

Issue 12 - November 2011



We are now firmly into the Autumn period, with its shorter days and mistier weather. It is often a useful time to also remember to find things to help keep us grounded and keep our spirits up, such as the current glory of the autumn colours on the trees. We all continue to work very hard, often in difficult circumstances and with shrinking resources - but we nevertheless continue to succeed in a wide variety of ways. Let's look forward to how much we can achieve with our learners between now and the start of the new year in 2012.

In this edition of What's Hot we provide links for several new consultations currently open for response (until early Jan 2012). These include consultations on:

- [proposals to revise the arrangements for the Inspection of Initial Teacher Education \(ITE\)](#) - which will be introduced in September 2012
- [the 16-19 Funding Formula Review](#) - including the move to a simpler "payment per qualification" system of funding at learner level
- [Study Programmes for 16-19 year olds](#) - content, general structure, assessment arrangements and contact time to ensure that that all 16-19 year olds study coherent, well thought out programmes which offer breadth and depth and don't limit their options for future study and/or work

Along with a reminder about [the consultation on the proposed changes to allow with QTLS to teach in schools in England](#) (closing date for responses: 16 Dec 11).

There are also notifications about a range of new resources that are available.

Finally, you might want to check out the following articles which report research done on factors that can influence success, from aspects as diverse as whether head shape can be an indicator of business success "[Can head shape determine chances of business success?](#)", to the influence of your birth date on academic success "[August babies are less likely to go on to top universities, says study](#)".

Have a good autumn - and, however long or short it might be, enjoy your Christmas/New Year break when it comes!

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NATIONAL NEWS

FUNDING & CHANGES

Department for Education Consultations:

1) 16-19 Funding Formula Review

Proposals in the consultation include moving away from the current complex system of funding on the basis of 'payment per qualification' to introducing a much simpler system of funding at the level of the learner, in order to make the proposals in Professor Alison Wolf's groundbreaking report on vocational education a reality. It also supports the Government's aims of reducing bureaucracy for education providers and making the funding system simpler, more transparent and readily understood by all.

Responses to the consultation are sought from 16-19 education and training providers in general and specialist further education colleges, sixth form colleges, maintained schools and Academy sixth forms as well as commercial and charitable providers, and Apprenticeship providers.

The closing date for responses is: Wednesday 4 January 2012

[The Pearson Centre for Policy & Learning's Policy Watch](#) (10 Oct '11) highlights the main points of interest in this consultation, along with those in the "*Study Programme for 16-19 yr olds*" and the "*Removing the statutory duty to deliver work related learning at KS4*" consultations also launched by the Department for Education on the same day.

2) Study Programmes for 16-19 year olds

In response to the recommendations set out in Professor Wolf's Review of Vocational Education, this consultation sets out the Government's proposals to ensure that all 16-19 year olds study coherent, well thought out programmes which offer them breadth and depth and do not limit their options for future study or work. This new approach, planned to be introduced at the same time as a new funding formula in 2013, will give providers substantially more freedom in designing full time course provision for students between the age of 16 and 19.

The closing date for responses is: Wednesday 4 January 2012

3) Removing the statutory duty to deliver work related learning at Key Stage 4

In line with the changes that are being made around work experience for students post -16, the Government is seeking to remove the statutory duty to provide every young person at Key Stage 4 (14-16 yr olds) with work-related learning. However, schools will still be free to determine whether and how work experience for young people at Key Stage 4 is provided.

Local authorities are already under a duty to encourage work experience for students 16-19 and we have begun working with partners to promote this. A group of local areas and training providers are also developing Work Pairings models, which offer young people training and intensive work experience with local employers. These will **help to inform thinking on future work experience models for all 16-19 year olds**. The review of lower attaining pupils will consider how work experience and internships can support progression for these young people. We will consider how local employers could be reimbursed as part of the 16-19 funding formula consultation.

This particular consultation is seeking views from the public about the Government's intention to remove the statutory duty to deliver work related learning at Key Stage 4 and is open to all members of the public, including schools, governing bodies, local authorities, teacher unions and other representative organisations for those in the education sector, voluntary groups, parents and young people.

The closing date for responses is: Wednesday 4 January 2012

[Review of Skills Funding Agency Announced](#) (SfA, 1 Nov '11)

As part of the **Government's** commitment to undertake a regular evaluation of its key delivery bodies **John Hayes, Skills Minister**, has announced a review of the Skills Funding Agency and the statutory post of Chief Executive of Skills Funding.

The review is consistent with the **Cabinet Office Public Bodies Review Programme**, and is expected to get underway shortly. The outcome of the review will be announced in due course.

European Social Fund Procurement - Advanced Notification (SfA, 2 Nov '11)

On **29 November 2011**, the **Skills Funding Agency** will invite organisations to tender for the delivery of provision from April 2012 which is financed by the **European Social Fund (ESF)**.

More specifically, the provision will encompass:

- Skills Support for the Unemployed (SSU), including the Apprenticeships Grant for Employers (AGE)
- Skills Support for Redundancy (SSR)
- Workplace Learning

Organisations that are registered on the Approved College and Training Organisation Register (ACTOR) and completed a Single Adult Skills Budget Invitation To Tender (ITT) by 15 July 2011 will be invited to tender.

