



EAST MIDLANDS SKILLS FOR LIFE STRATEGY FORUM BULLETIN

Bulletin 17

February 2004

Newsflash

Skills for Life e-Bulletin Readership Survey

The East Midlands Skills for Life e-Bulletin has recently been redesigned and new content included. We hope you will take a few minutes to answer the questions in the attached survey so that we can ensure that the information you receive is as useful and relevant to you as possible.

New Forum Chair

We would like to thank Carol Taylor for her hard work and commitment to the Forum as Chair over the last two years. She leaves the Forum in a good position to move forward under the new Chair, Jennifer Fearon-Beckford, Regional Director of the LSDA.

**NIACE Regional Achievement,
Qualifications and**

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

Regional Director for Learning and Skills Council announced

On January 7th 2004 the LSC announced its new regional management structure with the appointment of 10 Regional Directors. The Regional Director for the East Midlands is David Hughes who, in addition to his new regional role, will remain the Executive Director of Derbyshire LSC. David also chairs the East Midlands Regional Assembly's Policy Forum and was formerly Executive Director for Nottingham Council for Voluntary Services. We look forward to working closely with David on Skills for Life in the East Midlands in the future.

For more details visit the Learning and Skills Council website
www.lsc.gov.uk

21st Century Skills: Realising Our Potential The regional Skills Plan for the East Midlands

The Skills Strategy White Paper, launched in July 2003, announced the creation of Regional Skills Partnership which would plan skills delivery across each region. In the East Midlands EMDA, working in partnership with the Learning and Skills Council and GOEM, has produced the draft Plan for the region. This plan is now being consulted on with the DfES and will shape activity in the region. Skills for Life has a key role to play in the delivery of 21st Century skills. Look out for further details in future editions of the bulletin. You can download a copy of 21st Century Skills: Realising Our Potential at www.dfes.uk/skillsstrategy

Learning and Skills Council Skills for Life Quality Initiative

Events and Conferences

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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.

East Midlands Skills for Life Forum; Skills for Life three years on, embedding the strategy.

The next Forum conference will take place on March 8 at the Royal Moat House, Nottingham. National and regional speakers and workshops are planned to look at how the Skills for Life Strategy is being embedded in the region

To book your place contact
Francine Leary on 0115

Progressions

Support Programme

Regional Officer (East Midlands)
David Ewens begins his work with NIACE in February. He can be contacted on 0116 204 2840

NRDC Practitioner research programme

If you are a practitioner and are interested in getting involved in the NRDC's research programme, the NRDC are seeking applications for its first year programme. Forms and guidance are available from the publications page of NRDC website www.nrdc.org.uk

NLT job vacancy - senior policy and research analyst

The National Literacy Trust is recruiting for the above new post, which offers an opportunity to work across a number of professional communities and to contribute at national, and occasionally, international level. The salary range is £26,000-£32,000 (more for an exceptionally experienced candidate) and the closing date for applications is 10 February 2004. Long-list interviews will be held on 20 February 2004. Download the job description and person specification from <http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/about/researchpost.html>

Resources

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) *Skills for Life* Quality Initiative has two major programmes: the Leadership and Management programme and the Professional Development Programme. In the Leadership and Management programme, by mid-January, delegates from approximately 700 colleges and other providers had completed or were booked on to the first day of two days of training for leaders and managers. There are now more than 200 fully trained facilitators and over 2700 facilitator days have been allocated to in excess of 900 providers. For the Professional Development Programme for Teachers of Adult Literacy, Numeracy and Language recipients of sponsorship to support the achievement of a relevant professional qualification at level 2, 3 or 4, as appropriate for their role, are now being identified and the development and piloting of professional development modules at each of the three levels continues apace. These developments are alongside the on-line versioning of elements of the core curriculum training and the establishment of an accreditation of prior experience and learning (APEL) process. All these developments have been designed to support at the professional development of staff with a range of experience and roles at the national, regional and local levels. Full details of both programmes can be found on the quality initiative website (www.lsc.gov.uk/sflqi).

New opportunities for non LSC funded providers

In addition to the above, there are additional opportunities available for publicly funded providers that do not receive core funds from the LSC, for example, Jobcentre Plus, the Armed Forces and the Prison and Probation Services. The current contractors (CfBT and BSA) and also Cambridge Training and Development (CTAD) are developing and delivering these targeted opportunities. A brief strategic overview of all the opportunities available under the quality initiative is available on request from **Andrew Lambe**, email: andrew.lambe@lsc.gov.uk.

