

### Issue 2 - July-September 2009

Some economists may be uncovering some 'green shoots' of economic recovery, but most of us in education and development are still focusing on 'sowing the seeds' - very unseasonal metaphors for Autumn, but lots of new initiatives are listed below.

The summer 'A' level results brought the usual furore about standards, neatly summarised by the **Edexcel Policy Watch**  
[http://www.edexcel.com/Policies/Documents/\(36\)%20A%20level%20results%202009.pdf](http://www.edexcel.com/Policies/Documents/(36)%20A%20level%20results%202009.pdf) - do sign up for these if you don't already receive them!

Controversy arose over a survey reporting that teachers think they can spot potential trouble-makers just by looking at the names on the register (<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/8243684.stm>).

Perhaps more seriously – **Graham Morely**, in a recent TES article, "We have targets firmly in our sights" (<http://www.tes.co.uk/article.aspx?storycode=6020995>) questioned "whether the real priorities for my college are best served by the use of multiple targets and benchmarks. Would working to common goals with others, rather than individual agency targets, provide a more successful answer to the issues we are trying to address?"

What's your opinion? If you have comments on this or on any other of the items in What's Hot?' post your comments on our **Discussion Forum** at:

<http://www.switchcett.org.uk/mod/forum/discuss.php?d=16>

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## NATIONAL NEWS

### FUNDING AND CHANGES

#### FE Workforce Reforms (LLUK, 16 June '09)

Year 2 documents are now available to download from the **LLUK website**:

*The Workforce Strategy for the FE Sector in England, 2007-2012 (revised May '09)*

<http://www.lluk.org/fe-workforce-strategy.htm>

*Implementing the Workforce Strategy: A Guide for Learning Providers, 2007-2012 (revised May '09)*

[http://www.lluk.org/documents/LLH21991\\_Implementation\\_Plan\\_no\\_pics.pdf](http://www.lluk.org/documents/LLH21991_Implementation_Plan_no_pics.pdf)

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#### Feedback

If you wish to suggest items for future issues or to comment on this service, please contact:

**Elizabeth Yard  
Administrator  
(SWitch & CPD)**

[events@learning-southwest.org.uk](mailto:events@learning-southwest.org.uk)

at

Learning South West  
Bishops Hull House  
Bishops Hull  
TAUNTON  
Somerset TA1 5EP

Tel: (01823) 365440

website:

[www.learning-southwest.org.uk](http://www.learning-southwest.org.uk)

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### **LLUK can make the changes easier ... and help you find the answers you need**

LLUK have set up a new advisory service to help colleagues who may have queries and concerns about how the changes included in FE workforce reforms will affect them and what they will have to do. To access this service visit: <http://www.lluk.org/changes.htm>

**Ofsted** has revised the **framework for the inspection of the further education and skills sector** (31 July '09). This is included in the "*Handbook for inspecting further education and skills*" from September 2009:

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/News/News-Archive/2009/July/Handbook-for-inspecting-further-education-and-skills-from-September-2009>

with a "*Good Practice Database*" <http://www.excellencegateway.org.uk/page.aspx?o=goodpracticedatabase> for further support.

The **July '09** issue of **Talisman** is now available to download from **Ofsted's website** at: <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Newsletters/Back-Issues/talisman/talisman-77>

See **page 8** for a summary of the changes to inspection due this September.

The Government has asked **Ofsted** to undertake a **review of special educational needs and/or disabilities provision and outcomes** (*news item from 6 July '09*), which will be published during Summer 2010.

To read more visit: <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/News>

Want regular bulletins on **Ofsted** developments? Sign up for the **Pilot for a new e-mail alerts service from August '09** at: <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/News/News-Archive/2009/August/Pilot-for-a-new-email-alerts-service>

### **Further education: Mandelson empowers RDAs (TES, 14 Aug '09)**

Peter Mandelson is planning a radical change for further education and training that would hand the power to set skills strategies and funding priorities to regional development agencies (RDAs), reports **Alan Thompson & Joseph Lee** in the TES.

To read the full story to go: <http://www.tes.co.uk/article.aspx?storycode=6020431>

### **Transition from Learning and Skills Council to the Skills Funding Agency (DBIS)**

This is a pretty good 'one-stop-shop' for an overview of those upcoming changes.

