

### Issue 1 - May/June 2009

Education and training colleagues are generous in sharing ideas and supporting each other and that's going to be important in this time of economic and political uncertainty. This first issue of the newly re-launched "What's Hot?" tries to signpost some of the key features in a complex landscape.

Why not share your ideas with us by posting your comments on our **Discussion Forum** at:  
<http://www.switchcett.org.uk/mod/forum/discuss.php?d=16>

Let us know how you're dealing with the current issues. Or suggest ideas for the next issue of "What's Hot?".

The Cabinet reshuffle has resulted in the Department for Innovation, Universities & Skills (DIUS) being merged with Business, Enterprise & Regulatory Reform (BERR) under Lord Mandelson.

The Budget, April 2009, contained measures to support employment and training, Ofsted has produced a new inspection framework and the new National Apprenticeship Service is launched.

In this newsletter we include Policies for Developing Skills & qualifications; News for Trainers & Assessors; Third Sector News and Regional News & Networks.

Here at SWitch we are showcasing projects on best practice in professional development and looking forward to "Whose Class is it Anyway?" the South West Learning & Skills Research Network (LSRN) Annual Conference on 10 July '09.

### NATIONAL NEWS

#### **New Department for Business, Innovation & Skills to lead fight against recession and build now for future prosperity (BIS, 5 June '09)**

The Government has created a new **Department for Business, Innovation & Skills (BIS)** whose key role will be to build Britain's capabilities to compete in the global economy. The Department will be created by merging BERR (Business, Enterprise & Regulatory Reform) and DIUS (Department for Innovation, Universities & Skills).

To read more visit:

[http://www.dius.gov.uk/news\\_and\\_speeches/announcements/bis](http://www.dius.gov.uk/news_and_speeches/announcements/bis)

and comment from BBC News online at:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/8086233.stm>

#### **Subscribe Now**

If you would like to receive future copies of this newsletter, please e-mail:

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

and we will add you to the mailing list.

To unsubscribe e-mail:

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

#### **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)

A MEMBER OF  
**SWITCH**  
CENTRES  
FOR EXCELLENCE  
IN TEACHER TRAINING

### **Building Britain's Future - New Industry, New Jobs (DISU, 20 April '09)**

A strategic plan to invest in Britain's economic and industrial future was launched by the Government in April, reaffirming its determination to follow a demand-led skills policy in keeping with the Leitch recommendations.

Read further at:

[http://www.dius.gov.uk/news\\_and\\_speeches/press\\_releases/new\\_industry\\_new\\_jobs](http://www.dius.gov.uk/news_and_speeches/press_releases/new_industry_new_jobs)

### **Budget 2009 - Employment & Training**

Support measures for employment and training announced in April's Budget are geared towards preventing the problems associated with long-term unemployment in past recessions. Visit the **DirectGov** website at [http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/N11/Newsroom/Budget2009/DG\\_177697](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/N11/Newsroom/Budget2009/DG_177697) to read more.

### **Letter from Secretary of State John Denham to stakeholders on Budget 2009 (DIUS, April '09)**

Secretary of State John Denham outlines what the Budget 2009 announcements mean for DIUS and the sectors we work with, read further at: <http://www.dius.gov.uk/budget2009>

### **Edexcel Policy Watch: "What was in the Budget for the world of education and skills?" (24 April '09)**

Green shoots or dark clouds? Either way it pays to read the small print and one bit of small print worth reading in this year's Budget is the bit on efficiency savings.

Read further comment: [http://www.edexcel.com/Policies/Documents/\(23\)%20Budget%202009.pdf](http://www.edexcel.com/Policies/Documents/(23)%20Budget%202009.pdf)

### **New inspection format from Ofsted - "Ofsted Inspects" (Ofsted, 9 March '09)**

The Ofsted inspection framework is changing from **September 2009**. Ofsted have reviewed their practices and produced *Ofsted Inspects* - a framework to promote improvement in the services they inspect, improve engagement with providers and users, provide greater consistency and integration to their inspection and regulation and target inspection resources where they will have the greatest impact.