Full details will be available within the tender specification when the ITTs are issued.

LIFELONG LEARNING

[SfA delays full implementation of simplified adult skills funding system until 2013/14](#)

(FE Week, 13 Oct '11)

Following feedback from FE providers, the **Skills Funding Agency (SFA)** has delayed full implementation of its ['simplified' adult skills funding system](#) until 2013/14. Colleges and training organisations will have to use the current methodology in 2012/13, but are advised to plan for the upcoming changes in what has been called a 'dual running' period.

Pearson's [Pocket Watch – "Simplifying funding systems for adult skills"](#) (25 Oct '11) explains what the new system will look like and what changes providers will notice within the new proposed system.

[2012 Adult Learners' Week nominations open](#) (NIACE, 7 Nov '11)

Nominations are now open for the **2012 Adult Learners' Week Awards**. People can nominate someone they teach, a colleague, a relative or a friend and give them the recognition they deserve for their outstanding learning achievements.

[Adult Learners' Week \(12-18 May 2012\) Awards](#) identify people who have used learning to help them transform their lives, often beyond what they ever thought was possible. Awards are also given to innovative projects that provide adults with the opportunity to learn and improve their lives and the lives of their families and communities.

[Click here](#) to nominate someone who you feel deserves recognition for their achievements.

The deadline for entries is 5.00 pm on Friday 27 January 2012.

Learning South West are once again proud to be co-ordinating the **2012 South West Regional Adult Learners' Week Awards Ceremony and activities** – [click here](#) to find out what's happening in our region and how you can get involved.

[Quick Reads - Reading Breaks for World Book Day](#) (NIACE, 9 Nov '11)

NIACE is calling on schools, colleges and businesses to hold "Reading Breaks" to encourage more people to fall in love with reading on **World Book Day (Thurs 1 March 2012)**, following the publication of its [8 new Quick Reads for 2012](#) by best-selling authors including **Maeve Binchy, Alexander McCall Smith, James Caan** and **Tony Parsons**. NIACE is hoping that even more schools and workplaces will get involved in 2012 to help reluctant readers discover a passion for books.

To find out how your organisation can set up its own "Reading Break" [click here](#).

[New activity to help providers improve the quality of literacy, language and numeracy \(LLN\)](#) (LSIS, 4 Oct '11)

Bespoke packages of support designed to address organisational priorities in LLN are now available from **LSIS**. The support builds on the sector-led model of support introduced by LSIS a year ago, which helped over 300 providers between September 2010 and August 2011.

[Further information about support](#) and an [application form](#) are available on the **Excellence Gateway** website.

For more information about activity taking place in the South West Region, please get in touch with Terri Williams teresa.williams@blueruby.plus.com (0777 922 5032) - LSIS regional contact for LLN (SW, SE & London) or [click here](#).

The latest edition of "[Update](#)", the **LSIS magazine** for everyone involved with the improvement of **literacy, language and numeracy skills for adults**, is now available to download from their website.

[Minister Announces Quality Standard for National Careers Service](#) (BIS, 12 Oct '11)

Skills Minister John Hayes has unveiled an upgraded and improved standard to underpin the new National Careers Service. **The Matrix Standard** will promote effective delivery of information, advice and guidance to millions of people through the new National Careers Service, which launches next April.

However, **Ian Barratt, Chief Executive of the Institute of Career Guidance (ICG)**, points out in his article for **FE News** (20 Oct '11) that the differing patterns of careers guidance provision across the UK is creating a [postcode lottery](#) that is not currently helping individuals or the wider economy.

[The Blueprint for Careers: pointing the way to success](#) (LSIS, 28 Oct '11)

LSIS has launched a new tool to help support providers to improve the career development services they offer to their learners. The "[Blueprint for Careers](#)" is an exciting new approach to help individuals at any age or stage manage their careers and make effective and well-informed choices as they navigate their way through life, learning and work.

[Improving teaching and learning support for disabled learners](#) (LSIS, 28 Oct '11)

LSIS and **NIACE** have joined forces to launch **specialist qualifications aimed at staff working with disabled learners**. Developed by the sector for the sector, the qualifications are available both for teachers and for learning support practitioners. They not only provide an opportunity for staff to develop their knowledge and skills in relation to all disabled learners but also allow for focus on a specialist area of disability. To find out more [click here](#).

[The Learner Voice: creative approaches for learners with learning difficulties](#)

(LSIS, 31 Oct '11)

LSIS has launched an invaluable **new resource** which will help providers 'hear the voices' of **learners with profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD)**.

Available [online](#) now "***Creative listening: hearing the voices of learners with profound and multiple learning difficulties in the further education and skills sector***" is an excellent example of resources produced by the sector for the sector, and features substantial case studies from six providers setting out how they have approached this challenge to ensure they provide a more responsive, engaging and high quality learning experience that truly empowers the individual.

AoC Conference: "Next steps for Colleges in meeting the needs of learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities (LLDD)"

Date: Thursday 8 December Venue: Prospero House, London

The SEN and Disability Green Paper proposes some significant changes to the provision for LLDD. This conference will provide an overview of the main recommendations in the Green Paper, as well as addressing the current issues facing Colleges planning for and providing programmes and support for LLDD of all ages. [Click here](#) for further details and to book your place.

