

West Yorkshire Lifelong Learning Network

Sustainability

1. National picture

1.1. Many of the earlier established LLNs have now come up with sustainability strategies that will ensure continued operation of their networks in the short to medium term. Three examples are given below:

1.2. *Higher York*

This is a small Network of four institutions – two universities and two further education colleges – operating with a small central team. Higher York has agreed to continue the operation of their network through member subscriptions: £50,000 per year from each university and £10,000 from each college.

1.3. *Sussex Lifelong Learning Network*

Sussex has adopted a mix model for funding the continuation of their network. They receive funding from the regional development agency to maintain an IAG tool they have developed; they receive support from member subscriptions; and they have been successful in gaining funding for an employer engagement SDF proposal.

1.4. *Western Vocational Lifelong Learning Network*

WVLLN have a short term solution which involve stretching existing HEFCE funding over two additional years supported by membership subscriptions. These subscriptions are based on a small percentage of the income received through ASNs allocated to the partners through the WVLLN.

1.5. Several other LLNs are extending their projects beyond their original funding period. A straw poll of Directors taken at a recent LLN conference indicated that approximately 75% of the LLNs expected their networks to continue beyond the funding period.

2. WYLLN

2.1. Following the last meeting of the Board, an outline of our discussions and rationale for continuing the WYLLN was sent to HEFCE for their comment. This paper is attached. It was prepared as an outline proposal, following a telephone conversation with a HEFCE officer. It did not contain any details of the budget or of targets, as these are yet to be agreed with partners.

2.2. Feedback from HEFCE (see attached email) is little more than was received verbally before and reported to the last Board meeting. It confirms that they are happy to extend the project in principle, but that a stronger business case was required. HEFCE suggests that the full proposal should be submitted around May or June 2009.

3. Recommendations

3.1. The Board is asked to note the contents of this paper and to agree to a detailed proposal to be presented at the June Board meeting.