practitioner-led research fund, a new initiative about to be launched by the National Centre for Research and Development in Adult Literacy and Numeracy (NRDC). Six small-scale projects addressing a common theme will be funded in 2003/2004 and up to £10,000 will be available for each nine-month project. A linked scheme is being developed in Northern Ireland.

Applications will be invited from locally based consortia led by those who are directly involved with *Skills for Life*

The national strategy for improving adult literacy and numeracy, translated in the East Midlands

Developing the quality of Teaching and Learning

The East Midlands Skills for Life Forum meeting on 25th November provided a valuable insight into the Skills for Life Quality Initiative to the 80+ delegates. Speakers detailed how the initiative will affect providers and teachers in the region and raised a number of issues which the Forum Steering Group will seek to address in the future. To find out more, look at the Skills For Life Quality Initiative website which has recently gone live. <http://www.lsc.gov.uk/sflqi/default.htm>

Issues to be aware of in the near future:

- **Leadership and Management programme** Local LSCs are inviting providers to take part in the programme. If your organisation has not been invited to take part, contact your local LSC to register your interest in being involved in future programmes
- **Interested in training but not sure where to look?** If you want more information about where and how to access training in basic skills teaching you will find useful information on the Website which is especially useful for the interactive map of L4/L3 courses or contact **Joyce Black Development Officer NIACE on 0116 285 9658** or joyce.black@niace.org.uk

Embedded Learning Materials Project

From August 2003 – June 2006 the (ABSSU) are funding a project which will produce embedded learning materials and a range of other

Events and Conferences

Sharing the Skills!

If you find this Bulletin useful and think that a colleague could benefit from knowing more about Skills for Life just email them a copy. Then, if they want to receive it regularly, they can ask to be added to the distribution list.

EMFEC Teacher Training Practitioners Midlands Region AUTUMN NETWORK: FRIDAY 12 DECEMBER 2003 1-4pm

This event will cover a range of topical FENTO-based issues which have implications for all providers of teacher training programmes.

For details and to book a place contact Michelle Chesterfield EMFEC, Tel: 0115 8541 626 or michellec@emfec.co.uk

Workforce Development - a

learners in any organizational setting in England. Collaborations between organisations are encouraged, including links with universities and the community and voluntary sector. Each group must include someone with research expertise.

The Aims of the programme are to:

- produce findings which will give new insights into adult literacy, numeracy and ESOL;
- build research capacity and to strengthen networks linking practice research and policy.

Groups will be expected to:

- decide a research question
- design a research project to investigate the question
- decide appropriate methodology
- carry out the research
- write up the findings
- network with other groups funded by the scheme and share expertise
- participate in dissemination events to share work with other researchers

Further information and guidelines for applications will be forwarded within the next two weeks.

resources. The first stage of the project is complete: and has covered initial research to establish the contexts that will be covered in the first year. For the first year's batch of materials the contexts will be:

- § Construction
- § Health and Social Care
- § Land-based Industries
- § Health and Alternative Medicine
- § Nursing

The next stage is further detailed research to establish what new materials are needed for each context chosen.

For more information or for providers who may wish to get involved in the trials in Spring 2004 please contact the Project Co-ordinator at CfBT,
Sarah Button: 0118 902 1229; sbutton@cfbt.com

Link Up East Midlands

Over the last year Link Up has been funded by the Adult Basic Skills Strategy Unit and the Home Office's Active Community Unit to recruit 6000 Link up Supporters through 21 projects – 18 in the regions, 2 in the prison service and one in the Army. It aims to increase participation in volunteering especially within 'disadvantaged' communities; develop new approaches to volunteering when supporting adults to develop their literacy, language and numeracy skills; contribute to the development of the level 2 Qualification in Adult Learner Support and promote and encourage social inclusion and regeneration. For further information on Link Up nationally visit www.linkup-supporters.org. In the East Midlands Link Up has operated in Leicester and Derby- discussions are now taking place about the implications of these pilots and the future funding opportunities.

Link up Leicester

FERN Training and Development Limited runs the Link Up project in Leicester, and Link Up Leicester has successfully recruited 257 LU supporters so far, 161 of which have completed Unit 1 training, and 49 have completed Unit 2 and 32 completed C&G. Leicester Adult Education, Leicester College Leicester Mentor Point Connexions, APEX, Probation Service, Neema Womens' Centre, Sure Start and a number of Community Centres work closely with the Link Up team in Leicester and a number of organisations have requested courses in the future.