New LLN/LLDD Toolkits available on the Excellence Gateway:

LSIS has recently launched a number of new "toolkits" for colleagues working in the learning and skills sector, including:

- [Skills & Family Learning](#) - a new section full of resources, guidance and activities that shows how literacy, language and numeracy skills (LLN) can underpin familiar family learning contexts, tasks and activities.
- [Third Sector](#) - designed to support voluntary and community organisations to respond to the literacy, language, communication and numeracy skills needs of their service users, staff and volunteers.
- [Enhancing Learning Support](#) - a suite of resources and materials, developed by practitioners and intended to improve the quality of learning support for learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities across the learning and skills sector and to do so in a way that promotes their independence.

Are you a culture vulture or a bedroom DJ?

Play our **The Arts Council's 60 second "Arts audiences: what segment am I? quiz"** to find out which of their 13 "audience segments" you fit into.

The quiz is based on findings in **The Arts Council report [Arts audiences: insight](#)** which gives a better understanding of current and potential arts audiences across England and of how the "arts" fit into people's everyday lives, how they spend their leisure time and what competes with the "arts" for people's attention.

European Lifelong Learning Programme:

[Eurobarometer: Vocational education and training boosts job prospects but needs an image makeover with young](#) (European Commission, 30 Sept '11)

Only 27% of young Europeans aged 15-24 say they would recommend enrolling in vocational education and training programmes to their peers, which shows that more needs to be done to improve the image of this sector within this age group. These are among the key findings of a [Eurobarometer survey](#) on "**Attitudes towards vocational education and training**" presented by **The European Commission** recently.

European Lifelong Learning Programme cont:

[Contribute your ideas to a future Electronic Platform for Adult Education in Europe \(EPALE\)](#) (Grundtvig Prog, 9 Nov '11)

The **European Commission, DG Education and Culture** are looking to launch an exciting new **Electronic Platform for Adult Education in Europe (EPALE)**. The platform will help develop the adult learning community across Europe through an interactive, accessible forum.

How you can help? To ensure that EPALE meets the needs of the adult learning community the Commission is conducting an **online survey** for members of the adult learning community to put forward their needs and ideas.

To take part in the survey and have your views heard [click here](#).

EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT

[Learning and Skills Network goes into administration](#) (TES, 11 Nov '11)

It shed more than 100 members of staff and sold off millions of pounds in assets, but to no avail as it was announced that the Learning and Skills Network's (LSN) had gone into administration at the end of last month.

[Unions warn Education Bill changes could eliminate student and staff representation](#)

(FE News, 28 Oct '11)

Unions have warned against a last minute amendment to the Education Bill which could eliminate student and staff representation at universities and colleges. **The National Union of Students (NUS), the University and College Union (UCU) and UNISON** have expressed concern about a proposed removal of the legal requirement to have staff and student representatives on further education governing boards.

[Policy Tracker - October 2011](#) (The Pearson Centre for Policy & Learning)

As the economy continues to make most of the headlines and looks likely to remain so in the build up to the Chancellor's Autumn Financial Statement, **Steve Besley** looks back at what happened in the learning and skills sector during October.

[UK and China embark on education partnership](#) (BIS, 3 Nov '11)

The **UK** and **China** have agreed a new [UK-China Partners in Education Action Plan](#) to strengthen their relationship on education co-operation, which covers the following four stands:

- Higher Education: Building Partnerships and Promoting Mobility
- Vocational Education: Developing Vocational Education and Skills Training
- Basic Education: Raising School Standards
- Language Cooperation: Promoting Mandarin Learning in UK and English in China

[Swords are drawn as sectors do battle over post-16s](#) (TES, 30 Sept '11)

Secondary school pupils are sleepwalking into A-level courses, seemingly unaware of the other post-16 options open to them and are hampered by a lack of information, according to the [findings in a new study](#), commissioned by the **Association of Colleges (AoC)**. The study also attributes these problems to a benign neglect caused by poor careers advice and widespread ignorance among students about the qualifications available to them in the FE sector.

Team UK Strikes Gold at WorldSkills London 2011

Congratulations to **Team UK** who came away from last month's **WorldSkills London 2011** with an impressive five gold, two silver, and six bronze medals, plus 12 Medallions for Excellence - placing the UK 5th in the world rankings.

Visit the [official WorldSkills Team UK site](#) to see the results in full, including our very own **Gold Medal winner from the South West**, Chris Berridge, for Stonemasonry, and our **three Medallions of Excellence winners** - Christopher Young (Electrical Installations), Hayley Wright (Beauty Therapy), and Jonathan Cleave (Graphic Design Technology)

On congratulating this year's team, **Geoff Russell, Chief Executive of the Skills Funding Agency**, also announced that the legacy of WorldSkills London 2011 will be an [annual cycle of skills competitions](#) to drive up the standards and status of vocational skills across the country.

[WorldSkills UK National Competitions – Now Open](#) (NAS, 16 Nov '11)

A brand new cycle of national competitions for **2011/12** has opened for entries.

Following the amazing success of WorldSkills London 2011, NAS are keen to capture the interest and excitement of the event by encouraging employers, individuals, teachers and college tutors to visit the [WorldSkills UK website](#) to discover more about how they can get involved with skills competitions **before 15 March 2012** - and those with the highest scores could even be selected for a coveted place on Team UK, and the opportunity to compete for a place at [WorldSkills Leipzig 2013](#) or a future international competition.

