



SLN Information, Advice and Guidance - practitioner update (April 08)

Special edition — significant developments in our IAG print and web-based resources

NEW! Learning Opportunities in Sussex

We're proud to announce 4 new additions to our Learning Opportunities website

www.sussexlearningnetwork.org.uk/learning



1. **Sussexroutes** - online progression agreements for Sussex

Just launched, **Sussexroutes** is a groundbreaking online tool which enables learners to search over 200 special agreements set up to support progression into and through higher education in Sussex.

Sussexroutes is for people who are living, working or studying in Sussex. It has been designed to help learners and prospective learners to search the special agreements that have been set up between some of the university and college courses in Sussex, or for people with experience in a particular industry.

These agreements can help learners progress to a higher education course, by guaranteeing an interview, or in some cases an offer of a place on a course. **Sussexroutes** will also be useful for tutors and advisers working with students who are looking to progress.

With **Sussexroutes**, learners can:

- find out about agreements that have been set up to support people to progress from a specific qualification, or with experience in a particular industry
- find out about agreements that exist to support people to progress into a specific qualification
- download a PDF of any agreement or add it to a personal planning pack and download it with a range of other resources gathered on the Learning opportunities website
- save several agreements online, and come back to look at the details later.

2. **Careers advice** - 14 broad careers areas with advice on over 70 careers strands

The new careers section brings together the work of Aimhigher South East and the Sussex Learning Network. The Key Routes information sheets provide a wealth of useful advice about each job sector. In addition we've added direct links to useful advice and activities produced by our other partners in Sussex, thus providing a one stop shop for learners and those who advise them. Keep checking the site because over the next few weeks we'll be adding Sussex specific facts and figures about careers and employment in each of the sectors.

3. **Personal Planning Pack**

We've revamped and re-named our action pack to provide much more advice to learners on how to plan their career and study. Just to remind you, the Personal Planning Pack gathers all the Learning Opportunities materials viewed in a single visit into a personalised pack that learners can save. Automatically included in the pack is advice to learners about planning their future, deciding on a course and contacting an institution. They can store it on a PC, keep it on a flash drive or print it out if they need to.



4. Updated Adviser Pack

Our adviser pack still has lots of useful information but we've reorganised it to make it easier for you to find things. Use it online to take advantage of the working links, print out a copy of get in touch with Moira if you'd like us to send you one - m.monk@brighton.ac.uk

COMING NEXT!

If you liked our leaflets, look out for the new 'Learning Opportunities in Sussex' booklet which will be available by the end of April. We've updated all the information and turned it into a well signposted booklet which you'll be able to order from our online shop. Use it with the Adviser Pack when you're talking to learners and potential learners about vocational pathways.



A day in the life of an Information Advice Guidance Officer

By [Andrea Purvis](#)

I turn on the computer whilst continuing to pack the boxes and brief case with all the resources needed for an Information Morning at an FE College in rural Sussex. The computer has booted up and I check for last minute e-mails from Information Advice and Guidance (IAG) colleagues attending the event with me, in case of any changes to the arrangements. Also, new information about the 14-19 Diplomas and funding for higher education students can arrive at any time, so it's best to look out for this before departing for the event. I pack up the car with mini trolley to transport the information resources, publicity display stand and lap top and set off to the college location armed with a well annotated map (no sat nav for me!).

The mini trolley is very handy when I reach the college as the SLN stand is to be found down several corridors. It is a good space to be located though, as there is a steady stream of prospective students and parents flooding through the corridor on a tour of the college. There is an invigorating smell of freshly baked cakes from the college catering department mixed with the smell of fertiliser wafting through the open doors from the college grounds—well it is an Agricultural College after all!

As SLN IAG Officers we give out lots of information packs on “Learning Opportunities in Sussex” and we answer questions from prospective students about the work based elements of Foundation degrees, subject areas, top up qualifications, support for students with dyslexia and financial help.

We have to think hard about a query relating to funding for a student newly arrived in Sussex from Poland, but we eventually find a helpful referral for her too! There is an opportunity to talk with college staff involved in employer engagement and some useful leads come from our discussions. The event ends with coffee and some of those delicious freshly baked cakes - a successful morning promoting work based learning and tasting its products!



Dates for your diaries

“Curriculum, Curriculum, Curriculum!” - 18 April 2008 **Annual Foundation Degree Symposium**

In this symposium over 24 presenters from across Sussex will look at how they have tackled some of these issues in developing the Foundation degree curriculum across the full range of subjects.

The day will provide an excellent opportunity for those planning the curriculum, teaching or advising students to find out what goes on in building a higher education qualification that is designed to make an impact on those in and entering the workforce. Yvonne Hillier, Professor of Education, University of Brighton will provide our introduction to the day and the closing plenary will be led by David Hemsworth, University Vocational Awards Council.

The challenge for admissions - 21 May 2008 **Progression to HE from vocational courses**

The SLN has developed progression agreements that will support people who are living, working or studying in Sussex to move into and through higher education. Colleagues at local colleges and universities are invited to an event to raise awareness of these progression agreements.

A few places are still available book now to reserve your place!

Three by the sea - 24, 25 and 26 June 2008 **Bramber House Conference Centre, Falmer, Brighton**

Day 1 – Learning about the new diplomas

From September 2008 these will be delivered alongside GCSEs and A levels. This day is being jointly organised with Aimhigher and the Sussex Sixth Forms Consortium and will provide up to date information about the first 5 – Construction and the Built Environment, Creative & Media, Engineering, Information Technology and Society, Health & Development.

Day 2 – Learning from research

Jointly organised with the Learning and Skills Research Network in the South East, this day will include over 30 research presentations relating to work based and work related learning in FE and HE.

Day 3 – Learning from practice

This day will take a critical look at the work of the Sussex Learning Network to identify what we've achieved, what we've learned and what our plans are for the challenges ahead.

Online booking will be available from the home page of our website in late April – www.sussexlearningnetwork.org.uk. Please note the date in your diary.