For more information contact Link Up Leicester project manager Brain Sanderson 0116 223 6969 or briansanderson@ferntd.org.uk

Link up Derby City

way forward: Realising the promise of National Health Service Union:

Tuesday 27 January 2004 Aston Villa Conference & Banqueting, Villa Park, Birmingham

In October 2003 the NHSU was formally launched, a new kind of corporate university, focusing on education and training opportunities for everyone working for or with the National Health Service and in social care. The conference will look at the opportunity that the NHSU brings for personal and professional development for staff working within the NHS and its contribution to continued Lifelong Learning,

For further information contact Gurjit Kaur, Tel: 0116 204 2833, email: gurjit.kaur@niace.org.uk

Learning Journeys: Ensuring quality for adults with mental health difficulties

Thursday 12 February 2004, The Resource Centre, 356 Holloway Road, London N7 6PA

The conference will be of interest to new and experienced tutors working with learners with mental health difficulties; managers of learning provision that includes learners with mental health difficulties; staff responsible for Disability Discrimination Act

Initial enquiries can be made by contacting Kathryn James at kathryn.james@lancaster.ac.uk

Useful Links

Adult Basic Skills Strategy Unit
www.dfes.gov.uk/readwriteplus
Lisa Capper ABSSU
Regional Coordinator
Lisa.CAPPER@dfes.gsi.gov.uk

Basic Skills Agency
www.basic-skills.co.uk

Get On Campaign
www.dfes.gov.uk/get-on

Learning and Skills Council
www.lsc.gov.uk

NIACE (National Institute for Adult and Continuing Education)
www.niace.org.uk

Skills for Life Quality Initiative
www.lsc.gov.uk/sflqi

LSC Local contacts

Derbyshire
Eryl Prentice
Eryl.Prentice@lsc.gov.uk
0845 019 4183
LSC Workplace Basic Skills
Penny Guard at Derbyshire LSC
on **01332 686382**

DfES Lifelong Learning

The Link Up project in Derby City is being run by the Basic Skills Strategy Group based Derby College. It has successfully recruited 470 Link Up Supporters so far. 301 of these have completed Unit 1 training, 54 have been through Unit 2 and 27 LUS' have completed Unit 3 training (Literacy, Numeracy or ESOL specialism). It has also been very successful in recruiting from the ethnic minority communities and from the over 50's age group, and has ensured an even spread of volunteers that properly represents the diversity of the Derby community. **Bianca Ellis is Link Up Derby's project manager and her contact number is 01332 576626 bianca.ellis@derby-college.ac.uk.**

Working collaboratively to develop basic skills capacity in Leicestershire

Leicestershire LSC and Leicestershire and Leicester City Learning Partnership are working closely on basic skills developments and to build capacity across the range of providers. Over the last year this has included:-

Pump priming posts – since April 2002 34 half time posts have been funded across the City and County. The aim has been to take the gamble out of appointments for institutions. Over an eight or nine month period the tutors have been able to develop new groups and locations for teaching and develop the justification for the continuation of the post. At the end of the 2002/3 stage of this work 90% of the tutor posts were established.

A joint campaign to attract new tutors – a major campaign was run. All responses came to the Partnership. In addition the Partnership has identified two gaps which needed to be filled:-

- Moving those who have no experience of teaching or basic skills to a point where they can be employed and be supported through CPD to reach the qualification levels required. A small group was delegated to look at the specification which providers would require before making initial appointments. The group recommended that a C&G 7407 Stage 1 delivered in a basic skills context would satisfy these requirements. The group has produced a complete pack for each provider to use and book boxes of resources have been developed. Seven courses were sponsored for different providers starting in March 2003, nine more are planned or under way in 2003/4. Work has now begun on the additions needed to deliver an ESOL version and there are plans to deliver at least two courses.

- Those who are experienced teachers of other subjects but with no experience of basic skills.

These people need the level 4 subject specific programme but they need

compliance; adult, community and other education providers who wish to set up provision for people with mental health difficulties.

