

24, 25 and 26 June 2008

Three by the sea

Bramber House Conference Centre, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton
Registration and coffee from 9.30

You are welcome to attend one, two or all three days of our third annual conference

1 DAY 1 – Learning about the new 14–19 diplomas

2 DAY 2 – Learning from research

3 DAY 3 – Learning from practice

Why three?

The simple answer is there is so much to pack in.

For a start the 14–19 diplomas available from September are about to open up new pathways to higher education. What will the first diplomas contain and what are their implications for those working in higher education? This will be the theme of the first day.

Undertaking research on vocational learning is increasingly important if we are to gain an understanding of the impact of qualifications, like foundation degrees, on learners, providers and employers. Day two will bring together over 50 researchers who are working on this agenda.

Finally, the SLN itself is three years old. So it is timely on the final day to take a critical look, with all those involved, at its impact on vocational higher education in Sussex. Rather than simply look back, however, this day will also include a lively debate, with local employers, on tackling the higher level skills agenda in Brighton.

Why free?

You don't even have to buy one to get one free. All three days are free and are part of our commitment to offering all those with an interest in higher education a chance to share their experiences. You can choose to come to as many days as you like. This year we will welcome colleagues from many of the other 29 Lifelong Learning Networks now active throughout England, as well as those of you who have been involved with us since 2005.

Please book early to avoid disappointment. You will need to choose your sessions and book each conference separately at: www.sussexlearningnetwork.org.uk/conference/

Learning about the new 14-19 diplomas

The new diplomas for 14–19 year olds will be available from September 2008 in five of the 17 proposed lines of study. These will be delivered alongside GCSEs and A levels and have been designed to provide stronger routes into further and higher education. They are and will remain a controversial topic.

Aims

- Consider the impact of the diplomas on higher education in Sussex
- Identify issues relating to progression and information, advice and guidance
- Get up to date information from practitioners, subject matter experts and local authority representatives

9.30–10.00 Registration and coffee

10.00–10.30 **Diplomas: will they make a difference?**

Sylvia King, *Regional Coordinator, Specialist Schools and Academies Trust*

10.30–12.15 **Parallel sessions A**

What's in the level 3 diploma?

Practitioners' views of the curriculum

A1 Construction and the built environment

A2 Creative and media

A3 Engineering

A4 Information technology

A5 Society, health and development

12.15–13.15 Lunch

13.15–14.15 **14 to 19 reform and admissions: progress to date**

Delyth Chambers, *Independent Consultant and Advisor to the DCSF on the engagement of Higher Education in the 14–19 reforms*

14.15–15.15 **How do we explain the diplomas to parents/carers, employers and those advising learners?**

A series of parallel workshops

15.15–15.30 Tea

15.30–16.15 **What's happening in Sussex?**

Implications for the two Sussex Progression Accords

Sarah Hardman, *Sussex Learning Network* and **Bob Savill**, *Head of Admissions, University of Chichester*

Future plans for the diplomas in the 3 LEAs

Honora Sargent, (*West Sussex*), **Julie Dougill**, (*East Sussex*), and **Lindi Galloway**, (*Brighton & Hove*)

Learning from research

This conference brings together over 50 researchers across a range of local and national organisations with an interest in stimulating and supporting practitioner research into vocational learning.

The LRSN researches all aspects of post 16 education and training in the UK. The new National LLN Research Forum has been established to provide a place to share research across all the Lifelong Learning Networks, including the 21 practitioner research projects that have been sponsored by the Sussex Learning Network.

Aims

- Present a forum for practitioners to discuss practice-based issues
- Disseminate current research relating to work based and work related learning
- Provide a basis for further collaboration locally, regionally and nationally
- Identify ways in which practitioners can be supported to develop their research skills

9.30–10.00 Registration and Coffee

10.00–10.15 Introduction

Yvonne Hillier, Professor of Education, University of Brighton

10.15–11.00 Stop talking about ‘delivering’ and start talking about teaching, reflection and improvement

Richard Pring, Professor Emeritus, University of Oxford and Director of the Nuffield Review of 14-19 Education and Training

11.00–11.15 Coffee

11.15–12.00 Parallel sessions A1–A7

12.00–12.45 Parallel sessions B1–B6

12.45–13.30 Lunch

13.30–14.15 Research sessions C1–C6

14.15–15.00 Research sessions D1–D6

15.00–15.15 Tea

15.15–16.00 Evaluation: lessons learned from Aimhigher and implications for Lifelong Learning Networks