SfLQI; the next steps

The LSC has recently published a notice inviting tenders for the design, development, marketing, and delivery of the LSC *Skills for Life* Quality Initiative in 2004-05. The aim in 2004-05 is to develop a national infrastructure for *Skills for Life* delivering a whole organisation approach and a professional workforce for all publicly funded providers of post 16 literacy, numeracy and language. These developments will contribute to a longer-term strategy for workforce development. They will be developed within the context of, and support the implementation and achievement of, *Success for All* and *21st Century Skills: Realising Our Potential* (the Skills Strategy) and are intended to work alongside - and

9714731 fleary.goem@gq-regions.gsi.gov.uk

Developing ESOL Provision in your organisation, an event for the East Midlands - 26 March 2004

Venue to be confirmed. This is a day for FE providers, training providers, ACL and Voluntary and community sector providers to explore new developments in ESOL and to hear about the work of the national ESOL Pathfinders. **Contact Mark Cockayne for more information** mcockayne.goem@gq-regions.gsi.gov.uk

NRDC International Conference March 25-27 2004, Loughborough University - Researching effective practice in Adult Literacy, language and numeracy

The second NRDC annual conference will present keynote speakers from USA, Australia and Europe and a range of workshops featuring research and development projects from NRDC consortium and international partners from around the world.

The conference will be of interest to researchers and practitioners and policy makers with an interest in improving the research base for adult teaching and learning. Fees for residential delegates £420, for non residential delegates £170. For details contact

**The Skills for Life Survey:
A national needs and impact
survey of literacy, numeracy
and ICT skills**

This report has recently been published. Analysis of the data is ongoing and in response to a number of enquiries received so far the data will be modelled down to local levels in the future. Copies of the full report (RR490) are available by writing to:

**TSO, PO Box 29, Norwich NR3
1GN**

Tel: 0870 600 5522

Fax: 0870 600 5533

E-mail: book.orders@tso.co.uk

Textphone: 0870 240 3701

Online:

www.tso.co.uk/bookshop

The ISBN is ISBN: 1 84478

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The Occupational Standards

Website is now live - the on-line maps for literacy and numeracy are intended for use in training and development for staff within each sector.

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/readwriteplus/nosmapping>

**Refugee and Asylum Seeker
support pack**

Now available from Prolog

dfes@prolog.uk.com or at

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/readwriteplus/teaching>

**Basic Skills Quality Initiative:
Training and Development
Programme 2000-2003**

further support - regional and local activity to improve the professional development of all staff in the sector. A copy of the full tender specification is available from Andrew Lambe.

For further information on any of the above, please visit the quality initiative website or contact or Andrew Lambe.

Frontline Workers Project; Leicester

A project designed to equip front line staff from a variety of organisations to better support their clients is being managed by KPMG on behalf of the Adult Basic Skills Strategy Unit. It will test approaches that enable organisations to identify, refer, support and follow up clients who need to improve their literacy, numeracy and language skills in a coherent way that promotes sustainable inter-agency working. 12 different approaches are being piloted across England. In the East Midlands the project will focus on the Leicester city area.

As part of the project Cambridge Training and Development (CTAD) is developing a training package for front line staff which will follow Unit 1 of the Level 2 Adult Learner Support Certificate, which is specifically designed for frontline staff.

To get involved in the project or for further information please contact Nick Taylor KPMG on 07990 772098.

nickctaylor@kpmg.co.ukk

Vital Link for adult learners

The Vital Link, a new programme which brings together the library and adult basic skills sector, has recently been launched with three-year government funding. Led by the Reading Agency in partnership with the National Literacy Trust and the National Reading Campaign,

The new programme, which will build libraries' capacity to support adult basic skills learners, forms part of Framework for the Future, the Government's 10-year strategy for the public library service. This is being implemented by Resource: the Council for Museums, Archives and Libraries and is led by ROWA in the East Midlands.

For more details visit the NIACE website www.niace.org.uk

County wide basic skills promotion for Nottinghamshire

In February and March 2004 Broxtowe College, in partnership with BEGIN and Enable are leading a county-wide basic skills promotional campaign. Activities are currently underway and include presentations and mail shots to Voluntary and Community Sector groups; new marketing materials including new postcards and posters advertising the

www.nrdc.org.uk

**The LSC and the voluntary
and community sector. An
opportunity to respond to the
consultation and to plan local
events**

The LSC is developing a strategy to cover its work with the voluntary and community sector. Voluntary and community organisations (VCOs) can attend one of the free national and regional consultation events which Niace is organising on behalf of LSC. Alternatively local voluntary and community organisations can organise their own discussions of the strategy. Contact NIACE for a resource pack of useful materials and telephone support. **Contact Garrick Fincham at NIACE on 0116 204 7060.**

**RaPAL CONFERENCE
Lancaster University 9 - 10
July 2004**

The annual RaPAL (Research and Practice in Adult Literacy) conference will be held on July 9-10 2004, at Lancaster University. In RaPAL's 20 anniversary year, the theme will be "Sharing our experience, looking to the future". The conference is organised by and for adult basic skills tutors and researchers.