Download further information on this from:

[http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Ofsted-inspects/\(language\)/eng-GB](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Ofsted-inspects/(language)/eng-GB)

or: <http://ofstednews.ofsted.gov.uk/article/441>

### **CEO unveils new National Apprenticeship Service (FE News, 27 April '09)**

The new **National Apprenticeship Service (NAS)** has been launched. It heralds the beginning of an exciting new era for Apprenticeships in England, says **Chief Executive, Simon Waugh**. The NAS will be building upon what has already been an incredible renaissance in Apprenticeships. In the last decade Apprenticeship numbers have already more than trebled. The NAS has been created to continue this rise and solely focus on delivering more Apprenticeships. To read Simon's article in full go to <http://www.fenews.co.uk/content/view/8187/62/>

### **Government considers subsidising apprentices' pay (The Guardian, 27 April '09)**

MPs are looking at plans to allow apprentices, whose employers cannot support them, to claim allowances as a wage subsidy, writes **Peter Kingston**. To read his article in full go to:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2009/apr/27/apprenticeships-training-education-nas>

### **LSC Capital Funding Crisis (TES, 5 June '09)**

In April the LSC launched a process of trying to identify capital projects that were 'shovel-ready' which could be prioritised for the extra £300m that had been allocated in the budget to address the funding crisis. However, this method of prioritisation appears to have failed as there are still too many projects and a new process has now been launched which will make value-for money the key criteria and which asks colleges to radically reduce the cost and scale of their proposed projects. To read more see <http://www.tes.co.uk/article.aspx?storycode=6014882> and <http://www.tes.co.uk/article.aspx?storycode=6014009>

### **Yet more financial difficulties for the LSC (The Guardian, 28 April '09)**

Leases that run for years after the dying skills quango is gone may cost the taxpayer millions, reports **Peter Kingston**. Read more at: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2009/apr/28/learning-skills-council>

## **POLICIES FOR DEVELOPING SKILLS & QUALIFICATIONS**

### **Responses to SVUK's online consultation on proposed licensing model now available (SVUK, March '09)**

Standards Verification UK (SVUK) carried out a consultation on its proposal to implement changes to the current arrangement for endorsing each individual initial teacher training qualification.

To view responses received visit:

<http://www.svuk.eu/online-consultation-on-licensing-model.htm>

### **Government White Paper: "The Learning Revolution" (DIUS, 23 March '09)**

The Government has launched a White Paper to inspire and increase opportunities for learning for pleasure, including funding innovative new ideas and projects, helping to broker access to learning, especially for disadvantaged groups and older people, and building a culture of learning across society.

To read **Secretary of State John Denham's** statement go to:

[http://www.dius.gov.uk/news\\_and\\_speeches/press\\_releases/learning\\_revolution\\_white\\_paper](http://www.dius.gov.uk/news_and_speeches/press_releases/learning_revolution_white_paper)

### **Talent must be tapped to reach economic potential (The Guardian, 7 May '09)**

The UK's adult population needs to gain more than 20m extra qualifications over the next decade for the country to retain its place among the world's leading economies, according to an independent skills watchdog, reports **Peter Kingston**. To read the full story go to:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2009/may/07/qualifications-needed-economic-standing>

### **LSIS launches innovative Skills for Life core curriculum (LSIS, 28 April '09)**

The revised adult core curriculum is now available on the Skills for Life area of the Excellence Gateway which will provide vital guidance to practitioners at a click of a mouse, giving instant access to vital adult literacy, language and numeracy resources.