To find out more about the 55 national competitions taking place [click here](#).

[WorldSkills Equipment for Sale](#) (SfA, 2 Nov '11)

State of the art equipment and materials used at WorldSkills 2011 are now available to purchase from the WorldSkills website. [Click here](#) to view the list of items for sale.

[Pocket Watch - Sector-based work academies. What are they?](#) (Pearson CPL, 12 Oct '11)

One of the measures the **Government** is keen to highlight as it seeks to respond to the latest 'grim' unemployment figures is **sector-based academies**. In the words of the **Employment Minister, Chris Grayling**: "*sector-based academies are the next key part of our strategy to tackle youth unemployment... they will put people at the head of the queue for vacancies*".

This Pocket Watch explains what sector-based work academies are and what impact the Government hopes they will make.

Ofsted News:

[Raising expectations for teacher training - Ofsted publishes proposals to revise the framework for initial teacher education \(ITT\)](#) - 31 Oct '11

Ofsted is proposing to raise expectations of providers of teacher training to help ensure that more trainees are better prepared with the practical skills that teachers need most, such as the ability to manage behaviour and teach reading effectively. The consultation sets out Ofsted's proposals to revise its arrangements for the inspection of initial teacher education (ITE), for introduction from September 2012.

[Download](#) a copy of the consultation paper here before completing the [online questionnaire](#).

The closing date for responses is: 31 January 2012

[Sir Michael Wilshaw appointed as new HMCI](#) - 3 Nov '11

Read the full **Department for Education** press release [here](#).

[Download your copy of the new-look Ofsted News](#) (Issue 1, October 2011)

[Government responds to Education Select Committee's Report into the participation of 16-19 year olds in education and training](#) (www.parliament.co.uk, 27 Oct '11)

The Commons Education Select Committee **published its 8th Special Report** outlining the Government's response to the Committee's 4th Report into the participation of 16-19 yr olds in education and training on **31 October '11**.

[Government responds to Education Select Committee's Report into services for young people](#) (www.parliament.co.uk, 13 Oct '11)

The Commons Education Select Committee has published the Government's response to the Committee's Report on services for young people which seeks clarification on key points - "[Government response on youth services report only partially addresses MPs' concerns](#)" (17 Oct '11)

[Institute for Youth Work - Consultation](#) (Skills-Third Sector, 4 Oct '11)

The National Youth Agency (NYA) has launched a **consultation** seeking to establish the level of support for an Institute for Youth Work. To find out more about the consultation process visit the [NYA website](#) where you can also take part in the [online survey](#).

The closing date for responses is: 30 November 2011.

[Barclay's Money Skills "Champions" Project](#) (UK Youth, Oct '11)

UK Youth is working with the **National Youth Agency** and a consortium of four other charities to deliver the [Barclays Money Skills 'Champions' Project](#). The project is designed to build the financial knowledge and confidence of up to 5,000 young people, and equip them with the skills to share this information with their peer group. The initial pilot programme will be followed early in 2012 by a national 'roll-out'. **To find out more about how you can get involved [click here](#).**

The Big Society:

[Major expansion of National Citizen Service for 16-year-olds](#) (Cabinet Office, 5 Oct '11)

The **Prime Minister, David Cameron**, has announced that the **National Citizen Service (NCS) for 16-year-olds** will triple in size to offer 90,000 places by 2014.

However an article in **Third Sector Magazine** claims [National Citizen Service providers will charge up to £80 per person next year](#), following a statement by **Nick Hurd, Minister for Civil Society**. (9 Nov '11)

[The Big Society Awards: Nominate yourself or your organisation](#) (Grundtvig Prog 2 Nov '11)

The Big Society Awards were set up the **Prime Minister** and recognise individuals, groups or organisations that are demonstrating the Big Society in their work or activities. **To nominate yourself or your organisation for an award [click here](#).**

[LSIS toolkit equips the third sector with vital guidance on literacy and numeracy issues](#) (LSIS, 1 Nov '11)

New Apprenticeships launched for third sector employers (see below for more details)

Apprenticeships:

[Cable welcomes big rise in apprenticeship numbers](#) (BIS, 27 Oct '11)

Provisional figures indicate that apprenticeship starts for academic year 2010/11 have risen by more than 50 per cent compared with final figures from 2009-10. Data released through the [Statistical First Release \(SFR\) - October 2011](#), shows consistent increases in Apprenticeships for the 16-18, 19-24 and 25+ age groups.

[Mixed response to Apprenticeship increases](#) (FE News, 28 Oct '11)

Although the news that the number of people starting Apprenticeships has more than doubled over the past year has been hailed by **Business Secretary Vince Cable**, others have greeted this news with scepticism saying the growth in Apprenticeships is not in the right age groups nor in the necessary sectors.

["Access to Apprenticeships" Scheme - Update](#) (NAS, 28 Oct '11)

[New Apprenticeships launched for third sector employers](#) (NAS, 20 Oct '11)

Three new Apprenticeships are now available to support **third sector employers** in successfully recruiting, training and retaining staff in roles which are key within the sector: campaigning, fundraising and volunteer management.