Read more at: [http://www.dius.gov.uk/further\\_education/fe\\_reform/raising\\_expectations](http://www.dius.gov.uk/further_education/fe_reform/raising_expectations)

### **'One-stop' Funding (ALP, 30 June '09)**

**The Association of Learning Providers (ALP)** has called for a single funding body in further education, worried that impending changes, including the disbanding of the Learning and Skills Council, will confuse and damage procurement.

Download **ALP Chief Executive, Graham Hoyle's** full paper at:

<http://www.learningproviders.org.uk/news/submissions/details/alp-paper-future-procurement-arrangements-for-fe/>

### **Key directions for accelerating the drive for excellence (LSIS, 14 Aug '09)**

Following the publication of the new National Improvement Strategy for the learning and skills sector (NIS), LSIS has published its **"Strategic Ambitions"**, a document describing LSIS's work ahead.

Read more at: [http://www.lsis.org.uk/News/ReadNews/09-08-14/Key directions for accelerating the drive for excellence.aspx?ReturnURL=%2fNews%2fLSISNews.aspx](http://www.lsis.org.uk/News/ReadNews/09-08-14/Key%20directions%20for%20accelerating%20the%20drive%20for%20excellence.aspx?ReturnURL=%2fNews%2fLSISNews.aspx)

## **LIFELONG LEARNING**

A recent **TES article** written by **Joseph Lee** (11 Sept '09), points out that lifelong learning could save the Treasury millions.

To read the full story go to: <http://www.tes.co.uk/article.aspx?storycode=6022703>

**"Learning Through Life"** the definitive report into the future for lifelong learning in the UK, will be published on **17 September 2009**.

To download a summary and to order a copy of the report visit the Inquiry into the Future of Lifelong Learning (IFLL) site at: <http://www.niace.org.uk/lifelonglearninginquiry/default.htm>

**Register now for the Lifelong Learning UK Conference 2009**, *"The Power of Lifelong Learning: Innovation During a Recession"* (8 Dec '09, London), to get the inside story on the development of the part of the UK workforce that underpins the rest.

<http://www.lluk.org/register-now-for-lifelong-learning-uk-conference-2009.htm>

### **RSCs Supporting Informal Adult Learning (JISC SW, 27 July '09)**

The 9 English Regional Support Centres (RSC's) are pleased to announce that they have signed a pledge for DBIS signalling their intent to play a role in bringing the vision for informal adult learning to life. Read more: [http://www.rsc-south-west.ac.uk/index.php?p=13\\_1&id=7](http://www.rsc-south-west.ac.uk/index.php?p=13_1&id=7)

### **"Three quarters of the nation are planning a career change" (LSC, 4 Aug '09)**

Three quarters of the population are planning to change their career, the Careers Advice Service has revealed. To read more go to:

<http://www.lsc.gov.uk/news/latestnews/THREE+QUARTERS+OF+THE+NATION+ARE+PLANNING+A+CAREER+CHANGE.htm>

### **"Make a Difference" Programme**

**LLUK** has recently launched the **"Make a Difference" programme** as part of the Catalyst programme. "Make a Difference" aims to recruit experienced and motivated graduate-calibre individuals to management roles in Further Education (FE), training and skills providers.

To find out more go to: <http://www.lluk.org/catalyst-make-a-difference.htm>

### **Barriers to Training and Skills Development in Rural Areas (SLIM, 20 July '09)**

SLIM report on the barriers to training and skills which can come from living in rural areas, and how these barriers have been overcome.

To read the full report go to: [http://www.swslim.org.uk/themes/themes\\_past.asp?theme\\_ID=26](http://www.swslim.org.uk/themes/themes_past.asp?theme_ID=26)

**Frank Coffield** has followed up 'Just suppose teaching and learning became the first priority' with *"All You Ever Wanted to Know About Learning and Teaching But Were Too Cool to Ask"*, to offer learners some of the latest thinking about teaching and learning so that they can become better learners.

To order or download your copy go to: <https://crm.lsnlearning.org.uk/user/order.aspx?code=090075> (LSN Publications, 2009, ref. 090075)

### **National Skills for Life Conferences - 2009 (Excellence Gateway)**

This year's Learning & Skills Improvement Service National Skills for Life Conferences will take place during **November '09 in London, Birmingham and Leeds.**

To find out more go to: <http://www.excellencegateway.org.uk/page.aspx?o=244218>

### **Transformation Fund website launched (NIACE, 25 Aug '09)**

The **Transformation Fund** delivers on commitments made in **The Learning Revolution White Paper**, published earlier this year, which announced a new approach to improving people's lives and prosperity through learning for pleasure. Follow the links below for more information.

