



SLN Newsletter — Spring 2010 Edition

The Spring 2010 edition of the Sussex Learning Network's regular newsletter provides an update on higher education **progression and credit**, our **innovative Information Advice and Guidance** service, Learning Opportunities, and **new higher level employer responsive courses** being delivered through the SLN partnership

Progression: our pan-Sussex approach

What is the future of the Sussex Vocational Progression Accord (SVPA) beyond this summer? SLN is currently examining with its partners the best ways to capitalise on the work done over the last few years.

Working closely with AimHigher Sussex, SLN recently met representatives of the Admissions and Widening Participation teams from the Universities of Brighton, Sussex and Chichester, along with the Chair of the SVPA. The group looked at a range of progression accords in Sussex including the SVPA, Sussex Liaison Progression Accord, the AimHigher Accord and the Frank Buttle Accord (for Care Leavers). It was agreed that the time had come to work towards a single progression accord for the county which would contain a number of developing strands.

The close relationship created by the accords between HEIs and the schools and colleges which supply their students is regarded as important and subtle by both parties, especially in a period of greater demand on and restricted growth of places. Proposals will now be developed that such an accord should focus on widening participation and on the transfer and accumulation of credit. The group will meet again at the end of March and aim to have a new-style progression accord agreed and ready for implementation in the academic year 2010-11.

For more information contact **Peter Barron**, SLN Deputy Director
p.barron@brighton.ac.uk



Take Part in the In' Zone!

SLN and AimHigher Sussex are sponsoring the In' Zone which is taking place within the Take Part Festival of Sport on 19 June in Preston Park, Brighton.

The sponsorship will give providers of sports education access to free exhibition space, and an anticipated 12,000 members of the public. This is the third year that this hugely successful festival promoting active leisure has been run, and the In' Zone will be a fantastic opportunity for learning providers to promote their sports-related courses and CPD.

Contact **Peter Barron** by 19 March if you are interested.

<http://www.takepartbrightonandhove.com/howdoitakepart.html>



TAKEPART
Brighton & Hove
International Festival of Sport



Institute of Career Guidance (ICG) criticises UK's patchy careers advice

The Learning Opportunities in the South East team, along with other information, advice and guidance providers, has been invited to comment on the ICG President's meeting with Iain Wright, Parliamentary Undersecretary of State for 14-19 Reform and Apprenticeships, DCSF.

The ICG is the largest professional association for career guidance practitioners in the UK. They have been asked to provide the Minister with examples of excellence in careers advisers' work in higher education settings. The Learning Opportunities team are well placed to do this given that they received two awards from the ICG last year for their information, advice and guidance service. The Minister is concerned to know what the ICG can do to influence employers to ensure learning and work opportunities for all young people.



www.learning-opportunities.org.uk

Learning Opportunities in the South East is particularly focussed on work related higher education and its jargon-free approach ensures that all those with an interest in higher level skills and careers know what's available. The website can be used independently and it includes a personalised Personal Planning Pack with advice about looking forward and taking the next step towards changing or developing your career.

The ICG President, Dierdre Hughes, was featured prominently on a variety of news reports on the BBC on Saturday 27 February. These included a filmed report on BBC Breakfast and BBC Radio 4 news. In addition David Willetts (Shadow Secretary of State for Universities and Skills) picked up on the story in his interview on NEET young people on the Radio 4 Today programme.

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.

Learning at Work Day 21 May 2010

21 May is Learning at Work Day, and the new employer focussed SLN plans on participating!

Part of Adult Learners' Week, Learning at Work Day encourages workplaces to make a public commitment to learning and skills by holding events and activities for their employees. The University of Brighton is sold on the idea and is planning open days in Brighton and Hastings to promote work-based open qualifications.

If your university or college would like to participate please contact Adam Stewart, SLN Network Manager at a.m.stewart@brighton.ac.uk

For more information about Learning at Work Day <http://www.campaign-for-learning.org.uk/cfl/workplacelearning/lawday/index.asp>





SLN and the Engineering Sector

SLN convened representatives of engineering course providers for the second time on 8 March. The group includes those training apprentices both in the FE and private sectors and representatives from Brighton University engineering department.

The first meeting included a presentation from the Institute of Mechanical Engineers about how to incorporate Engineering Technician status into the Advanced Apprenticeship. The second meeting included discussion about the Higher Apprenticeship and HE progression opportunities within engineering.

The government's Skills For Growth and the Skills Investment Strategy foresee huge growth in apprentices many of whom will want to pursue their qualifications further by taking on the level 4 Higher Apprenticeship, which could include HNC, HND, Foundation or Honours degree as the Vocationally Related Qualification element



For more information contact [Peter Barron](#)



Can Apprentices progress within Sussex?

November's DBIS Skills For Growth White Paper highlighted the importance of growing Apprenticeships at Level 3 (Advanced Apprenticeships) and opening up pathways for Advanced Apprentices to progress to Higher Education.

SLN is working with the Sussex Council of Training Providers (SCTP) – the representative group of apprenticeship training organisations for the county - to carry out a survey of Advanced Apprentices and their employers to ascertain their interest and commitment to progression to Higher Education.

It is intended that the survey results will then inform further work with training providers and HE providers to open up attractive HE progression routes for Advanced Apprentices. The results will be available by the end of March and will be summarised in the next newsletter.

