

# Learning South West Annual Review 2011

## Shining Lights - "Connecting professionals to transform the future"

This year has been an incredibly rewarding one in which Learning South West, our members and partners have continued, in spite of the difficulties and challenges, to work together to ensure that all people can access and benefit from good quality youth work and learning in the South West region.

It is our 64th year as an educational charity. Our unique membership base can bring together partnerships including hundreds of providers and thousands of practitioners, for the benefit of thousands more young people and learners. Our members continue to tell us we offer valuable support and real benefit in helping to shape the best possible provision. We work hard to connect with our colleague practitioners and their practice – the shining lights that can make such a difference. We work tenaciously

to bring precious resource into our region to the benefit of teaching, learning and youth work.

We are proud of our achievements this year in what continues to be a very troubled environment. Our achievements reflect the value base we all hold fast to in spite of who holds the power and operates the purse strings.

Our achievements have depended on the hard work, commitment and determination of our Members, staff team, Trustees, and on the support of our many external partners. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their contribution to all our futures.

**Paula Jones**  
Chief Executive  
& Company  
Secretary



# Our major achievements with members and partners

- In our shared mission to provide the building blocks to learning through literacy, numeracy and language learning our European Social Fund Golden Thread project supported more than 700 Teaching and Learning practitioners at 40 Professional Development events.
- Our Think Smart project helped vocational learners achieve their qualifications by training staff in 172 small and medium enterprises to become learning coaches. 56 coaches and 714 employees were trained across 10 sectors.
- UK Youth Parliament remains a really successful platform for young people's voice in the region and nationally, with 35 Members of Youth Parliament and 44 deputies elected by 120,791 young people across the region.
- Our Sounds Positive project supports young people to edit dedicated young people's pages in their local newspapers. We have trained 140 young people as Media Champions resulting in 418 positive press references.
- We celebrated the joys of Adult Learning, organising the South West Adult Learner's Week Awards Ceremony for 170 winners, nominees and guests. Diane Louise Jordan presented the awards and acknowledged the winners' fantastic achievements.
- We developed capacity in the voluntary youth sector by co-ordinating the Progress project. 1,700 accredited learning units were taken up by volunteers and employees in voluntary youth organisations across the region.
- Through the South West Centre for Excellence in Teacher Training (CETT), 743 participants attended 40 professional development and network events including information about the new Assessor qualifications and a workshop led by the inspirational Geoff Petty.
- We co-ordinate the Institute for Learning's Regional Advisor, who engaged and supported 1400 practitioners in the South West with advice and support to those working towards professional formation and Qualified Teaching and Learning Status.
- We support the Choose Youth campaign to highlight the damage done by disproportionate cuts to young people's services. Around 150 young people from the region attended a national rally and made sure their voices were heard by politicians. We gave evidence to a Parliamentary Select Committee review of young people's services.
- We are working with teacher educators from Portugal, Austria, Poland and Turkey on the Learn+ project to create and evaluate a blended learning course for vocational tutors in managing diversity in teaching and learning.
- Through our monthly e-bulletin we provide information and links to key developments in funding, policy and training to 325 members of the Voluntary Youth Organisations South West Network.
- Together we stay up to date by our national and regional teaching and learning e-newsletter; What's Hot was downloaded this year over 1,000 times. With fast changing contexts colleagues need to stay near accessible and timely news!





# Bishops Hull House

a central and welcoming venue for your event

Who said you can't mix business with pleasure? Our lovely house and garden 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.

Learning South West members receive a 20% discount on room hire. They are also welcome to use the house free of charge as a drop in centre with complimentary coffee and wi-fi access.

Emma and Georgina look forward to welcoming you. Please call Emma on 01823 335491 or e-mail Emma\_Fawcett@learning-southwest.org.uk for more details.

**Learning South West, Bishops Hull House, Bishops Hull, Taunton, Somerset TA1 5EP Tel: 01823 335491**

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Visit [www.learning-southwest.org.uk](http://www.learning-southwest.org.uk) to find out more



If you're not a member, why not book your next meeting at Bishops Hull House and experience the venue for yourself? This voucher entitles the bearer to 20% off the cost of a room hire. Quote 'AR', valid until end March 2012.

**20% off**