[Driving improvement - The LSIS offer for 2011-2012](#) (LSIS, 3 Oct '11)

LSIS's Improvement Services 2011-2012 offer has been designed to provide a framework which will help the sector bring about improvement in five main areas of activity:

- teaching and learning
- capacity for cost-effective curriculum design and development
- leadership, governance and management for innovation and improvement
- efficiency, innovation and new ways of working, and
- supporting the sector to influence the future

[Sign up to LiFE - Learning in Future Environments](#) (EAUC, 1 Nov '11)

Learning in Future Environments (LiFE) is a comprehensive performance improvement system developed specifically to help colleges and universities to manage, measure, improve and promote their social responsibility and sustainability performance. To find out more [click here](#).

E-LEARNING

[JISC Podcast: Facing up to Facebook](#) (JISC, 5 October '11)

Duration: 8:51 mins

At the beginning of the new academic year, colleges and universities will be re-examining their policies – including their students' use of social media. In this podcast **Nicola Yeeles** speaks to **John X Kelly and Lynn McHugh from JISC Legal** to find out how universities and colleges can make sure they are complying with legal and ethical issues around their students' use of online community sites like Facebook and how the new guidance from JISC Legal can help.

[UK's open access full-text search engine to aid research](#) (JISC, 3 Oct '11)

Open access research is now more accessible as **JISC** has developed a new search engine to help academics, students and the general public navigate papers held in the UK's open access repositories. JISC has funded the **Open University's Knowledge Media Institute (KMi)** to create an innovative new search facility which searches not just the abstract but the full text of the article.

[IfL highlights concerns about funding for teacher training](#) (7 Nov '11)

The Institute for Learning (IfL) has expressed its concerns about proposed teacher training reforms and the implications of higher and further education funding changes for initial teacher training (ITT) in the further education and skills sector.

In its responses to **two Government consultations** – “*Attracting, training and retaining the best teachers*” and “*New challenges, new chances: next steps in implementing the further education reform programme*” – IfL highlighted several policy areas for closer examination and review. It was particularly concerned about the sector’s ability to attract experts from industry into the teaching workforce when ITT tuition fees rise significantly from 2012, and the lack of parity between teacher training opportunities in different parts of the education sector.

There is still a chance to have your say in the DfE Consultation on the proposed changes to allow qualified teachers from further education (QTLS) to become permanent teachers in English Schools

The Department for Education (DfE) are proposing to make some regulatory changes to allow trained FE teachers to become permanent members of staff in schools. **QTLS holders** will be able to be appointed as permanent members of staff and will have the same terms and conditions as QTS holders.

To take part in the consultation [click here](#). **The closing date for responses is Friday 16 December 2011.**

Subject to consultation and parliamentary process, revised regulations should come into effect from April 2012.

[2011 IfL Advisory Council Elections](#)

Voting is now closed, Advisory Council election **results will be announced on Friday 25 November 2011**. Look out to see how colleagues from our region have fared!

[Teachers and Trainers talk about what constitutes CPD](#)

This **video** includes short clips of teachers and trainers from a variety of subject areas at **Thanet College** talking about what constitutes CPD.

[FE teachers and trainers learning aloud](#) (FE News, 13 Oct '11)

How do we know what we think? Most of us recognise that reflecting, talking and collaborating with others enables us to explore, test and confirm what we think. More than 100 teachers and trainers in further education, part of a random sample selected so far, have been thinking hard and learning aloud, with the **Institute for Learning's Professional Development Team**, about the kinds of continuing professional development (CPD) that really work for them.

[InTuition – Issue 6 Autumn 2011](#)

Download your copy of the latest issue of InTuition - the professional journal for IfL members.

NEW CPD Matters – Issue 1 Autumn 2011

Download your copy of the first issue of this new IfL magazine promoting ideas to teachers and trainers in further education and skills.

A deft touch at IfL may end spat with UCU (TES, 14 Oct '11)

Being President of the Institute for Learning (IfL) is not a job for the faint hearted. The professional body for FE lecturers has been involved in a bitter dispute with the University and College Union (UCU) over controversial plans to increase its membership fee. It will also soon be subjected to intense scrutiny in a Government review of workforce professionalism in the sector; but one suspects it's going to take a lot more than that to get under the skin of current **President, Beatrix Groves**.

FURTHER EDUCATION

Mixed picture for college enrolment - transport and funding fears (AoC, 13 Oct '11)

An Association of Colleges (AoC) study of further education enrolment patterns reveals major concerns among college leaders for the most vulnerable students in their communities.

[Click here](#) to read the full results of the study.

£20k bursaries for schools; nothing for FE (TES, 11 Nov '11)

While **Education Secretary Michael Gove** has announced generous bursaries of up to £20,000 to support the training of schoolteachers, lecturers' organisations have warned that the last route to fully funded FE teacher training will be closed within two years. With even the meagre £400 grant for FE trainees due to end in March, fees of at least £6,000 could create a recruitment crisis in colleges and training providers. [Read more](#)

Colleges braced for surge in demand for HE (TES, 4 Nov '11)

Half of colleges are expecting a surge in demand for higher education courses as a result of the increase in university tuition fees. The **survey by education services firm Tribal Group** found 94% of colleges were adapting their curriculum offer to meet this expected demand, 59% of respondents have already reviewed their curriculum plan, while 28% are still planning to carry out a review.