<http://www.niace.org.uk/transformation-fund-website-launched>

[http://www.dius.gov.uk/skills/engaging\\_learners/informal\\_adult\\_learning/white\\_paper](http://www.dius.gov.uk/skills/engaging_learners/informal_adult_learning/white_paper)

## **EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT**

### ***NEET numbers grow (Aug '09)***

A **TES article** (21 Aug '09) points out that the number of teenagers out of work and education continues to rise, and a **BBC News article** quoted UK unemployment figures released on 12 Aug '09, which showed nearly one in five young people capable of finding work was jobless. **The Department for Children, Schools & Families (DCSF)** findings reveal that 15% of 'NEETS' had died within 10 years of leaving the education system.

To read more go to:

**TES** - <http://www.tes.co.uk/article.aspx?storycode=6020989>

**BBC News** - <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/8199269.stm>

*"Education a 'matter of life or death' for NEETs"* (Children & Young People Now, 7 Aug '09)

<http://www.cypnow.co.uk/bulletins/Daily-Bulletin/news/925858/?DCMP=EMC-DailyBulletin>

### **Flexible delivery to help the NEET Group (LSC South East, June '09)**

The LSC South East has produced a report on how flexible provision in colleges and independent providers can help to open opportunities for young people who might otherwise end up 'NEET'.

To download a copy of the report go to:

[http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/SouthEast/NEETs\\_flex\\_final\\_reportFINAL\\_AW\\_loRes.pdf](http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/SouthEast/NEETs_flex_final_reportFINAL_AW_loRes.pdf)

### **Employment and skills support to vulnerable groups in rural England (6 July '09)**

This case study, published by the **Rural Community Council for Devon**, focuses on the delivery of adult employment and training programmes in **Torrige, North Devon** and discusses how the Train to Gain and Pathways to Work programmes are delivered in the district.

**Note:** To access the case study type the following link into your web browser:

[http://www.devonrcc.org.uk/downloads/CRC\\_Torrige\\_Case\\_Study\\_FINAL.DOC](http://www.devonrcc.org.uk/downloads/CRC_Torrige_Case_Study_FINAL.DOC)

## Two new websites provide information on the availability of training and resources:

**Talentmap** - a unique framework that provides a single view of the entire education, employment and skills landscape in clear, simple language.

<http://www.talentmap.ukces.org.uk/UKTalentMap/home.do>

**Ladder4learning** - supports and facilitates development and learning for people and organisations in the **community and voluntary sectors and social enterprises in South West England** and parts of the South East. <http://www.ladder4learning.org.uk/>

## E-LEARNING

### JISC Resources to support e-learning:

National e-books project brings free learning to further education (10 June '09)

<http://www.jisc.ac.uk/news/stories/2009/06/febooks.aspx>

New online resources for learning, teaching and assessment (22 June '09)

<http://www.jisc.ac.uk/news/stories/2009/06/collaboration.aspx>

How-to guides to new technology launched by JISC Netskills (21 Aug '09)

<http://www.jisc.ac.uk/news/stories/2009/08/web2practice.aspx>

Registrations now open for JISC online e-learning conference "*Innovating E-Learning*", 24-27 Nov '09.

<http://www.jisc.ac.uk/news/stories/2009/07/onlineconference.aspx>

**The new LSIS eCPD Programme** will help meet the new Ofsted inspection criteria and the IfL 30 hour or pro rata CPD requirements. Visit the site at: <http://ecpd.bdplearning.com/ecpd/index.php>

### Workplace e-learning gets further funding boost (Excellence Gateway)

**Training providers** are being invited to bid for £3 million of funding to help transform the way people learn in the workplace by using technology innovatively via ALP's Learning Innovation Grant (LIG) Phase 5, launched on 4 Sept '09.

For further information on how to bid for this funding visit:

<http://www.excellencegateway.org.uk/page.aspx?o=245147>

the closing date for applications is 7 Oct '09.

## INSTITUTE FOR LEARNING (IfL)

### More than 65,000 FE teachers and trainers use REfLECT to record CPD (IfL, 26 Aug '09)

REfLECT is the online, personal learning space provided by IfL as a benefit for all its members.

Read the full article at: <http://www.ifl.ac.uk/news-and-events/latest/more-than-65,000-fe-teachers-and-trainers-use-reflect-to-record-cpd>

### Lecturers seek status equality (TES, 28 Aug '09)

New proposals from IfL could result in FE lecturers being able to transfer their qualifications to schools using a new fast-track system as early as next year, reports **Joseph Lee**.