For further information and a booking form contact Gurjit Kaur on Tel: 0116 204 2833; Email: Gurjit.kaur@niace.org.uk or visit the website at: www.niace.org.uk/Conferences/LearningJourneys.htm

www.lifelonglearning.co.uk

LearnDirect

www.learnirect.co.uk

Learning and Skills Development Agency

www.lsda.org.uk

Leicestershire

Gill King

gill.king@lsc.gov.uk

0116 228 1870

LSC Workplace Basic Skills

Fiona Baker at Leicestershire

Lincolnshire and Rutland

Di Pudney

diana.pudney@lsc.gov.uk

01522 508547

National Literacy Trust

www.literacytrust.org.uk

National Research Development Centre

for adult literacy, language and numeracy

www.nrdc.org.uk

Northamptonshire

Gordon Sergent

gordon.sergent@lsc.gov.uk

01604 533031

Nottinghamshire

Elaine Beckford

elaine.beckford@lsc.gov.uk

0115 8720036

Qualifications and Curriculum Authority

to get experience of working in basic skills while they do this. A small group looked at what would be needed to take someone to the point where they could apply their teaching experience in a basic skills context while following the level 4 subject specific training. They have prepared a two credit level 3 programme which is being accredited by the local OCN. The Partnership will sponsor the first running of this programme in a number of venues.

A joint promotional campaign building on the national with a local referral system has been developed and run in September, October 2003

For details and more information contact Ray Flude, Learning Partnership Manager rayflude@llclp.org.uk

Chesterfield College's new Skills for Life Section brings together Basic Skills, Key Skills and Additional Learning Support to ensure there are effective links and consistency between these areas. This has enabled the College to respond to key developments such as the training of new teachers and the need to build capacity. All specialist and vocational tutors have a personal training plan and target qualification for the year to ensure they will reach an appropriate level of qualification in the three areas of personal skills, teacher training and specialist training. The College is building for the future by developing and delivering programmes at all levels leading to the new qualifications for teachers of basic skills. This ensures that both the College and the local community have access to the appropriate training. In addition, free taster courses provide an introduction to basic skills teaching and advice on individual progression routes towards full qualification.

For more information contact: Diane Dalby, 01246 500582. dalbyd@chesterfield.ac.uk.

Bite Size Courses at Siemens

The response to Bite Size at Siemens was impressive, approximately 40 employees took part and 80 people signed up for the European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL) course, which are now being run in house. This was followed by a Lifelong Learning Initiative event, hosted by Siemens in the Canteen area. Bite Size courses were provided by local learning providers (Learning Shop, ISIS and LAGAT) along with the Workforce Development Team, who let people try out the new National Test, and Experience Works Team from the Learning and Skills Council. The event was very successful with over 120 employees taking part in an activity on the day and hundreds more gathering information on learning opportunities. As a result, Night Shift employees requested Bite Size courses provided by ISIS and these will be starting on a Tuesday 9th

www.qca.org.uk

Ufi

www.ufi.com

News

December, between 9.00 pm and 11.00 pm. These will be followed up by further in house training for the Night Shift. Events have also taken place at Fenmarc Limited at Swinderby and Exotic Farm Produce Limited in Boston.

**For more information Lorraine Palmer Bite Size Co-ordinator
Lincolnshire and Rutland LSC 01522 508545 (direct dial).**

Valuable Skills Learning Lorry

Based on the success of the Read On-Write Away buses in the recruitment of employers and employees for the Valuable Skills Project, Derbyshire LSC, in partnership with Read On-Write Away have developed the Learning Lorry, which is due to be launched at Pride Park on the 8th of January. The lorry will be equipped with 10 networked laptops, quiet area, conference table, and drop down projector with screen.

Training providers and employers wishing to view the facility may do so on the 9th of January. The venue for the 9th is yet to be confirmed and detailed on the Valuable Skills Website, www.valuableskills.co.uk.

The centre will initially be a marketing tool to raise awareness amongst Derbyshire employers and employees throughout January and February. It will then be available for delivery, including online testing. **For further details contact Penny Guard, at Derbyshire LSC, on 01332 686382 penny.guard@lsc.gov.uk**

The Derbyshire Buddy Plus+ Project recruits and trains volunteer mentors to work with young people between the ages of 10 and 17 who have literacy and numeracy difficulties and have either offended or are at risk of offending. The project is funded by the Youth Justice Board and covers the whole of Derbyshire and Derby City and the ROWA! project co-ordinator works closely with the Youth Offending Teams. The aims of Buddy Plus are:

- To improve the young person's self-esteem through a positive relationship with a mentor
- To improve the young person's basic literacy and numeracy skills
- To build the young person's confidence through achievement
- To provide positive role models for the young person
- To reduce offending behaviour

The volunteer mentors are given a comprehensive 3-day training programme which deals with reasons why young people offend, the criminal justice system, child protection, health and safety, confidentiality, training on helping with literacy and numeracy as well as the whole

question of volunteering.

