

## **SWO704: SURVEY OF TEACHER TRAINEE SATISFACTION IN LEARNING AND SKILLS ITT : PROJECT SUMMARY**

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The longitudinal survey of Teacher Trainee Satisfaction highlights trainees' levels of satisfaction and engagement with their teacher training courses in SWitch partner institutions over the first year of Lifelong Learning UK's new National Framework. This current project followed on from Exeter University/SLIM's Baseline Survey<sup>1</sup>, which focussed on training providers' experiences of the new framework in its initial stages of implementation from September 2007. It also examined national and local data sets giving details of the student trainee cohort in 2004/5 and 2005/6.

The student trainees in this present project have taken a range of ITT courses - from PTTLS through to PGCE - across SWitch partner institutions in five sectors: higher and further education, adult and community learning, the voluntary and community sector and work based learning providers. Almost 200 respondents took part in a questionnaire survey between January and March 2008. Quantitative and qualitative analyses resulted in mid project findings presented in an interim report<sup>2</sup> in July 2008.

Since that time, a second round of qualitative research in the form of telephone interviews has been undertaken during October 2008 with a representative sample of respondents from the earlier survey. The aim is to deepen our understanding of their experiences through additional biographical questions to interpret how prior educational and employment histories have influenced perceptions of their training. We have been looking particularly at how newly qualified trainees now view their professional identity as teachers in the learning and skills sector.

This has been both an exciting and challenging year for SWitch partners as they have heard early feedback, from the survey responses, to what have been essentially pilot courses. Many issues have been raised and give pointers for possible improvements to their learning experiences. Some of these can be resolved at institutional or CETT partnership level, whilst others are elements of the new LLUK National Framework and will require adjustments in central Government policy.

Research findings to date not only add to our knowledge of and understanding of ITT in the sector but also raise significant points for stakeholder discussion. Chief amongst these relate to whether the new qualifications actually deliver improvements as intended and focus on models of delivery, support, and integration with developing practice. These are questions that we want to explore further with stakeholder colleagues in our workshop session at the SWitch conference on 4<sup>th</sup> November.

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<sup>1</sup> The Initial Training of Teachers in the Learning and Skills Sector in the South West: A Baseline Survey of the Student Trainee Cohort and of the challenges facing the Providers of Training. Exeter University/SLIM. March 2008. <http://www.swslim.org.uk/downloads/sl2574.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> Survey of teacher trainee satisfaction in learning and skills ITT: interim report. Exeter University/Slim. July 2008. <http://www.swslim.org.uk/downloads/sl2577.pdf>