



SLN Newsletter — Summer 2010 Edition

This newsletter contains updates on upcoming **staff development opportunities**, recent **SLN activities**, new **Centre for Work and Learning (CWL) projects**, along with preliminary details of our **CWL launch event**

New employer responsive projects from CWL

A CWL project fund has been set up to enhance the development of employer responsive higher education. Over the last two months the SLN has welcomed a range of exciting project proposals which reflect activities that are likely to boost the employer responsive HE offer in Sussex, and increase the take up of co-funded ASNs. Our partners were encouraged to put forward proposals which reflect aspects of collaboration, both within the existing CWL partnership of HE provider in Sussex, and with its wider network of stakeholders.

The following projects are now going ahead, with more in discussion:

University of Brighton School of Nursing and Midwifery, Northbrook College, and the Priory Group

This project will assist The Priory to offer an HE accredited national training package, using both in-house and university modules to support recruitment and retention of Priory staff.

For more information contact Susannah Davidson, Business Development Manager, University of Brighton, s.l.davidson@brighton.ac.uk



University of Brighton

Sussex Downs College with Sussex Coast College Hastings and Plumpton College

A collaboration between colleges in East Sussex to develop and market a new packaged offer from existing foundation degrees to meet local employers needs in the spa, health and fitness and leisure industries.

For more information contact Gill Short, CWL Lead Sussex Downs, gill.short@sussexdowns.ac.uk, or Sarah Watson, CWL Lead Sussex Coast College Hastings, swatson@hastings.ac.uk



Chichester College and Chichester University

In light of a deficit of similar training opportunities for the sales industry, this joint project will enable the development and marketing of HE accredited training for sales professionals that meets the needs of employers in terms of content, format and delivery.

For more information contact Sandra Coley, CWL Lead Chichester, s.coley@chi.ac.uk



University of Brighton Collaborative Training Centre with FDM, IT consultancy

The Collaborative Training Centre (CTC) will work with FDM's graduate academy on the accreditation of work-based in-house training at masters level.

For more information contact Mark Jones, Head of CTC, m.p.jones@brighton.ac.uk



University of Brighton

Collaborative
Training
Centre



News from around the network...

University of Chichester leads the way with Brighton & Hove City Council

University of Chichester has started its first major CWL project, providing leadership and management training to Brighton & Hove City Council staff.

The University has been awarded a contract to deliver management development training to Brighton & Hove City Council's Adult Services and Children's Services Departments.

The contract which started in May will combine staff from the University's School of Enterprise, Management and Leadership (SEMAL) and Social Care Departments to supply a bespoke and specialised programme.

Professor Sandra Jowett, Pro Vice Chancellor at the University, said: "We have considerable experience of working with professional validating bodies to accredit courses in social work, social care and business and management and we are really looking forward to delivering this new and exciting leadership development programme."

Denise D'Souza, Brighton & Hove City Council Acting Director of Adult Social Care and Health, said: "We are very pleased to be working with the University of Chichester and we were impressed by the professionalism of their academic staff."

The training will encourage participants to develop within their own work environment and to be reflective, lifelong learners. The core aims of the programme are to help develop self-aware and reflective managers; develop skills in leadership and decision making as well as developing an understanding of change management and providing a firm grounding in the principles of management.

The first cohort of 19 delegates will complete the programme in May 2011.

For more information contact Sandra Coley, CWL Lead Chichester, s.coley@chi.ac.uk



University of Brighton creates new management grad certificate and MSc

The University of Brighton Business School has developed two new awards designed to meet the needs of individuals in organisations who are seeking to improve their management practice.

The Graduate Certificate in Management is mapped to the CMI level 5 Diploma and provides learners with a choice of achieving a dual award, such as a graduate certificate in management combined with the CMI Diploma, or a Graduate Certificate which can comprise the core module at level 6 and a combination of other modules at levels 4, 5, and 6. The second option allows organisations to choose what their learners need to learn and build a programme which is relevant and have more impact.

The MSc in Management Practice also allows learners a great deal of flexibility, from achieving a post-graduate diploma through to an MSc qualification. The programme is designed in three phases and each phase focuses on personal development planning as part of the core learning approach. A range of modules will then be offered to meet identified needs.

This more flexible approach to developing skills and practice in management will enable organisations to work in partnership with the Business School to develop bespoke programmes for their first line and middle managers.

For more information contact Jenny Knight, CWL Lead University of Brighton, jk92@brighton.ac.uk

What's new for Learning Opportunities in the South East?

Work and Learning Opportunities

Mindful of the current economic climate and the information and help that individuals and those who advise and support them need, we've made some changes to the Learning Opportunities website over the past few months.

Our focus is now split between work and learning opportunities as we recognise that people need help with a whole range of areas. We now include advice about finding employment, making the best of redundancy and alternatives to university. These alternatives cover jobs with the potential for degree level training as well as short and part-time courses. For an overview of what's on Learning Opportunities, go to the quick guide.

www.learning-opportunities.org.uk/quick-guide

Hot topic - internships

We've also tweaked our home page and will be introducing a Hot Topic each month – our July Hot Topic is about the internship debate.

www.learning-opportunities.org.uk

Worldskills London 2011

You'll know about the 2012 Olympics and Paralympics and the information we provide about working, learning and volunteering in the South East. But you might not know about WorldSkills London 2011 which celebrates vocational training and skills. These international competitions take place in October 2011 in London's Docklands and they bring together the hearts, hands and minds of young people from across the globe as they compete in their chosen skill. This year marks the 41st competition and this is a platform for demonstrating the importance and value of work-related skills and learning.

www.learning-opportunities.org.uk/worldskills

www.learning-opportunities.org.uk/2012

Now delivering Nextstep advice service for adults

Nextstep is the national service that provides free advice about learning, training or work to adults. The Learning Opportunities team are delighted to be delivering this service from 1st August, thus ensuring that local adults who aspire to higher level education, jobs and training have access to high quality advice and guidance.



