

# 2.3

## Staff development

Key partners	Background	Targets / Milestones	Activities 2006–08
<p>University of Brighton, University of Chichester, FE Sussex, Lifelong Learning UK (LLUK), Northbrook College Sussex, The Open University in the South East, Skills for Life Development Centre, University of Sussex, Sussex Enterprise, Sussex Learning and Skills Council (SLSC)</p>	<p>Individual institutions in Sussex have their own staff development programmes, but there is no Sussex wide provision across all institutions for those teaching vocational subjects. With the introduction of new vocational qualifications at a range of levels – for example, the 14-19 diplomas and foundation degrees – teaching practitioners need to be equipped to teach vocational subjects in schools, further education (FE) colleges and sixth form colleges, and higher education (HE) institutions. Facilitating opportunities for cross-institutional contact would enable practitioners to draw on each other's knowledge and expertise to inform their teaching, and ensure that students are prepared for study at each level as they move between institutions and programmes.</p> <p>The development of foundation degrees is of particular interest to the Sussex Learning Network as these provide opportunities for vocational learners to study at HE level. Where HE is delivered within FE and as work based learning, practitioners should have the opportunity to gain accreditation to teach at HE level and develop their subject specific expertise to an appropriate level. They therefore need to be aware of accreditation opportunities for both teaching and learning and their subject specialisms. Building upon the above, all those involved in vocational learning – teachers, employees and employers – will need to engage in continuing professional development (CPD) in order to maintain up to date skills and knowledge for the workplace. Access to CPD opportunities across educational providers in Sussex would maximise choice and enable users to move in and out of education at relevant points in their career. The SLN's annual conference will also play a significant part in the staff development activities.</p>	<p>1 Programme of staff development events available to all involved in vocational learning across Sussex</p> <p>1.1 Staff development working group with membership drawn from our key partners <b>November 2006</b></p> <p>1.2 Needs analysis to identify priorities <b>December 2006</b></p> <p>2 Discipline based networks of staff in colleges and HEIs working together to develop and share good practice</p> <p>2.1 Virtual meeting environment for educational practitioners involved in vocational learning at HE level <b>March 2007</b></p> <p>2.2 Online teaching and learning resources to support vocational teaching practitioners, initially aimed at those delivering level 4 <b>April 2007</b></p> <p>3 Initial and continuing professional development opportunities for vocational learning practitioners at undergraduate and postgraduate level</p> <p>3.1 Sussex-wide map of courses and qualifications for teaching at HE level <b>December 2006</b></p> <p>3.2 Online programme of events and courses offered at partner institutions across Sussex <b>January 2007</b></p> <p>3.3 SLN annual conference <b>June 2007 and 2008</b></p>	<p>Given that individual institutions and organisations already undertake considerable staff development, our initial activities will centre on collaborative working via the working group to widen access to existing programmes of study and continuing professional development opportunities. This working group will enable us to operate across existing networks and build on the provision where there are identified needs. A number of our partners have expressed an interest in bidding for CETT status which is designed to improve the quality of teacher training, especially in the workplace context. There is therefore the possibility that this would also provide a vehicle for increased collaboration.</p> <p>The SLN website will be used to disseminate news and events and enable teaching practitioners to communicate with each other and share knowledge and resources. Whilst the web presence will initially focus on vocational learning at NQF level 4, we will build on the provision over the two year period in order to produce a sustainable and useful repository across a range of levels. In addition, we will facilitate regular opportunities for face-to-face events, run by existing experts, which bring together those with similar subject specialisms and interests.</p>