Read more at: <http://www.tes.co.uk/article.aspx?storycode=6021574>

## FURTHER EDUCATION

### **New guide encourages more people to work in further education (LLUK, 28 Aug '09)**

Lifelong Learning UK has launched a new guide to help people who are interested in starting a new career as a teacher or assessor in the further education sector.

Read more at: <http://www.lluk.org/new-guide-encourages-more-people-to-work-in-further-education-28-august-2009.htm>

### **Capital funding hope for sixth forms (TES, 21 Aug '09)**

Colleges that missed out on Learning and Skills Council funds could be in line for Building Schools for the Future cash. Sixth form colleges will be eligible for capital funding from the Building Schools for the Future programme, the Department for Children, Schools and Families has confirmed. To read the full article written by **Alan Thompson & Joseph Lee** go to:

<http://www.tes.co.uk/article.aspx?storycode=6020983>

## HIGHER EDUCATION

### **UK urged to increase investment in Higher Education (Times HE, 8 Sept '09)**

**Phil Baty's** report in the Times Higher Education Supplement cites OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation & Development) figures which show that Britain is lagging behind other developed countries in investment in university education.

Read more: <http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/story.asp?sectioncode=26&storycode=408075&c=1>

### **Minister announces new £20m open learning innovation fund (JISC, 23 June '09)**

At the launch event of the Edgeless University publication,, **David Lammy**, Minister for Higher Education and IPR, announced a new £20m open learning innovation fund for UK universities.

Download the podcast here: <http://www.jisc.ac.uk/news/stories/2009/06/podcast83davidlammy.aspx>

## REGIONAL NEWS & NETWORKS

### ***Celebrating Success***

#### **College on to a winner with its office apprentice (TES, 31 July '09)**

**Sinead Smith of Gloucestershire College**, has been named as Apprentice of the Year at this year's National Apprenticeship Awards. She is the first employee from an FE college to have won such an award. Read more at: <http://www.tes.co.uk/article.aspx?storycode=6019075>

**Other mentions for the South West were:** Large employer of the Year, Highly Commended: Princess Yachts International plc, Plymouth and Advanced Apprentice of the Year, Highly Commended: Wayne Manton, Bristol, Sector: Engineering (Automotive).

For more information on the Apprenticeship Awards, including Sinead's story, go to:

<http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk/Awards/Award-2009-Winners-and-Finalists.aspx>

## ***Celebrating Success cont.***

### **LSIS announces the short list for the 6th annual STAR Awards**

Nominees for the 2009 STAR Awards include several colleagues and organisations from across the South West. **Judi Harper (Weston College)** and **John Skyrme (City College Plymouth)** have both nominated for the Lifetime Achievement Award.

To see the full list of nominees go to: <http://starawards.excellencegateway.org.uk/theshortlist/>

### **Beacon Award for South Devon College (LSIS, 8 July '09)**

**Kevin Brennan**, Minister for FE, Skills, Apprenticeships & Consumer Affairs, awarded Learning and Skills Beacon status to 12 outstanding further education and skills providers at a recent ceremony in London. One of the 12 to receive the award was **South Devon College**.

Read more about the event at: [http://www.lsis.org.uk/News/ReadNews/09-07-08/LSIS\\_celebrates\\_12\\_new\\_Beacons.aspx?ReturnURL=%2fNews%2fLSISNews.aspx](http://www.lsis.org.uk/News/ReadNews/09-07-08/LSIS_celebrates_12_new_Beacons.aspx?ReturnURL=%2fNews%2fLSISNews.aspx)

### **New Chair for Learning Revolution Third Sector Sub-Group (NAVCA, 17 Aug '09)**

The Chair for the new Third Sector Learning Revolution Sub-Group has been announced as **Tim Ward**, Chair of the Third Sector Learning Alliance and **Chief Executive of the Learning Curve in Wiltshire**. NAVCA (National Association for Voluntary & Community Action) will be carrying out the co-ordination and secretariat for this exciting initiative. To find out more go to:

<http://www.navca.org.uk/news/learningrevolutionwhitepaper.htm>

## ***Focus on:***

### **The Mental Health Partnership Programme**

NIACE and the LSC have been working in partnership since 2006 to promote access to, and success in, learning and skills so that people who have mental health difficulties can lead active and fulfilling lives as members of their communities and in employment in a way that sustains positive mental well-being. The Partnership Programme encompasses the broad and diverse strands of work necessary to promote learning and skills for people with mental health difficulties across the whole of the Further Education and its partners. Key themes are promoting good teaching and learning for people with mental health difficulties, supporting employability and challenging stigma and low expectations. Learners with mental health difficulties are involved in network events and throughout the programme, which actively supports the development of healthy learning environments.

