

### Issue 3 - September/October 2009

'Wagan' –if you don't wanna get 'owned' this week, read the article on [Pimp your vocab](#) ... the handbook of student slang. You can even do a quiz – 'woop woop!'

Other than that – many of us will be learning (or re-learning) the language of **local authority funding** (page 2) as the LAs take over from the LSC next year. At the same time the **Inquiry into Teacher Training in Vocational Education** (page 2) has come up with interesting questions about provision and parity.

Keep up-to-date with developments in the Skills-Third Sector, Lifelong Learning, Further Education, Higher Education and, or course, the latest Regional Developments in this issue of "What's Hot".

**Breaking news...** Learning South West has appointed Paula Jones as its new Chief Executive. [Read more..](#)

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## NATIONAL NEWS

### FUNDING & CHANGES

**LA Funding Changes:** **Maggie Scott** in the TES (16 Oct '09) advocates that you [Learn to love your local authority](#) as the funding arrangements for colleagues and young people are due to change this coming April with local authorities taking over the role of the Learning & Skills Council.

#### [Lords attack new local authority funding power](#)

Ministers have revealed that local authorities will have the final say on funding priorities for skills strategies, reports **Joseph Lee** in the TES, 23 Oct '09.

#### [Provider bias fear](#) (TES, 16 Oct '09)

Local authorities have a limited understanding of private learning providers, leading to fears their commissioning strategies may be biased against independents, says the Association of Learning Providers (ALP).

*"If you are going to have a world-class workforce ... you must have world-class trainers"*

**David Hunter, CEO of LLUK** told a Parliamentary Select Committee in June '09. Read the transcript [here](#).

**The Association of Centres for Excellence in Teacher Training (ACETT)** responded to the **Call for Evidence** from the [Skills Commission](#) (Aug '09) into the provision of teacher training in vocational education.

**City & Guilds** have published their [revised delivery requirements](#) and alternative assessment for **PTLLS** (Sept '09).

There has been much discussion about shifting the pattern of funding to reflect the ageing population. Read **Jessica Shepherd's** article in the Guardian (17 Sept '09) "[Adult education funding must be shifted to older people](#)".

**The Government** has published [Jobs of the Future](#) (Sept '09) setting out where job opportunities are expected to be. This links to the previously published papers, '[New Industry, New Jobs](#)' (April '09) and the '[Backing Young Britain Campaign](#)'.

[Edexcel's Policy Watch](#) (2009/44 - 27 Sept '09) provides a succinct commentary on the **UK Commission for Employment and Skills report** '[Towards Ambition 2020: skills, jobs, growth](#)' (Oct '09).

**LSIS** has produced a **Brief Guide to** '[Beyond Leitch: Skills Policy for the Upturn](#)' (Sept '09).

An **LSC guidance paper** on the [Adult Learning Grant](#) (June '09) outlines policies and criteria for 2009-10, and offers advice on best ways of implementing them in institutional contexts.

**[Set the LLUK agenda](#)** (TES, 9 Oct '09)

Delegates and those thinking of attending **[Lifelong Learning UK's Conference on 8 December '09 in London](#)** are being offered the chance to help shape the agenda for the event with an online questionnaire.

**The Department for Children, Schools & Families (DCSF)** has launched a new **[Careers Education Strategy](#)** (26 Oct '09).

### **Ofsted News:**

Ofsted's **Good Practice Team** has published new **[examples of good practice](#)** by six learning providers which can be found in the Ofsted Good Practice Database on the Excellence Gateway. Most examples give you access to the providers' original files to help you start your quality improvement journey with confidence.

Ofsted is reviewing arrangements for the **inspection of adult and community learning** from 2010. Contribute to the consultation process **[here](#)**. The **closing date** for responses is **29 December '09**.

'**[Raising Expectations of Adult Learners](#)**' - a new handbook about the **Common Inspection Framework for further education and skills provision** (Sept '09) is available on the **[Ofsted website](#)**.

## **LIFELONG LEARNING**

Find out about the latest **[European Lifelong Learning Programme opportunities](#)**, how you can benefit from trans-national partnerships, European study visits, work shadowing and much more, through programmes such as Comenius, Erasmus, Leonardo, and Grundtvig. Download a copy of the **latest edition** of the **[edUKation newsletter](#)** for further information.

"**Sign Up Now**" is the 'sister' campaign of NIACE's Adult Learners' Week and will run throughout September 2009 and January 2010. Its aim is to motivate potential learners to sign up for courses through national PR, advocacy and branding opportunities. Read more **[here](#)**.