Tribal's FE Services Manager, Nick Pidgeon, said: *"We could well see a trend towards more HE courses being delivered by FE institutions, as students look for a cost-effective alternative to higher tuition fees."*

The 157 Group launches 2010-11 impact review (FE News, 2 Nov '11)

Marilyn Hawkins, new Chair of the 157 Group and Principal of Barnet College, recently launched the [157 Group's 2010-11 Impact Review](#) along with a collection of **eight learner voices**. The Review focuses on the wide range of initiatives the 157 Group has led and has been involved with over the past 12 months, and [Adult literacy: the voice of learners in FE](#) highlights the value of its member colleges' adult literacy work.

[Business-backed university technical colleges to open next year](#) (The Guardian, 10 Oct '11)

A new wave of comprehensive schools backed by firms including the **developers of the BlackBerry, Toshiba, Boeing and Rolls Royce** will open in England next year as part of a new generation of vocational schools in which businesses will help shape the curriculum.

These new [University Technical Colleges \(UTCs\)](#), will include one in [Plymouth](#) (opening in 2014) backed by amongst others, **the Royal Navy** and **Babcock International**, and [Bristol](#) (opening 2013) in partnership with **Rolls Royce** and **Dyson**.

[More staff are feeling stressed, research finds](#) (TES, 11 Nov '11)

Stress levels are on the rise among FE staff, a [survey](#) by the **University and College Union (UCU)** has found. 84% cent of staff surveyed said they found their job stressful, compared with 80% in the corresponding study two years previously. Almost three-quarters of employees blamed excessive workloads for the increase in pressure, while 65% said it was caused by unreasonable demands from colleagues, students and managers. Just 37% said they were not subjected to bullying in the workplace.

UCU General Secretary, Sally Hunt, said: *"It is not acceptable that over four-fifths of college staff find their jobs stressful or that just a third can say they've never been bullied at work. Colleges are getting a reputation as stressful places to work and this report reveals that the problem is getting worse."*

HIGHER EDUCATION

[Tuition fees: 27 universities seek last-minute changes to their fee packages](#)

(BBC News, 7 Nov '11)

More than a fifth of England's universities have applied to change their fee packages, just weeks before the application deadline. **The Office for Fair Access** says 27 of England's universities have sought to lower fees to make use of new measures that could allow them to expand.

[University applications for 2012 down 9%](#) (BBC News, 24 Oct '11)

University applications for 2012 are running at 9% below last year's level, says the **UCAS Admissions Service**. When overseas applications are taken out, the figures show a 12% drop in applications from UK students. These are the first official application figures for students who will be paying higher tuition fees.

[Border crossings dwindle as students opt for home fees](#) (THE, 3 Nov '11)

Complex tuition-fee arrangements in different parts of the UK are restricting movement by penning some students in their home countries, analysis suggests. Final application data for courses with a 15 October deadline show that Northern Irish students are shunning Great Britain, and fewer English students are applying to Scotland.

[Which? magazine to test value of degrees](#) (The Guardian, 22 Oct '11)

The consumers' champion will look at university courses, and academics say they are worried. It is well-known for its no-nonsense advice on consumer rights and how to get the best value for money when buying a washing machine. Now **Which? magazine** is planning, for the first time in its 54 year history, an authoritative guide to British universities.

[Student Loans Company launches finance calculator for student support](#)

(wired-gov.net, 7 Nov '11)

The Student Loans Company has launched an [official finance calculator](#) to help students in England, who are considering going to university in 2012/13, see what funding will be available to them.

[Fairer part-time study repayment system announced](#) (BIS, 26 Oct '11)

From 2012 eligible part-time students will be able to borrow the full cost of their tuition fees for the first time. The changes announced by **Universities & Science Minister, David Willetts**, will see students becoming eligible to start making repayments over four years after commencing study, up from three years as previously planned.

[Teenagers begin high court challenge against tuition fee rise](#) (The Guardian, 11 Nov '11)

Two teenagers have begun a case in the high court against the government's decision to let universities almost treble tuition fees next year. **Callum Hurley and Katy Moore**, both 17, argue that the decision to raise fees to up to £9,000 a year from next autumn contravenes human rights and equality legislation.

[UCAS Admissions Process Review Consultation](#)

The **UCAS Board** has commissioned a review of the admissions process which represents the first comprehensive review of an admissions process which has served the Higher Education sector and applicants well for 50 years since the inception of UCCA in 1961.

The consultation process will involve a series of "[consultation events](#)" across the Country **during December 2011 and January 2012**, as well as [online](#).

The closing date for responses is 20 January 2012, after which time a report of the consultation findings and proposed next steps will be published in March 2012.

[This is a once-in-a-decade chance to introduce PQA, UCAS Head says](#) (THE, 3 Nov '11)

Pearson's Pocket Watch "[UCAS consult on changes to the admissions process for university entry](#)" (7 Nov '11) explains what UCAS sees as wrong with the current system and how they propose to improve it.

[Sector opposes plans for compulsory teacher training](#) (THE, 3 Nov '11)

Standardised teacher training for all new academics has been emphatically rejected after it was proposed by the **Higher Education Academy**.