Professor Rhiannon Evans, Director of Action on Access and Pro Vice Chancellor (Students & External) at Edge Hill University

Researchers

Graham Atkins, City College Brighton and Hove; **Peter Bailey**, Varndean College; **Martin Bates**, Hastings College; **Daniel Bennett**, University of Brighton; **Angela Benson**, University of Brighton; **Susan Bishop**, University of Brighton; **Robert Catt**, The Open University in the South East; **Peggy Causer**, Office of National Statistics; **Sheila Chambers**, Plumpton College; **David Chilosi**, University of Greenwich; **Paul Clark**, Central Sussex College; **Paul Collins**, Plumpton College; **John Cunningham**, City College Brighton and Hove; **Steven Dell**, Northbrook College Sussex; **Phil Eadie**, South East England Intelligence Network; **Nigel Gibson**, The Open University in the South East; **Ana FitzSimons**, Brighton & Hove City Council Youth Inclusion Support Project; **Melanie Gill**, University of Brighton; **Judith Good**, University of Sussex; **Chris Haestier**, Independent researcher; **Rania Hafez**, University of East London; **John Holford-Clamp**, City College Brighton and Hove; **David Holloway**, University of East London; **Tony Hudson**, The Creative Way, the Lifelong Learning Network for The Thames Gateway; **Warren Kidd**, Newham Sixth Form College, East London; **Sai Loo**, University of London; **Gail Louw**, Brighton and Sussex Medical School; **Jenny Lynden**, The Open University in the South East; **Catherine McConnell**, Northbrook College Sussex; **Tim MacLeod**, Sussex Downs College; **Hilary McQueen**, University of Brighton; **Viv Martin**, University of Brighton; **Paul Mitchell**, SLN researcher; **Andrew Murphy**, Plumpton College; **Rachel Papworth**, Papworth Research and Consultancy; **Liz Pearson**, The Creative Way, the Lifelong Learning Network for The Thames Gateway; **Pam Percy**, The Creative Way, the Lifelong Learning Network for the Thames Gateway; **Peter Rainger**, Sussex Learning Network; **Sam Rhodes**, University of Brighton; **Steve Robinson**, City College Brighton and Hove; **Patrick Saintas**, University of Brighton; **Julie Samuels**, City College Brighton and Hove; **Debbie Smith**, University of Brighton; **Naomi Smith**, University of Brighton; **Erica Sosna**, University of Brighton; **Becky Taylor**, Plumpton College; **Liz Thackray**, The Open University in the South East; **Sue Upton**, Varndean College; **Tom Usher**, Institute for Employment Studies; **Richard Walker**, Northbrook College Sussex; **Claire Walsh**, Learning Consultancy Partnership; **Matthew Warin**, Brighton & Hove City Council Youth Inclusion Support Project; **Jenny Watkins**, Plumpton College; **Judith Watson**, University of Brighton; **Joe Watson**, City College Brighton and Hove; **John Webber**, Sussex Downs College; **Nina Weiss**, University of East London

To choose your sessions please book online www.sussexlearningnetwork.org.uk/conference/

Learning from practice

Morning sessions

As one of the first Lifelong Learning Networks, the SLN comes to the end of its first 3 year funding period this summer. At our first annual conference we focused on our plans for 2006-8 and in our second we showcased the work that was being developed. This year we will take a critical look at what we have achieved so far. All this will be explored alongside a lively debate with local employers about what the skills agenda means for the future of employment in Brighton.

Aims

- Assess the impact of the SLN on the curriculum, progression and information, advice and guidance in Sussex
- See how other LLNs are responding to some of these issues
- Look at how learners and employers can make a difference
- Consider the challenges facing us all in tackling the skills agenda in Brighton

9.30–10.00 Registration and coffee

10.00–10.15 Introduction to the day

Professor Julian Crampton,
Vice Chancellor, University of Brighton

10.15–11.15 Parallel sessions A

A1 Critical factors in developing a work based hospitality/service curriculum – benefits, challenges and opportunities, **Pete Odgers**, *University of Brighton*

A2 The future of foundation degrees in social care, **Chris Taylor** and **Peter Frost**, *University of Brighton*