### **Skills-Third Sector : New Forum**

Skills-Third Sector is the new independent, sector-led organisation for the sector, which has been established to enable people in third sector organisations to develop their learning and skills, so they can make an ever-growing contribution to their communities. The website **[www.skills-thirdsector.org.uk](http://www.skills-thirdsector.org.uk)** has a **new Forum area** and is looking to get discussions started on the key issues for the sector.

**Julie Wilkes** has been appointed as the **Director of Skills-Third Sector** - **[read more](#)**.

### **[One-stop shop for third sector-BIS collaboration](#)** (9 Sept '09)

A useful guide for the third sector has been published by the **Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS)**, detailing the mechanisms through which it interacts with employers and learners in the third sector.

### **Third Sector fears over abolition of Learning and Skills Council**

(Third Sector Magazine, 24 Aug '09)

Third sector learning providers could be at a disadvantage if the government agencies expected to replace the Learning and Skills Council next year offer larger contracts and introduce stricter rules on bidding in consortia, sector experts have warned, reports **David Ainsworth**.

Download your copy of the **DBIS Final Report** on "**Evaluating the Impact of Skills for Life Provision: A Survey of Adult Learners on College-based Literacy and Numeracy Courses**" (**Oct '09**)

### **Resources available:**

**Campaign says 'thank you' to further education workforce** (LLUK, 29 Sept '09)

"Over 2.8 million people have improved their basic skills because of the hard work of our colleagues in FE across the country". If you work in further education, check out the campaign website [www.feworks.org](http://www.feworks.org), where you'll be able to find a whole range of resources and material that you and your organisation can use in your own communications.

### **Guides on the Excellence Gateway**

- **Learning revolution "to improve mental health"** (10 Sept '09)
- **Ten new "Quick Reads" to transform lives** (5 Oct '09)
- **BBC Learning Campaign "My Story" to get the nation reading and writing** (16 Oct '09)

### **and sign up for training**

**Community Learning Champion's Support Programme** - a new initiative to support volunteers promote informal learning as part of the Government's "**Learning Revolution**" campaign (9 Oct '09)

**LSIS QCF & Foundation Learning Champions' Training**. If you haven't registered yet there are still places remaining in a choice of locations.

**Grants for Sfl research** - the **LSIS Skills for Life Support Programme** invites literacy, numeracy and ESOL teacher trainers to explore and improve their practice, developing resources to share and building a sustainable, mutually supportive professional community.

Read the latest news from NIACE [here](#).

## **EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT**

### **Diploma & 14-19 News:**

**A new Diploma Support package** is now available for everyone involved in Diploma delivery, at any stage - from those just starting to plan, to those in full implementation and beyond. (*Excellence Gateway, 18 Sept '09*)

**An Association of Colleges (AoC) Survey** (26 Oct '09) completed by 133 Colleges has shown continuing support for the Diploma qualification while highlighting some concerns during the first year of delivery.

## Diploma & 14-19 News cont.

[Colleges unfazed by Diploma teething problems](#) (FE News, 27 Oct '09). Colleges are supportive of Diplomas despite teething problems; but there is controversy, with an **AoC Survey** reporting that [Diplomas are too difficult for pupils](#) (The Guardian, 27 Oct '09). **A Government advert** which claimed the new Diploma would get teenagers into "any university" has been ruled [misleading by the official watchdog](#) (BBC News, 27 Oct '09).

[Edexcel's Policy Watch](#) (2009/40 - 10 Sept '09) provides an **overview and comment on the 14-19 reforms**.

**The 14-19 Shake-Up - National Debates:** The **Learning & Skills Network (LSN)** is running a series of national debates throughout November & December '09, giving senior professionals a chance to have their say. [Read more ..](#)

**Apprenticeships:** A record 234,000 people started apprenticeships in the 2008/09 academic year (SLIM, 23 Oct '09). [More on this story ...](#)

**National Apprenticeship Week** runs from **1-5 February 2010** and celebrates the value of Apprenticeships - [why not get involved!](#)

**Train to Gain is reviewed, with various organisations suggesting how the fund should be re-directed:**

**Review of Train to Gain Published** - money must be directed to areas of greatest need. [Click here to download a copy of the National Audit Office report.](#)

[Train to Gain delays thwart recovery](#) (SW Forum, 14 Oct '09)

A gap in funding is hampering efforts to train workers for an economic upturn under the government's biggest skills programme, according to the **Association of Learning Providers (ALP)**.