The regional networks are a key means through which the aims of the project are being achieved. The network has a cross-sector membership and is open to anyone interested in adult learning opportunities for people experiencing mental health difficulties. Membership of the network is free.

Regional Learning Events, held three times a year, provide opportunities to learn, share and disseminate good practice, influence national policy, develop resources and undertake research. They also provide excellent opportunities for communication between service users and education and training providers. Events have specific learning outcomes and can contribute to Continuing Professional Development. Each event has a theme and will aim to include a range of activities, discussions and speakers to support professional development and inspire, inform and interest anyone, staff or service user, working in, or involved in, mental health with an interest in learning and skills.

**The next South West Mental Health Regional Learning Event is on Thursday 8 October 2009, from 10.00 am - 3.30 pm at Weston-Super-Mare College.**

**Future Date for Your Diary: Wednesday 17 February 2010**

**For more information please contact the Regional Project Officer**  
[lin.westmoreland@niace.org.uk](mailto:lin.westmoreland@niace.org.uk) or 07917507487

### **Functional Skills Support Programme - HOTLINE (01823) 365651**

Learning South West is to be the new Regional Centre for the Functional Skills Support Programme working in partnership with Deloitte and funded by LSIS. Functional skills are those core elements of English, maths and ICT that provide an individual with the essential knowledge, skills and understanding that will enable them to operate confidently, effectively and independently in life and at work. The Functional Skills Support Programme is a workforce development initiative to prepare practitioners to be fully competent and confident to teach functional skills, which are integral to the four learning pathways - Diplomas, general qualifications, foundation learning tier and apprenticeships. Please contact the hotline on (01823) 365651 to discuss your needs and to participate in free training and development activities that we will be co-ordinating across the region.

### **The Golden Thread - HOTLINE (01823) 365449**

Learning South West has also recently been successful in a tender to run a project called The Golden Thread, with £340,000 over 2 years from the LSC and ESF. The Golden Thread will inspire and equip the wider work-based learning and advice and guidance workforce to engage employees and employers and embed and contextualise Skills for Life, especially numeracy, into training that meets their needs. Local Professional Development Co-ordinators working in partnership with local Training Provider Networks will use local research and intelligence to improve providers' approach to Skills for Life through targeted Continuous Professional Development (CPD), mentoring, running networks and web-based support. For further information and to discuss your needs and how the programme can support your organisation - please call the new general CPD Hotline at Learning South West on (01823) 365449.

### **"Sounds Positive" - Young people are doing it for themselves**

Young people in the South West, fed up with their often negative image in the media, have worked with Learning South West to win a grant from the Big Lottery Fund to promote a more positive impression in future. The grant for the project, "Sounds Positive", is worth £324,712 over four years. The initiative comes directly from young people themselves and was agreed to be a priority for the region by the 60 members of the UK Youth Parliament, also facilitated by Learning South West. Once the project is underway over 200 young people throughout the South West will be trained and supported to engage with the media and promote the issues that matter to young people. For more information contact our **Regional Youth Work Unit on (01823) 365441**.

### **Learning South West seeks a new Chief Executive**

After 4 years as Chief Executive of the organisation, **Tim Boyes-Watson** will be leaving in December '09 to become Director of MANGO, an international aid and development charity.

Tim has led Learning South West through a period of substantial growth in income, numbers of staff and impact. The strategy has been driven by what young people and adult learners have told us about their need for inspirational learning and youth work. Learning South West has responded to this need by being a catalyst for collaboration between professionals and organisations to jointly develop good practice. We have also helped enable young people and adult learners to have a voice and influence in shaping provision, for example through hosting the South West UK Youth Parliament.

The Board of Trustees is looking for a visionary and determined leader with strong specialist expertise and business skills to continue to grow the organisation and build its reputation and role in influencing policy and practice, regionally and nationally. If you are interested, or know of someone who may be, the application pack is available to download from the Learning South West website [www.learning-southwest.org.uk](http://www.learning-southwest.org.uk), or from Lucy Donnelly on (01823) 365439. The closing date for applications will be 16 October 2009 with interviews planned for the week commencing 2 November 2009.