A3 Different approaches to progression: experiences of other LLNs, **Rick Crowshaw**, *GMSA (Greater Manchester LLN)* and **Mick Betts**, *MOVE (East of England LLN)*

A4 Never mind the technology, feel the quality – evaluating the SLN's information, advice and guidance provision, **Maureen Stenning** and **Liz Thackray**, *SLN IAG team*

A5 Making the most of networks: a student led session, **Rebecca Duffy**, *SLN and students from Student Network Sussex*

A6 How can we tackle the skills agenda in Brighton?, **Tony Mernagh**, *Brighton and Hove Economic Partnership*

Digital media and the future of employment in Brighton, **Phil Jones**, *Wired Sussex*

11.15–11.30 Coffee

11.30 –12.30 Parallel sessions B

B1 Opportunities in higher education for engineering and construction, **Dal Koshal** and **Phil Ashton**, *University of Brighton*

B2 Developing work-based learning top-ups in Sussex, **Lisè Loftus**, *University of Brighton*

B3 From policy to practice in progression, **Jessica Trahar**, *Higher Education Funding Council for England*

B4 Personal and career development – a dynamic approach to understanding yourself and your choices, **Erica Sosna**, *The Life Project*

B5 Peer evaluation, **Viki Faulkner**, *Kent and Medway Lifelong Learning Network*

B6 Can education make a difference to your workforce?

Case studies from City College Brighton and Hove and the universities in Sussex

12.30–13.15 **Can we learn to be entrepreneurs?**
Debate led by a panel of successful alumni of City College Brighton and Hove

13.15–14.00 Lunch

Day 3 programme
continued over the page



Learning from practice

Afternoon sessions

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- Assess the impact of the SLN on the curriculum, progression and information advice and guidance in Sussex
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- Consider the challenges facing us all in tackling the skills agenda in Brighton



14.00 – 15.00 Parallel sessions C

C1 Working in partnership with the voluntary and community sector to develop curriculum, **Dee Macdonald**, *University of Brighton*, **Linda Townsend**, *University of Sussex*

C2 Integrating professional qualifications into the curriculum for sport and leisure, **Tanya Goosen**, *Chichester College*, and **Adam Hobbs**, *University of Chichester*

C3 Navigating the progression maze: an online tool for learners, **Sarah Hardman**, *Sussex Learning Network*

C4 APEL – exploring new models for accrediting work-based learning and experience, **Nick Wiseman**, *South West Lifelong Learning Network*

C5 Foundation degrees in Sussex – getting the message across, **Paul Mitchell**, *Sussex Council for Training Providers*

C6 SLN e-learning project review **Robert Catt**, **Nigel Gibson**, **Jenny Lynden** and **Liz Thackray**, *The Open University in the South East*

15.00 – 16.00 Parallel sessions D

D1 It's not rocket science; links between recruitment, retention and curriculum design, **Steve Waite**, *University of Brighton* and **Becky Taylor**, *Plumpton College*

D2 How it worked in the Creative Industries, **Paul Andersen**, *Consultant*, **Clare Chandler**, *University of Brighton*, **Nick Gardner**, *Northbrook College Sussex*, **Lisa Holloway**, *Brighton Music Network*

D3 Making a difference: Sussex progression agreements in practice, **Tanya Goosen**, *Chichester College* and **Alex Twitchen**, *University of Chichester*

D4 Virtual information, advice and guidance – fantasy or possibility? **Liz Thackray**, *Sussex Learning Network IAG team*

D5 Collaborative curriculum in Chichester, **Gerry Griffiths**, *Chichester College*, **Sara Gilroy**, *University of Chichester*

D6 Coping with information overload – using simple web-based tools, **Peter Rainger**, *Sussex Learning Network*

16.00 – 16.45 Evaluating Lifelong Learning Networks

Ruth Williams, *Centre for Higher Education Research and Information, The Open University*

Evaluating the Sussex Learning Network

Chris Baker, *Sussex Learning Network*

Chaired by **David House**, *Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of Brighton*

How to book

Please book online at:

www.sussexlearningnetwork.org.uk/conference/

or telephone Moira Monk at the Sussex Learning Network on:

01273 876 766

These conferences are free. You are welcome to attend one, two or three days. You need to book each day separately.