[Flexible New Deal \(FND\) to struggle without Train to Gain support](#) (FE News, 30 Sept '09)

[Use Train to Gain cash to send young to college, urges report](#) - **LSN** says employers should part-fund staff training to expand 16-24 provision. (TES, 25 Sept '09)

## LSIS Guides & Seminars:

[Free management toolkits](#) to help learning and skills providers raise standards in three key sectors - adult & community learning; work-based learning; and independent specialist colleges. (28 Oct '09)

[New guides to LSIS services 2009-10 published](#) (23 Oct '09)

[New series of "Hot Topic" Seminars for ACL leaders announced](#) - **book your place now!** (23 Oct '09)

## NEETs:

[Major step towards raising the age of participation of young people in learning](#)

**DCSF** trials launched in 11 areas with a focus on supporting NEETs to re-engage. (SLIM, 22 Oct '09)

[UK Neets rule Europe](#) (TES, 11 Sept '09)

The number of UK teenagers with no job and not in education outstrips the EU average, according to figures from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation.

## New Initiatives:

[Employers join forces](#) (TES, 16 Oct '09) Major employers ranging from the Ministry of Defence to McDonald's are represented on a new reference group for the Skills Funding Agency (SFA).

## New Initiatives cont.

[Government launches Education and Employers Taskforce](#) (FE News, 16 Oct '09)

A new Independent Taskforce has been established to ensure all young people benefit from effective education-employer partnerships

[Peter Jones's National Enterprise Academy opens its doors to train the next generation of entrepreneurs](#) (DBIS, 21 Sept '09)

## E-LEARNING

**Lifelong Learning UK** has produced a series of [guides](#) to help those working in the sector to apply the use of technology in their professional practice.

**Three new JISC publications**, [Responding to Learners](#); [Managing Curriculum Change](#); and [Learning Literacies for a Digital Age](#) put learners at the heart of curriculum design.

JISC has also updated its e-book [The e-Revolution and Post-Compulsory Education: Using e-Business Models to deliver Quality Education](#); and has also joined up with [Content Complete](#) to increase digital resourcing.

If you want to have your say about e-books in FE compete the survey [here](#). (*You could win a £25 Amazon voucher*).

[An online university - with no fees](#) (The Guardian, 6 Oct '09)

A new university offers access to a wide variety of people, largely thanks to academic volunteers.

## INSTITUTE FOR LEARNING (IfL)

[2008/09 IfL Impact Review](#) (IfL, 16 Oct '09)

IfL has produced its first Impact review, highlighting work with and for members as part of the Five-Year Strategic Plan.

[Members vote for more teacher and trainer representation on IfL Council](#) (8 Sept '09)

At IfL's AGM in September fellows of the professional body voted in favour of these special resolutions.

## FURTHER EDUCATION

[Colleges feel the funding squeeze](#) (The Guardian, 27 Oct '09)

A surge in demand for places has put a huge strain on FE colleges, whose budgets are suffering, writes **Andrew Mourant**.

[Why FE is feeling its age?](#) (TES, 2 Oct '09)

With 50% of further education staff now over 45, the sector will soon need a transfusion of young blood to safeguard its future, reports **Alan Thomson**.

[Scaling the wall of equality](#) (TES, 9 Oct '09)

Longstanding rules have prevented college lecturers from teaching in schools; but, as **Joseph Lee** reports, an education 'common market' may not be far off.

[FE Titanic approaches the iceberg of MoG](#) (FE News, 28 Oct '09)

Six months to go until the powers underpinning further education are decentralised and devolve to local government, writes **David Grailey, Chief Executive of NCFE**.

[Manifestos make case for radical FE rethink](#) (TES, 16 Oct '09)

With the forthcoming general election in their sights, the **157 Group and Association of Colleges** pitch their ideas for a less bureaucratic and better funded future, says **Alun Thomson**.

[£130m quango budget should go to colleges](#) (TES, 30 Oct '09)

**The UK Commission for Employment & Skills (UKCES)** for wants to sweep away central quality bodies and let students rate course satisfaction. Further education's improvement quangos should be phased out over three years and their budgets of £130m handed direct to colleges and training providers, ministers have been told.

[Subscribe now](#) for your copy of the **FE and Skills E-newsletter from BIS**.

### Resources on the Excellence Gateway:

[New guide encourages people to work in FE](#) - **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.

[Subject coaching networks - book your place now](#) - a series of one-day subject coaching networks are being held this **Autumn** by the **LSIS Subject Learning Coach Programme**.

### LSIS Guides:

[Career learning for the 21st century - a leadership issue for the FE sector](#) (2 Sept '09)

[LSIS research into performance management in FE](#) (16 Sept '09)

LSIS is seeking line managers, from junior to senior positions, in the further education and skills sector to take part in a research project into current performance management practices.

[Build your organisational and team effectiveness with Leaders as Coaches](#) - coaching programme (28 Oct '09)

LSIS is supporting providers in preparing themselves for the **new Ofsted inspection process** with **workshops** on [Building and Demonstrating Capacity](#) (14 Oct '09) and an online [Self-assessment and Improvement Planning guide](#) (22 Sept '09).

