

Further and Higher Education Working in Partnership.  
Shaping the Offer for Employers.  
Developing Pathways for Career Progression.

#### WYLLN News and Dates for your Diary

##### IAG

- The deadline for the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of IAG Commissioning is 18<sup>th</sup> April. New commissioning documents will be available from March 7th.
- The IAG Task Group will have their first meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> March.

##### Progression

- The deadline for the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of Progression Commissioning is 28<sup>th</sup> April. New commissioning documents will be available from March 14th.
- The Credit & Progression task group will have their second meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> April.
- Aimhigher Compact/WYLLN Progression into HE Meeting will be held on 7<sup>th</sup> March

##### Management Board

- The next Management Board meeting will take place on Monday 12th May.

##### Strategic Advisory Forum

- The next Strategic Advisory Forums will take place on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April (pm) and Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> June (am)

##### Staff Development

- The first Staff Development Task Group will take place on Monday 14th April

##### Sector Officers

- The next Sector Officers meeting will take place on 6th March

The WYLLN will be holding a Celebration Event at Leeds Civic Hall on Thursday 12th June to review the successes of the first year of funding. Official invitations and further information will be sent out shortly.

For further information on WYLLN activities please email [wylln@hud.ac.uk](mailto:wylln@hud.ac.uk)

#### National Research Forum

The National Research Forum aims to establish a database of research activities that relate to LLN priorities and themes. If you have involvement in any research activities, whether they be underway, planned or completed the Forum would like to hear from you. Please view the attached document to find out how you can contribute, the Forum hopes to gather as much information as possible by 5<sup>th</sup> March. The information will be made available to the entire LLN community via the National LLN website.

#### General News

##### [New research reveals Apprenticeships significantly improve business performance](#)

New research released today to mark the start of Apprenticeship Week 2008 highlights that employing apprentices has a hugely beneficial impact on overall business performance... (LSC - 27th February 2008)

##### [UK vocational targets in doubt](#)

Tuesday's official figures showed 673000 people were awarded vocational qualifications in 2006-07 across the UK – an 8 per cent increase on the previous ... (Financial Times - 27th February 2008)

##### [More young people achieving in further qualification](#)

We see the Further Education system is really delivering in the right way to increase the numbers of young people, particularly those who are more ... (FE News - 27th February 2008)

##### [Funding council head moves to Keele](#)

Rama Thirunamachandran, the director for research, innovation and skills at the Higher Education Funding Council for England (Hefce), is to become deputy ... (Guardian Unlimited - 27th February 2008)

##### [£800m 'not cutting drop-out rate'](#)

More than a fifth of students still drop out of university courses in England and Wales despite £800m spent tackling the problem, MPs have said... (BBC - 21st February 2008)

##### [Universities bank on fees hike as debts rise](#)

Universities are more in debt than at any point in the last decade despite raising millions of pounds through tuition fees... (Education Guardian - 19th February 2008)

##### [Employees leap at chance to train!](#)

A new survey conducted on behalf of the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), shows that given the chance, almost a third of UK workers would like to train on their extra working day... (LSC - 18th February 2008)

##### [Application to University at record levels](#)

UCAS figures show that applications to universities in England for 2008 are at an all time high... (Government News Network - 18th February 2008)

##### [Employment at a record high as more people move into work](#)

Figures out today show unemployment continuing to fall with 175,000 more people finding a job in the last three months. The employment level stands at a record high with almost 29.4 million in work... (Department for Work and Pensions - 18th February 2008)

#### Sector News

##### [Logistics employers encouraged to have their say in diploma development](#)

Skills for Logistics, the Sector Skills Council for the freight logistics industries, is working with Skillsmart Retail and the Qualifications & Curriculum Authority (QCA) to deliver a series of consultation events to assist with the development of this exciting venture... (SSDA - 22nd February 2008)

##### [Completion rates of Healthcare Apprenticeships triple in last two years](#)

The number of certificates issued for the successful completion of Apprenticeships in Health and Social Care has tripled in the last two years and increased six-fold since the start of the new millennium... (SSDA - 22nd February 2008)

##### [New Creative Apprenticeships for thousands](#)

Gordon Brown has called on Britain to become "the Hollywood" of creative industries as the Government announces five thousand new apprenticeships in film, fashion, music and design... (Number 10 - 22nd February 2008)

##### [SSDA Closure](#)

The Sector Skills Development Agency (SSDA) will close on 31 March 2008. However, for much day-to-day business, the effective closure date will be 14 March 2008... (SSDA - 19th February 2008)

##### [Health and Safety tests smash 1.5 million barrier](#)

ConstructionSkills has today announced that 1.5 million workers have now passed the industry standard ConstructionSkills health & safety test... (SSDA - 15th February 2008)

#### Events

- **'Stage@leeds Unmasked'**  
A 2 week festival running from 29th February to 15th March featuring leading professional touring theatre companies and performances from University of Leeds students as well as lectures and workshops  
Full events listings are available [online](#)
- **FE-HE Collaborative Provision Conference 2008** - Supported by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) and the Learning and Skills Network (LSN)  
6th March 2008 - Jurys Great Russell Street Hotel.  
For full details of this event visit [this site](#)
- **Engaging Clients and Releasing Potential** - Careers West Yorkshire  
11 March 2008 – Leeds Hilton  
For full details of this event please email [janet.o'melia@ckcareers.org.uk](mailto:janet.o'melia@ckcareers.org.uk)
- **Getting the Price Right** – Mid Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce  
19 March 2008 (8 – 10.30am) – MYCCI, Aspley, Huddersfield  
For full details of this event please email [sharon.rhodes@mycci.co.uk](mailto:sharon.rhodes@mycci.co.uk)
- **Fdf's Employer Toolkit for Providers** – fdf and the WYLLN  
3 April 2008 (10.00 – 16.00) – University of Huddersfield  
For full details of this event please email Donna at [d.m.samuels@hud.ac.uk](mailto:d.m.samuels@hud.ac.uk)
- **The First Annual ICG HE Advisers Community Conference**  
12 June 2008 - BPP Law School, Holborn, London  
For full details of this event please email [paul.hebron@icg-uk.org](mailto:paul.hebron@icg-uk.org)  
ICB are looking for volunteers to help with the breakout sessions and the sessions for those new to HE advice. Please contact [andygardnerucc@hotmail.com](mailto:andygardnerucc@hotmail.com) if interested.

If you have any information you wish to share with the partnership please email Rachael Brough at [r.j.brough@hud.ac.uk](mailto:r.j.brough@hud.ac.uk) with full details. To guarantee inclusion in the digest please email us your information by 12 noon on the day before the email is due to go out. The next issue of the news digest is due on Friday 14th March.

We hope you find this news digest useful, if you have any comments on how we can improve this service please email [r.j.brough@hud.ac.uk](mailto:r.j.brough@hud.ac.uk)

Kind regards  
Rachael

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