

West Yorkshire Lifelong Learning Network

Director's Report

1. West Yorkshire Adult Work-based Learner Awards

- 1.1. The third Awards Evening is being planned for July 7th 2010. All of the sponsorship packages have now been taken up. Nomination forms were made available from February 26th on the WYLLN website.

2. External Evaluation

- 2.1. The second part of the external evaluation is in the planning stage and should commence in March. Building on the first stage of the evaluation which looked at systems and processes that have been introduced, the second stage will examine the impact the WYLLN has made on learners and institutions. This part of the evaluation will inform any sustainability strategy beyond 2011. Partners and stakeholders will be asked to contribute to this review and, after consultation with the SAF, it is expected that the report will be presented to the first Board meeting of 2011.

3. 3rd Annual Progression Conference

- 3.1. This conference will be held on Friday 23rd April 2010 at the Royal Armouries and will be entitled The Knowledge Economy: HE Provision and Progression. There will be speakers from UK Commission for Employment and Skills on Local Skills in the Global Market, QAA on Employer Responsive Provision, NIACE on Credit and the QCF, SPA on good practice admissions for part-time learners and a perspective from the Leeds City Region. We are hoping to have a HEFCE perspective, but they are having difficulty putting someone forward.

4. ECIF

- 4.1. Performance on the ECIF project is currently mixed with some partners performing to profile, but with some behind. The information available at the time of writing is given in the table below. A performance audit is being undertaken, after which a full picture will be available for the Steering Group meeting on 2nd March and reported verbally to the Management Board on the 4th. The areas of concern are in the Advice and Guidance elements and the short programme targets.

	Element 1		Element 2		Element 3	
	Profile	Actual	Profile	Actual	Profile	Actual
Bradford College	28	61	25	0	30	31
Calderdale College	1	0	0	0	5	11
Joseph Priestley College	20	19	20	0	35	19
Leeds City College	38	0	40	0	53	13
Leeds College of Building	25	56	10	27	32	49
Leeds Metropolitan University	0	0	0	0	30	0
Leeds Trinity University College	10	6	0	0	10	6
Leeds University	52	80	70	80	36	60
University of Bradford	32	47	30	41	37	35
University of Huddersfield (Careers and Employability Service)	0	0	35	6	0	0
University of Huddersfield	0	0	0	0	138	38
Wakefield College	16	28	16	1	49	28
TOTAL	222	297	246	155	455	290

5. SQW Evaluation of Lifelong Learning Networks

5.1. HEFCE have commissioned SQW to carry out an evaluation of LLNs. By the end of January all LLNs including WYLLN had been consulted. The interim findings were disseminated to the LLN Directors at a recent meeting. The issues emerging are

- There is stronger 'buy-in' to LLNs from post '92 universities
- There are strong linkages to non-academic partners
- In some LLNs there is a distinct HE/FE divide, which can be quite hierarchical
- Smaller more focused networks have found it easier to get buy-in from their partners
- Those LLNs building on existing networks are more effective
- LLNs should have been given a 5 year timescale with the same level of funding

6. National Directors' Meeting

6.1. Significant progress has been made in LLNs working together strategically at a national level. Ongoing discussions are taking place with the National Apprenticeship

Service particularly relating to Higher Apprenticeships and progression into HE and the professions. With FdF, discussions are taking place around possible joint activities in the areas of apprenticeship progression, information advice and guidance in the workplace, assessment practice and workplace learning, and the work of the LLN National Research Forum. Following a joint response to the Higher Ambitions paper, a meeting has been set up with David Lammy and a small group of LLNs Director to highlight how much of the work of the LLNs support the direction of HE presented in the paper. Discussions are also taking place with the DCSF particularly around the introduction of Diplomas. All of this is encouraging, but it is too early to see if any constructive outcomes will emerge.

7. HEFCE Monitoring Reports

- 7.1. HEFCE have now analysed monitoring reports from all LLNs. The key findings are summarised below.
- 7.2. The report shows that 8528 progression agreements have been signed and implemented with over 2000 further agreements in development. Not all LLNs were able to quantify the number of learners progressing through these agreements, but of those that have 19,500 are expected to progress per year. LLNs have estimated that nearly 55,000 learners have the potential to benefit from the progression agreements per year.
- 7.3. There are now 1,150 new or modified curriculum developments. Of these over 700 involved employers, and nearly 300 developments involved SSCs. LLNs have also indicated that there are a further 700 new or modified developments in progress.
- 7.4. In terms of information, advice and guidance 15,000 people have benefited from one-to-one interventions, 53,000 from group support. 200,000 paper-based IAG resources have been distributed to date and there has been 900,000 hits on LLN web-related IAG systems.
- 7.5. LLNs have developed and undertaken over 2,400 different staff development events benefiting over 32,900 staff.
- 7.6. The report indicates that LLNs are taking different approaches to sustainability. The key reasons for the difference appear to be the regional context and regional skills needs; availability and commitment of financial and in-kind contributions from partners to sustain the network in the longer term; and a decision taken to embed activity, and often staff (e.g. progression champions) in partner institutions.