For more information contact Fiona Cameron, Learning Team Manager ROWA cameron@derbyshire.gov.uk or visit www.rowa.co.uk

Employers training pilot in Leicestershire

Since the Launch of the Leicestershire pilot in August 2003 over 900 employers have become involved The pilot offers local organisations across all sectors up to 35 hours' compensation for time spent by their employees learning new skills, as well as free or low-cost training tailored to their individual needs. Although the 1000th trainee has recently been signed up, many of these have been in the care and manufacturing sectors and the project is keen to involve more companies in the construction and land-based sectors before the funding runs out.

For further information about opportunities with Skills at Work please call Collette on 0845 378 0060 or visit the website www.skillsatwork.org.

Resources

Words for Basic Maths

Students who have had their mathematical education in another language often find it hard to transfer their existing knowledge into the English system, which uses unfamiliar terminology and notation. Words for Basic Maths provides a reference point for teachers and students.

The translations currently available for free download from the site are: Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, Greek, Gujarati, Hindi, Italian, Punjabi, Spanish, Turkish, Urdu and Vietnamese.

www.basic-skills.co.uk

New Funding Guide available

The new guide; Adult Literacy, Numeracy and ESOL; A Guide to Learning and Skills Council (LSC) Funding 2003/4, provides information on the funding of basic skills provision by the Learning and Skills Council and aims to inform readers of the basic principles underlying the funding. Copies can be obtained from DfES Publications.

Tel 0845 6022260 or dfes@prolog.uk.com, Quote reference SFLFG 0304

The following qualifications were approved by FENTO at their October panel

University of Sunderland:

- Level 4 Certificate for Literacy Subject Specialists
- Level 4 Certificate for Numeracy Subject Specialists

University of Teesside:

- Certificate in Education/Postgraduate Certificate of Education in Adult Literacy for Subject Specialists

E Learning Materials

Details of free and interactive e-learning materials for FE colleges are available on the National Learning Network materials website. NLN mentors are available to assist in showing how ICT and the NLN materials can be used to support learning across a range of curriculum areas including key and basic skills and ESOL

For details contact www.nln.ac.uk/materials

Get On materials for providers

All the promotional materials have now been updated with the new gremlin images and are available from the Get On campaign office

Tel: 020 7544 3130 or www.dfes.gov.uk/get-on

Skilled for Health programme

The Skilled for Health demonstration projects were announced on 12 November by Charles Clarke and Melanie Johnson, Health Minister at the Faculty for Public Health Conference. From late 2003 the Department of Health and Department for Education and Skills are funding these projects which are intended to:-

- Design and generate a number of health-related learning materials and assessment tools that can be replicated in different parts of the country
- Help learners gain a better understanding of their own health and how to make better use of the NHS, whilst also improving their basic skills
- Develop partnership working between health and basic skills practitioners, test new approaches, and heighten awareness of the basic skills needs of NHS users

The demonstration sites will focus on particular aspects of health and will be designed to be suitable for replication by other LSC funded providers to suit the particular needs of adults in different parts of the country.

In the East Midlands two projects have been approved :-

St Matthews Project and Eastern Leicester Primary Care Trust (Leicester)

In conjunction with Cambridge Training and Development (CTAD), St Matthews Project and Eastern Leicester Primary Care Trust will develop and deliver a programme of learning opportunities for people in predominantly Black Minority Ethnic and Refugee and Asylum Seeker communities. The project will be based on the need to understand their health entitlements, communicate about health and manage their own health issues more effectively.

Sport Active Ltd (Derbyshire)

In partnership with Age Concern and the Primary Care Trusts in Derbyshire, the project intends to deliver basic skills activity in a health context to a cross section of over 50's. Active Life, which is a health fitness and lifestyle programme which has mapped and embedded the National Literacy Standards. The aim of the course is to allow learners to create a health and fitness programme to enable them to improve their basic skills, mental health, physical health and general well being. The course will be delivered as a taught programme combining learning and practical sessions

[For details contact Caroline Blondell 0207 273 4745](tel:02072734745)
caroline.blondell@dfes.gsi.gov.uk

For further information about the East Midlands Skills for Life Strategy Forum, or to contact steering group members approach Mark Cockayne on 0115 971 2702. To receive copies of this monthly bulletin, you can join the email distribution list by [clicking here](#).
This bulletin does not represent the views of the DfES or other organisations in the Skills for Life East Midlands Regional Strategy Forum.