Read more at: [http://www.lsis.org.uk/News/ReadNews/09-04-](http://www.lsis.org.uk/News/ReadNews/09-04-28/LSIS_launches_innovative_Skills_for_Life_core_curriculum.aspx?ReturnURL=%2fNews%2fLSISNews.aspx)

[28/LSIS\\_launches\\_innovative\\_Skills\\_for\\_Life\\_core\\_curriculum.aspx?ReturnURL=%2fNews%2fLSISNews.aspx](http://www.lsis.org.uk/News/ReadNews/09-04-28/LSIS_launches_innovative_Skills_for_Life_core_curriculum.aspx?ReturnURL=%2fNews%2fLSISNews.aspx)

### **Lifelong Learning UK reviewing Learning & Development Standards**

LLUK are reviewing the Learning and Development National Occupational Standards. For more information or to get involved please visit <http://www.lluk.org/4050.htm>

## NEWS FOR TRAINERS & ASSESSORS

### **New Train to Gain website launched**

April 1st saw the launch of the new and enhanced Train to Gain Engage resource website. Visit the new site at: <http://engage.traintogain.gov.uk/>

### **New registration and certification end dates (City & Guilds, 9 April '09)**

QCA have issued a blanket approval to all Awarding Institutions to extend the **Learning & Development & Assessor and Verifier awards** until December 2010.

Read more at: <http://www.cityandguilds.com/cps/rde/xchg/SID-B3CC1343-A566AD6C/cgonline/hs.xsl/40784.html>

## THIRD SECTOR NEWS

### **Office of the Third Sector publish results of National Survey (6 May '09)**

The Office of the Third Sector has published the full results of the National Survey of Third Sector Organisations which they commissioned earlier this year. Nearly 50,000 charities, social enterprises and voluntary organisations took part - making this the largest survey of its kind. To read more visit: [http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third\\_sector/news/news\\_stories/090506\\_survey.aspx](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/news/news_stories/090506_survey.aspx)

### **"Skills - Third Sector" up and running from September (SWFVO, 23 April '09)**

The new voluntary sector skills body, Skills - Third Sector (STS) will be operational from September 2009, drawing on £2.5 million of support from The Office of the Third Sector and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills over the first three years.

For more information go to: [http://www.southwestforum.org.uk/index.php?content=nw\\_item&news\\_id=711](http://www.southwestforum.org.uk/index.php?content=nw_item&news_id=711)

## REGIONAL NEWS & NETWORKS

### **"Just Suppose" - A National CETT Conference hosted by the Peninsula & SWitch CETTs (The Eden Project, 15 May '09)**

Over 100 teacher educators from across the country attended the event in Cornwall at which they were invited to share their experiences of the quest for excellence as members of the CETTs. The conference also showcased projects funded by LSIS (formerly QIA) as part of developing excellence in teacher training. **Frank Coffield**, Professor of Education at the Institute of London and author of "*Just suppose teaching and learning became the first priority*" (<https://crm.lsneducation.org.uk/user/order.aspx?code=080052&src=XOWEB>), provided the keynote speech and joined delegates in discussing and debating the hot topics of the day.

To read more and view photos of the event visit:

<http://www.learning-southwest.org.uk/page/Sustaining-the-Future-of-Teacher-Education---Just-Suppose---a-Conference-with-a-Difference>

### **Supporting The Learner Journey Continuation Project: Professional Development For Learning Support Practitioners**

*Supporting the Learner Journey* aims to provide a framework dedicated to the personal and professional development of learning support practitioners (LSPs). It is time to register Learning Support Practitioners (LSPs) on the programme of delivery where they can receive the CPD contained in the Supporting the Learner Journey Framework.

For more information go to: <http://swwdp.org.uk/contents/supporting-the-learner-journey.html>

### **Adult Learners' Week 2009 - South West Awards Ceremony (12 May '09)**

Learning South West, the South West Co-ordinators for Adult Learners' Week 2009, were hosts of the South West Regional Adult Learners' Week Award Ceremony that took place in May at Westlands Leisure Complex in Yeovil and was attended by over 150 people. Learning South West were delighted to have **Philippa Forrester** at the event to present the awards to the 7 regional winners.