For more information contact **Paul Mitchell, Executive Director of SCTP** at paulmitchell@sctp.org.uk

Web 2.0 seminar

Nigel Gibson of the Open University ran a fascinating workshop on Web 2.0 technologies on 8 March for members of the SLN's [Centre for Work and Learning](#) team. The seminar will look at the possible applications for academic collaboration, course development and delivery of new aspects of the internet such as Wikis, blogs, social networking sites and Twitter.

For more information on these technologies and to contribute to the discussions, go to <http://labspace.open.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=4394>



New employer responsive courses recruiting now!

Working with the SLN's [Centre for Work and Learning](#) (CWL) project, higher education providers across Sussex have developed flexible, employer responsive courses at degree level.

One of the key strands of SLN activity, the Centre for Work and Learning is a distinctive and innovative response to the challenge of workforce development. It aims to create a coherent approach to employer engagement that provides a shop-window for the higher education offer, a new and exciting way of delivering learning and a series of support services that underpin the whole package.

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)

For more information and to request or download promotional flyers please visit www.sussexlearningnetwork.org.uk/courses or contact [Adam Stewart](#)

A Professional Development Opportunity for complementary health practitioners and those working in caring settings

If you would like to add more skills to your portfolio, please consider one of the new short courses at degree level in:

- Body massage
- Reflexology
- Aromatherapy
- Science for complementary therapists
- Structure and functions of the human body

Sussex Downs College runs a very successful foundation degree in complementary health in partnership with the University of Brighton and has developed short courses at degree level for health care professionals. Each course can be taken separately or combined to make a larger qualification. FdSc Complementary health care modules are recognised by the Federation of Holistic Therapists.

Some public funding is available so the cost has been reduced to £400 per course.

The course will begin with an induction day in the Spring followed by 7 evening attendances at College for the practical aspects of the course. There will be additional time required for home study with learning materials supplied at no extra cost.

Drop in for an information session at Sussex Downs College, Lewes campus, Mountfield Rd, Lewes on Wednesday 3rd March any time between 9-5pm

Learn more about these courses by:

- Contacting the tutor Janina Farr-Bailey by email Janina.farr-bailey@sussexdowns.ac.uk or phone 01273 402300
- Requesting an employer visit by emailing employertesting@sussexdowns.ac.uk or phoning 0845 2302 007

SUSSEX DOWNS COLLEGE
Putting Students First

city college brighton and hove

Customer Service

NEW higher level short courses

City College Brighton and Hove is offering a new and exciting higher-level short course for anyone who works with customers who would like to take their customer service knowledge to the next level. Participants will achieve a greater understanding of service delivery and how this can help improve the overall customer experience.

www.ccb.ac.uk

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What does this module involve?
The Foundation Degree module is delivered at Northbrook College an HMI-rated College of University of Brighton and successful award-winning Higher Education provider. Certification is gained by attending regular workshops during the module to form an award of 2000 hours on Human Resource Management (HRM) module. Candidates will be expected to supplement the on-campus 30 hours of teaching and study for the entire module.

Rationale
The module is complementary to the effective management of people in the health and social care sector. It provides a comprehensive and up-to-date understanding of the strategic and operational management of staff relations. It covers a range of human resource planning, recruitment, selection and the management of performance to achieve service quality and the management of diversity.

Aims
The main aims of the module are to enable candidates to:
• Demonstrate methods of identifying operational requirements and assess alternative strategies for improvement of recruitment and selection policies and procedures.
• Analyse concepts of the effective management of team performance to achieve specific operational goals.

Learning Outcomes
• Assess alternatives concerning the effective management of staff and identify suitable staff attributes in a given organisation.
• Identify the internal and external factors influencing the selection of individuals for effective team working.
• Assess strategic and tactical procedures for identifying operational requirements and designing appropriate processes for effective monitoring and evaluation of staff.
• Evaluate processes for the effective management of quality in individual and team performance.
• Assess methods of good practice for the effective management of staff and team relationships with an emphasis on managing diversity.

Benefits
The module is designed for applicants who already hold HNC level 3 or equivalent and are looking to provide evidence of their professional development as part of requirements for professional bodies, such as the General Social Care Council or Nursing and Midwifery Council. For those candidates in a managerial role this course can enhance knowledge and practice for National Minimum Standards for the Care Quality Commission regulations.

The Registered Manager can then also demonstrate that they have undertaken the necessary professional training to update their knowledge, skills and competences, whilst managing the team.

The content of this course can also provide a useful knowledge base for those who implement a human capital strategy.

Fees
There is a fee of £265.00 for the delivery of this module.

For further information or to discuss eligibility and options open to you and your staff, please contact Sabine Skelton, Deputy Substantive Business Solutions on 01293 507116, email s.skelton@northbrook.ac.uk or visit our website.

www.northbrook.ac.uk/BusinessSolutions

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Higher and Adult Education
01903 606114 • www.northbrook.ac.uk/BusinessSolutions

And finally...

To read an interview with our Director, Viki Faulkner, and to find out more about the SLN's plans, follow the link to download the latest edition of the University of Brighton's Channel Magazine:

<http://staffcentral.brighton.ac.uk/xpedio/groups/Public/documents/staffcentral/doc010542.pdf>