If you are interested in contributing to the conference, send an outline of your idea (title

The LSC has recently published a report on the training programme which was delivered by Association of Colleges and funded by the Quality and Standards Directorate since 2000. The programme was part of the Basic Skills Quality Initiative (BSQI) and provided residential training and development for senior managers of providers of literacy, numeracy and language provision.

The report contains examples of ways in which development of practice in different types of organisations has been influenced by the BSQI.

For more details visit the Learning and Skills Council website www.lsc.gov.uk

New materials for Employer Training Pilot areas

The Employer Training Pilot aim to encourage employers to develop the skills of their workforce by allowing their staff time off to train during work hours. There are 12 ETPs in different regions across England, which will soon expand to 18. The East Midlands has an ETP in Derbyshire and one in Leicestershire. The ETPs are paying employers, staff replacement costs and the cost of training towards literacy, language and numeracy at levels 1 and 2 and NVQ at Level 2.

National Tests; mail shots to libraries, leisure centres, job centres and health centres; bus stop, roadside and supermarket advertising and a stall in the Victoria Centre and a press and radio campaign.

For more information about the campaign contact Daphne Bone or Sue Salter at Broxtowe S4L Academy 0115 917 5386 daphne@broxtowe.ac.uk, Fiona Vale at Begin 115 978 0942 fiona@begin.org.uk, or Don Hayes at Enable 0115 9349543 don@enable.uk.net.

ESOL in Nottingham

Although dispersal of refugees and asylum seekers to Nottingham has recently been temporarily suspended, BEGIN is still placing a steady number of students each week. An increase in ESOL provision locally has helped the more speedy placement of students. BEGIN's new ESF project allows for the provision of crèche places for learners at New College Nottingham who are not entitled to the LSC's Learner Support funds for childcare. However, BEGIN reports that identifying and placing fee-payers continues to be a complex and difficult part of their work

For more information contact Fiona Vale at BEGIN 115 978 0942 fiona@begin.org.uk

A touch of Pizzazz for local business in Northants

Harris Associates have won a two-year contract with Northants Learning and Skills Council to deliver a new training package to county businesses. They will also run nine skills workshops which will lead to nationally accredited qualifications such as 'customer service management' and 'working in a high pressure environment. The programme is targeted towards high growth sectors - contact centres, financial services, retail and leisure – where a competitive edge is essential for survival and success.

Each delegate undergoes an initial assessment to benchmark his or her skills level before training begins. Training includes work-based developmental challenges and NVQs in key areas such as customer service and call handling. To find out more **contact Ellen Morley 0121 454 5553 or Gordon.Sergent@lsc.gov.uk**

News from the Forum:

The Regional Skills for Life Forum has recently commissioned 2 pieces of work which will be carried out over the next few months

- **Feasibility study for a regional approach to professional**

plus about 200 words of description) by 28 February to Karin Tusting, at k.tusting@lancaster.ac.uk

For more information about the conference, contact Kathryn James, 01524 593665, kathryn.james@lancaster.ac.uk.

Seminars for Local LSCs and LEAs on Family Learning. 1 March 2004 in London, 8 March 2004 in Birmingham and 12 March 2004 in York

The national LSC and NIACE are holding three events to consider NIACE's recent evaluation of family programmes. These events aim to give key personnel responsible for family learning in LLSCs and LEAs a chance to come together to find out about the latest developments in family learning, with a focus on wider family learning, and to address and discuss key issues and ways of working together. For more information visit www.niace.org.uk

Skills for Families regional dissemination event March 19th at Halifax Hall Sheffield University

This event is for those in the region who are interested in finding out more about the outcomes of the Skills for Families year which has operated in Derbyshire over the last year contact **Karen Hanson ROWA 01773 535232/**

In order to boost the uptake of literacy, language and numeracy training in the pilots, the Adult Basic Skills Strategy Unit has developed a range of ETP guidance materials for employers, employees, business advisors/brokers and providers. These are now available for ETPs to use in their areas. The materials include guidance booklets on assessment, working with SMEs, the National Tests and using the Employer Toolkit. Also available are leaflets explaining the importance of literacy, language and numeracy in the workplace, tailored to specific occupational sectors. Each ETP has a limited number of newsletters. For details visit the ETP website

<http://etp.lsc.gov.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

development activity to support skills for life delivery.