Alternatives and ideas for those who don't get a university place this year

Knowing that universities will be oversubscribed again this year, we are offering free, local advice for individuals in the South East. In addition to the support offered by UCAS, the BBC and, of course, local providers, people are welcome to email us for ideas on alternatives. As well as gap years, apprenticeships, part-time higher education and self employment, we can provide advice about jobs with potential for degree level training.

www.learning-opportunities.org.uk/alternatives-to-uni

Maureen Haywood

For more information about Learning Opportunities in the South East, contact Maureen Haywood, Project Director at m.haywood@brighton.ac.uk or by phone on 01273 873104.



A busy Summer of SLN events...

SLN AP(E)L Seminar

What is the benefit to learners and to HEIs of promoting AP(E)L? Are the current processes helpful or off-putting to potential students? These are the kinds of questions explored at a recent SLN seminar on the subject of Accreditation of Prior (Experiential) Learning which was attended by representatives of Brighton and Chichester Universities as well as University Centre Hastings and Sussex Downs College.



Two case studies were put forward by the University of Brighton's schools of Nursing and Midwifery and of Education where AP(E)L was encouraged and where systems were in place. The School of Nursing has a whole system in place including agreements with other universities and the School of Education has mainstreamed an AP(E)L module into all its work-based foundation degrees.

The concept seems particularly relevant when incorporating those with a professional background into academic study but has potential implications for all sorts of disciplines. Establishment of best practice guidelines or protocols could benefit the Centre for Work and Learning in that it would give employees a way of validating their existing experience and training on entry to courses. It could also be a central feature of SLN's developing Sussex Progression and Credit Service.

The meeting identified a number of challenges around the themes of consistency of application, the effect on funding for the student as well as its cost for the HEI, integrating AP(E)L claimants into the course structure and information, advice and guidance to support the learner through the AP(E)L process.

However it also found that there were many benefits to learners including confidence-building, reduction of assessment load for student and tutor alike, avoiding repeated learning, saving time and money and bringing a broader mix of experience to the student cohort.

The group will continue its work in September/October 2010 and will look to broaden its membership. Contact Peter Barron, SLN Deputy Director, if you want to know more. p.barron@brighton.ac.uk

Employer Engagement and e-Technologies

On Thursday 1 July the SLN welcomed a gathering of over 30 practitioners with an interest in how e-technologies can help facilitate employer engagement.

The event was facilitated by Nigel Gibson of the The Open University in the South East, who also ran a session on a range of free tools to extend the reach of Higher Education providers in terms of contacting employers and supporting learning at and for work.



Chris Pegler, the director of the HEFCE funded Support Centre for Open Resources in Education (SCORE), discussed Open Education Resources free, customisable educational resources which can be used online or, often, downloaded and localised.

<http://openlearn.open.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=3636>

Finally, Asher Rospigliosi and Sue Greener from the [Business e-learning research group](#) at the University of Brighton Business School explored the ingredients of blended learning, why it can be worthwhile in the workplace and what it has to offer.

For more information contact Adam Stewart, SLN Network Manager, a.m.stewart@brighton.ac.uk.

For photographs of the day please visit www.sussexlearningnetwork.org.uk/home/news-archive/employer-engagement-&-e-technology-event-a-success



SLN CPD events coming this Autumn...

Accreditation of in-house training, 14.00-16.30, 8 September 2010, Bramber House, University of Sussex. This event will look at best practice and case studies pertaining to accreditation of in-house training at an HE level.

Confirmed presenters include Marian Redding, Head of Modular Programmes, Anglia Ruskin University. Marian leads on all APEL and accreditation at the university.

To book a place at this event contact [Adam Stewart](#). Further details coming soon.



Framework qualifications and how they can enhance employer responsive training, 14.00-16.30, 13 October 2010, Bramber House, University of Sussex:

Confirmed presenters include Dr Mike Nicholls, senior lecturer in Education, from the University of Greenwich Department of Community and Education Studies. Mike has extensive experience in creating an running open framework courses in Kent.

To book a place at this event contact [Adam Stewart](#). Further details coming soon.

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Centre for Work and Learning Launch Event

A major event in the SLN calendar, the official launch of the SLN's Centre for Work and Learning project will take place on Tuesday 9 November 2010 from 6-7.30 pm in the new Asa Briggs Hall in the University of Brighton's Checkland Building at Falmer.

Further details coming very soon.



New employer responsive courses recruiting now!

A key aspect of the CWL's work is trialling new, flexible modes of delivery of work-related higher education, and four universities and five colleges across Sussex are working together to contribute to the development of curriculum in response to the needs of local employers. Universities, colleges and employers will work together to explore innovative funding models for work-related higher education.

So far courses have been developed in:

- Customer Service (City College Brighton and Hove)
- Food, Diet and Nutrition (City College Brighton and Hove)
- Complementary Health (Sussex Downs College)
- Health and Social Care (Northbrook College)
- Information and Technology (Sussex Coast College Hastings)
- Leadership and Management (University of Chichester)



For more information and to request promotional flyers please contact [Adam Stewart](#)