To read more and view photos of the event visit:

<http://www.learning-southwest.org.uk/page/Award-Ceremony-Photos>

### **Regional LSC**

#### **South West Apprenticeship Prospectuses (7 May '09)**

The South West Apprenticeship Prospectuses are now available to download. The prospectus provides information on the Apprenticeship programme and includes a matrix of provision in the region. Download your copy from:

<http://www.lsc.gov.uk/regions/SouthWest/News/LatestNews/South+West+Apprenticeship+Prospectuses.htm>

#### **Skills Stars Recognised at South West Awards (29 April '09)**

Twenty learners and nineteen companies from across the region were recognised at the South West Skills Awards, winning or receiving commendations for their skills achievements.

Read more at:

[http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/SouthWest/Regional\\_release\\_for\\_winners\\_-\\_final\\_final.pdf](http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/SouthWest/Regional_release_for_winners_-_final_final.pdf)

#### **College boost for the retail sector (North Devon Gazette, 6 May '09)**

**North Devon College** is in the forefront of a national scheme designed to revive the flagging retail sector. Devon Retail Skills at the college has been named as a founder member of the National Skills Academy for Retail - a Government-backed network of training centres designed to increase productivity.

To read the full story go to:

<http://www.devon24.co.uk/northdevongazette/news/story.aspx?brand=NDGOnline&category=news&tBrand=devon24&tCategory=newsndga&itemid=DEED06%20May%202009%2009%3A03%3A29%3A780>

#### **Decorating student Claire proves she's a dab hand with a brush (Plymouth Herald, 6 May '09)**

Decorating student Claire Hill (a third year apprentice at **City College Plymouth**) could be forgiven for painting the town red after being named the South West's apprentice of the year. Claire entered the Dulux competition with first-year college apprentice Harry Hook. She will now compete in the national final, in Stoke-on-Trent on 11 June. Read more at:

<http://www.thisisplymouth.co.uk/business/Decorating-student-Claire-proves-s-dab-hand-brush/article-967231-detail/article.html>

## **LSW NEWS & EVENTS**

#### **Training Game - Skills in a shrinking economy (The Guardian, 21 April '09)**

Learning South West's **Paula Jones** (Deputy Chief Executive) and **Gill Millar** (Regional Youth Work Adviser) were among sixty learning and skills experts invited to question representatives from the three main parties on issues ranging from funding to careers advice at a recent national seminar in London.

Read the questions they posed and the responses they received at:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/thetraininggame/skills-shrinking-economy>

## **New ABC Awards Qualifications**

ABC Awards has a number of new qualification Frameworks scheduled to appear on the Qualifications and Curriculum Framework (QCF). Along with a number of significant Fashion & Textiles qualifications, the Fashion & Textiles Framework is already accredited <http://www.abcawards.co.uk/fashion.php>. The other Frameworks, Skills for Business, Creative Arts and Media, Fashion Apprenticeship, Landbased and Environmental and Languages are all expected to be accredited shortly. Details of these can be found on the ABC Awards web site <http://www.abcawards.co.uk/development.php>

## **\* DATE FOR THE DIARY \***

### **South West Learning & Skills Research Network (LSRN) Annual Conference 2009**

**Date: Friday 10 July '09**

**Venue: Dillington House, nr Ilminster, Somerset**

This year's conference entitled *"Whose Class is it Anyway? - regulation and autonomy in FE and lifelong learning"* will be hosted in partnership with the SWitch & Peninsula Centres for Excellence in Teacher Training (CETT).

The **Keynote Speaker, Ursula Howard, Visiting Professorial Fellow at the NRDC**, will be discussing her recent paper for NIACE's Independent Inquiry into the Future of Lifelong Learning, plus **Andrew Morris of the National LSRN** will be sharing his views on the way forward for LSRN and regional research networks.

**For more information and to register for a place e-mail: [events@learning-southwest.org.uk](mailto:events@learning-southwest.org.uk)**