Emda have included in their future plans support for a regional Professional Development Centre, an idea which has also already been accepted by the FRESA Forum. To ensure the success of such a centre and to include partner's views on involvement, structure, outcomes and support, GOEM is funding a short piece of preparatory research will take place in the region over the next few months
Look in future editions for more details

- **East Midlands Skill for Life Forum Steering Group Work Plan**

Over the next few months the steering group will work with a consultant to draw up a 2-year work plan. This will help to identify areas of future development and identify possible resources to support the activity. Look in future editions for more details

Derby City of Learning 'I did it!' Awards

In December 2003 Derby City of learning held an 'I did it!' awards celebration to celebrate the achievement of learners who had achieved success in learning despite significant personal barriers to learning. Thirty-five people were nominated from public and providers of learning. Learners were nominated for success in literacy, numeracy and English as a second language as well as learners nominated from the Link up project providing basic skills support. The awards evening took place at the Sure Start building in Allenton Derby.

Update on Skills for Life at Butlins

It's all systems go now for Skills for Life for holidaymakers and staff at Butlins. A Centre Co-ordinator, Scott Kibby, has now been appointed to lead activity and he is the developing range of packages and programmes. Fully trained staff will be on hand and crèche facilities will also be available. Following the success of the first Apprenticeship Week, a further two weeks will allow 16 young people to undertake a Fast Track programme during February and March. They will be able to achieve key skills in numberpower and communications whilst enjoying themselves in a fun way through Outward Bound activities. **Contact Scott Kibby 01754 899 474 scott.kibby@skegness.bostonac.uk**

The Read On - Write Away! Skills for Families Project in Derbyshire is to visit Butlins in Skegness Read On - Write Away! With the support of the ABSSU and the Lincolnshire LSC, are planning new Skills for Families residential courses at Butlins at Skegness. SureStart families will work in their local community setting to prepare for the weekend and

Khanson@rowabridgecentre.Fsnet.co.uk

Institute of Education Open Day NRDC Seminar - Adult learners and their motivation to learn 12 February 2004, 15:45 - 17:15

Clarke Hall, Institute of Education, University of London, 20 Bedford Way, London, WC1H 0AL.

For details contact NRDC Conference Administration 020 7612 6717

Regional Achievement, Qualifications and Progressions Support Programme regional Launch event

NIACE is launching their ABSSU supported RAP project and the Lifelines publications on March 15th at the Holiday Inn St James Street Nottingham

For details contact mark.Walton@niace.org.uk

Step in to Learning National Conference – 25th March 2004 at Le Meridien Russell Hotel in central London

A national conference to celebrate the success of the Step in to Learning training and development programme. Since January 2002, over 1800 nursery managers and staff have received valuable training to allow them to recognise parents and carers with Skills for Life needs and sign-post them on to the appropriate local literacy, numeracy and language

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**

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

then travel to the Butlins centre where they will stay in 'silver' class accommodation for a long weekend in half term.

Each family will be using a Read On - Write Away! backpack of resources especially prepared for them and this will also be used in the home environment. The Butlins Learning Centre with its brand new computer suite will be used by parents in a session that uses the internet as a resource that supports both parent's and children's learning.

For more information please contact: Karen Hanson, Skills for Families Consultant on 01629 585603

Khanson@rowabridgecentre.fsnet.co.uk

provision. Step into Learning is training all Sure Start local programs until 2005 and looking at how they can offer family programmes on site.

This is your chance to learn more about this innovative programme and how it can be developed in your local area with post 16 providers. It is also a chance for you to liaise with colleagues from a wide variety of educational and developmental authorities, both locally and nationally and hear Ivan Lewis MP's keynote speech.

For more information visit www.stepintolearning.org or contact Alex Webster at alexw@basic-skills.co.uk or on 0207 6816123.

Conferences to Launch Raising Standards Guides

23 March 2004 - Birmingham

29 March 2004 - London

31 March 2004 - Manchester

The ALI/OFSTED Common Inspection Framework (CIF) sets the standards against which inspectors' judgements are made. Following on from the publication by ABSSU of ***Success in Adult Literacy, Numeracy and ESOL: A Guide to support the CIF***, a further 6 contextualised 'Raising Standards Guides' were commissioned.

The guides to support the processes of self-assessment to

Nottinghamshire
Elaine Beckford
elaine.beckford@lsc.gov.uk
0115 8720036

DfES Lifelong Learning
www.lifelonglearning.co.uk

LearnDirect
www.learndirect.co.uk

Learning and Skills Development
Agency
www.lsda.org.uk

Qualifications and Curriculum
Authority
www.qca.org.uk

Ufi
www.ufi.com

achieve continuous improvement and are tailored to the needs of a specific learning setting. The first six guides for Further Education, Information and Communication Technology, Prisons, Adult and Community Learning, Learners with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities and Workbased Learning will be launched at three National Research and Development Centres/DfES conferences in March 2004. In addition, a re-focused Workbased learning guide and guides to four new contexts (Jobcentre Plus, Young Offenders, Embedded Skills for Life and Family Learning) will be launched for consultation at these events. Booking details can be found on the NRDC website will carry details soon through www.nrdc.org.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.