[Business, Innovation & Skills Select Committee Inquiry - The Future of Higher Education](#)

The Government must deliver its Higher Education reforms as a package says the **Business, Innovation and Skills Committee** in its **report** on the Government Reform of Higher Education published on 10 November '11. [Click here](#) to read more and access the report.

[Pocket Watch "Managing Student Numbers in HE"](#) (Pearson CPL, 26 Oct '11)

HEFCE (the Higher Ed Funding Council for England) has recently published an [important paper \(2011/30\)](#) setting out how numbers in HE in 2012/13 will be managed and in some cases bid for. It brings into sharp relief the impact of some of the changes in the HE White Paper and the tight timescale required to implement them.

A frothy diploma? (The Guardian, 10 Oct '11)

If you thought working in a coffee shop was a doddle, think again. **Starbucks** is recruiting 1,000 student baristas, and while they are learning how to make the perfect latte, they will work towards a level 3 qualification (equivalent to A-levels). The company hopes the project - which it is calling "*Starbucks University*" - could be developed into an apprenticeship in partnership with **City & Guilds**.

Jan Smallhouse, Head of Talent at Starbucks, believes it could give other educational establishments a run for their money: "*We equip our baristas to deliver world-class customer service. With university fees increasing, this is an opportunity for young people who are serious about a career in retail.*"

[Super-elite universities leaving the rest behind](#) (The Guardian, 6 Oct '11)

A [league table](#), published by the **Times Higher Education (THE) magazine**, of the world's best 200 campuses shows that fewer of Britain's institutions feature than last year. The gap between the UK's top universities and the rest is widening, according to the THE results.

The highest ranked university from the South West is the **University of Bristol**, coming 66th on the list.

[Higher education: degrees of division](#) (The Guardian, 5 Oct '11)

Reports show that UK universities do well in world rankings, but there is also evidence that the best universities are the worst at widening access .

REGIONAL NEWS & NETWORKS

[LSIS Regional Sustainability Advisers \(RSAs\) appointed](#) (Excellence Gateway)

Seven RSAs have now been selected to be ambassadors within their region for embedding sustainability into organisational strategy, practice and performance, and for developing the capacity and capability of sustainability leaders to drive change. They will engage, inform, work with and support providers across their regions. To find out more about the role of the RSAs [click here](#).

The RSA for the South West is Di Dale from Wiltshire College di.dale@wiltshire.ac.uk

[South West RDA Quarterly Economics Review](#)

The **Economics Review** is a quarterly publication produced by the **SWRDA** which reviews the latest international, national and regional economic trends. Each edition also includes a number of themed papers of special interest to the RDA and their regional partners.

[Issue 24 - September 2011](#) is now available to download.

[WVPC 14-19 External Knowledge Exchange Network \(EKEN\) - launches new website](#)

Formerly the WVLLN 14-19 EKEN and now funded by the **Western Vocational Progression Consortium (WVPC)**, the **14-19 EKEN** will continue to create virtual and physical spaces for discussion, enquiry and knowledge exchange between 14-19 and higher education practitioners in the South West Region. The website also features information about network activity including news, forthcoming events and opportunities.

Around the Region:

[Dyslexia-friendly college scoops award](#) (Cornwall College, 27 Sept '11)

Cornwall College has become the first FE institution in the County to be awarded the **Dyslexia Friendly Quality Mark**. The accreditation, from the **British Dyslexia Association**, is awarded to organisations which meet rigorous criteria proving that they integrate dyslexia-friendly practice into their work.

[Groundbreaking private law degree has 12 takers](#) (Swindon Advertiser, 13 Oct '11)

A dozen students have signed up for the pioneering degree created jointly by **New College Swindon** and the private **BPP University**.

[Two colleges boosted by development fund cash](#) (City of Bristol College, Nov '11)

City of Bristol College is only one of two FE institutions to win funding from the **Regional Development Fund**, to create new jobs and apprenticeships. The College project will develop training programmes for fitting low-carbon technologies to homes and cars thus generating consumer demand for them. It is expected that the project will create up to 523 jobs in the South West.

Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs):

Download a copy of **Wiltshire & Swindon LEP's October 2011 Newsletter** [here](#).

[More Government funding for the West of England](#) (West of England LEP, 8 Nov '11)

The Local Enterprise Partnership for the West of England is celebrating the announcement that £11m has been earmarked to help its work in generating economic growth. The news comes only days after bids to the Regional Growth Fund generated a further £40m. This latest cash injection comes from the **Government's £500m Growing Places Fund** which was set up to address infrastructure and site constraints and to promote the delivery of jobs and housing.

[Prisk: enterprise zones could displace jobs and firms](#) (SLIM, 5 Oct '11)

The coalition's new generation of enterprise zones have the potential to displace jobs and businesses from their surrounding areas, according to **Business Minister, Mark Prisk**. [Read more](#)

LSIS Regional LLN Programme: "Understanding Dyslexia and teaching learners with specific learning difficulties" - A practical training session

Date: Thursday 15 December 2011 **Venue: Bishops Hull House, Taunton, TA1 5EP**

This full day course will help you to become more confidence in supporting learners with dyslexia and specific learning difficulties as it focuses both on raising awareness and providing teaching strategies, and will include awareness of dyslexia and its impact on learners; developing strategies to support learners; considering learners' needs when planning learning; and understanding the impact of dyslexia on literacy and learning styles.

Event Fee: £150.00 per person (which can be paid from your LSIS account funds)

[Click here](#) to book your place now!

LSW NEWS & EVENTS

[South West UKYP Members take part in live House of Commons debate](#) (UKYP, 4 Nov '11)

Members of the **South West UK Youth Parliament**, which is co-ordinated by the **Regional Youth Work Unit based at Learning South West**, joined other UKYP Members from across the Country to take part in their second annual **House of Commons Debate** on 4 November '11. The event was broadcast live on **BBC Parliament** and you can **watch video clips** of the various topics that were discussed [here](#).

[Watch our "BioBlitz" video on YouTube now!](#)

As part of **Learning South West's** involvement in the **national BioBlitz campaign**, we have produced a video showing the activities that took place at our very own **BioBlitz event last July**, where we attempted to record as many wildlife species as possible in 24 hours within the ground of Bishops Hull House, using observation & digital photography.

[Click here](#) to watch the video. (duration: 13 mins)

['Have a go' at new skills this Autumn](#)

As part of the **World Skills London 2011** initiative, the **'Have a Go'** campaign will allow people to gain hands-on experience in a new activity at any time **between now and February 2012** and hopefully be inspired to find out more about learning.

In this Region **Learning South West** is **one of the partners co-ordinating the campaign**. There will be opportunities to 'Have a Go' across the region at lots of different events and in all sorts of places.

If you have any events where you would like to give adults the chance to try something new please **contact Hayley Broom at hayley_broom@learning-southwest.org.uk or 01823 365435 for details of the support available.**

[Adult Learners' Week Awards 2012 - Nominations Now Open!](#)

Learning South West are proud to have, once again, been asked to act as Regional Co-ordinators for Adult Learners' Week 2012. If you know of an adult learner, group, family or project that has opened doors to learning which would really inspire others by their learning journey [download or fill the online form](#) to nominate them for next year's awards. **The deadline for nominations is: 5.00 pm on Friday 27 January 2012.**

If you would like to get involved in the celebrations, or find out more about Adult Learner's Week in the South West Region, please **e-mail alw@learning-southwest.org.uk or call (01823) 347955.**

[Learning South West Membership - Join Us Now!](#)

Is your organisation interested in becoming a Learning South West Member? Why not visit our [Membership pages](#) to read about the numerous benefits on offer to our members, or contact the **Membership Team** on (01823) 347951, e-mail membership@learning-southwest.org.uk.

["somewhereto" do you have space for young people?](#)

The **Regional Youth Work Unit**, based at Learning South West, is helping to deliver a **national project called 'somewhereto '**, which is all about finding spaces for young people to debate, play sport, perform, play music, dance, display artwork, show films, write - in fact spaces for young people to do anything related to the arts, sports and culture.

We are looking for free or low cost spaces across the region that might be available for young people aged 16 – 25 years to use for dancing, performing, writing, meeting, playing sport - especially any new or unusual spaces that young people might not know about.

If you think you can help and would like to register your interest [click here](#).

"Professional Formation - Applying for QTLS/ATLS" - A Morning Seminar

Date & Time: Monday 12 December 2011 (9.30 am - 1.00 pm)

Venue: Learning SW, Bishops Hull House, Taunton (TA1 5EP)

This **free** training seminar is for practitioners who want to understand the Professional Formation process and to plan for preparing themselves for Professional Formation and/or progressing their application for A/QTLS.

To request further details and to book your place, please e-mail swcett@learning-southwest.org.uk.

The closing date for applications is Friday 2 December 2011.

Who said you can't mix business with pleasure?

Our lovely house and gardens are available to hire for your conference or meeting. Located in the centre of the region and close to J26 of the M5, we have a choice of fully equipped meeting rooms with free car parking and wi-fi . We offer a selection of refreshments and lunches using fresh, locally sourced ingredients. Combined with the support of our helpful and experienced staff you will enjoy a well organised event in relaxed surroundings.

[Visit our website](#) for further details and costs or contact Georgina Skirton on (01823) 365447 or Emma Fawcett on (01823) 365438.

Did you know we are also available for hire for christenings, wedding breakfasts , family parties, and wakes? Ring us to find out more.

➤ **Book your Christmas Meal at Bishops Hull House**

Why not have your Christmas meal with friends or colleagues at Bishops Hull House this year? Enjoy a delicious 2-course meal with all the trimmings for £25.00 per head. Click [here](#) to view the menu.

Dates available from November 2011 - January 2012 (inc. evenings and weekends)

Call Emma on 01823 365438 or e-mail emma.fawcett@learning-southwest.org.uk to book a date now! (bookings must be for 10 people or more)

➤ **"Starting your Family History" - A Half-day Course**

Date & Time: Sunday 27 November 2011 (2.30 pm - 4.30 pm)

Price: £10.00 (inc. refreshments)

Come and listen to a presentation given by Bob Steed, a local Genealogist with 35 years of experience, followed by an opportunity to ask questions. There will also be a chance during the afternoon to start researching your own family history using 'ancestry.com' and 'findmypast.co.uk'.

To book your place please call Emma on 01823 365438 or e-mail emma.fawcett@learning-southwest.org.uk.