A new website, [SORTED](#), provides advice and a toolkit for embedding sustainable development in the curriculum. (EAUC, 19 Oct '09)

[New guidance shows the way to improve equality and diversity practices](#) (LSC, 13 Oct '09)

**The Learning & Skills Council (LSC) and the Learning & Skills Improvement Service (LSIS)** have jointly published guidance for FE colleges and providers, to help them to self-assess equality and diversity.

## Guides for Management:

Increasing income with smarter fees - the [Smarter Fees Policy Toolkit](#) and the [Employer Contributions Toolkit](#) will be extremely useful to most colleges and further education providers, enabling them to think systematically about setting course fees, increasing value and maximising income. (Excellence Gateway)

## [WorldSkills UK](#)

The United Kingdom finished 7th in the global rankings at this year's WorldSkills held in Calgary. London will be the host for the next WorldSkills in 2011. [Your Country Needs You!](#) - sign up now for the chance to compete in 2011.

## HIGHER EDUCATION

Statistics show [more students on degree courses](#). (BBC News, 21 Oct '09)

### **"Stronger together: businesses and universities in turbulent times"**

Business has to step up to the challenge, as does the higher education sector, in providing highly employable graduates and value for money ... and Government must provide the incentives, framework and funding necessary for sustainable success, says a **report by the CBI Higher Education Taskforce (Sept '09)** - [click here to download a copy](#).

### [Universities split on A-level A\\* forecasts](#) (The Guardian, 8 Oct '09)

Mixed messages given to A-level teachers could deprive some students of offers from leading universities, reports **Jessica Shepherd**.

### [University standards row deepens](#) (The Guardian, 20 Oct '09)

**HEFCE** defends universities against claims of dumbing down and plagiarism - but the critics remain ruffled, writes **Rachel Williams**.

### [UUK's new president plans to tackle university funding](#) (The Guardian, 8 Sept '09)

In his first interview since becoming the frontman for UK Universities, **Steve Smith** outlines his plans.

### [Higher education quangos may face the axe - but which ones should go?](#)

(The Guardian, 22 Sept '09)

**Peter Mandelson** plans a review of higher education quangos with a view to reducing duplication of effort.

[University systems need a revamp, says higher education agency](#), but cautious report comes in for immediate condemnation by chair of universities' select committee, **Phil Willis**. (The Guardian, 1 Oct '09)

## REGIONAL NEWS & NETWORKS

### [It's a 'go' for new Flybe Training Academy!](#) (SWRDA, 9 Sept '09)

Flybe's £24m Training Academy, an initiative of national and local significance backed by the South West Regional Development Agency (RDA), has been cleared for takeoff.

### [South West continues to say 'You're hired' to apprentices](#) (NAS, 1 Sept '09)

### [New Initiative Gives Apprentices Advice Straight from the Horse's Mouth](#) (LSC SW, 2 Sept '09)

The **National Apprenticeship Service (NAS)** is working partnership with **horsesmouth.co.uk** to provide an informal online mentoring service for apprentices.

### [ApprenticeshipPlus](#) (Triangle, 22 Oct '09)

A new pilot project has been set up to aid the success of apprenticeships in the South West of England from September 2009.

### [New VISTA training programme](#) (SW Forum, 12 Sept '09)

VISTA are pleased to announce the arrival of their new programme of courses and FREE business support for Autumn '09.

### [Careers South West takes nextstep forward](#) (LSC SW, 14 Oct '09)

Careers South West Ltd has been asked by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to expand its nextstep career advice service across the whole of the region through a host of activities.

### [UUK's new president plans to tackle university funding](#) (The Guardian, 8 Sept '09)

In his first interview since becoming the frontman for UK Universities, **Steve Smith** outlines his plans.

## Local Successes:

### [Weymouth College Excels with Apprenticeships](#) (LSC SW, 6 Oct '09)

As an increasing number of employers turn to the Apprenticeship method of training their workforce, Weymouth College is rising to the challenge with impressive results.

[FINAL LEAP Dorset](#) (LSC SW, 2 Oct '09) - Career prospects for Dorset teenagers are improving thanks to a successful programme that is geared towards helping youngsters recognise their own abilities and empowering them to use them.

### [College training coup with engineering firm](#) (Plymouth Herald, 30 sept '09)

South Devon's largest privately-owned engineering company, **Centrax**, has moved its apprenticeship training contract to **South Devon College**, lured by the outstanding training and facilities offered by the Vantage Point Campus.

### [Honours for skilled Bridgwater College students](#) (Bridgwater Mercury, 15 Oct '09)

Three **Bridgwater College** students have been honoured at the **Skills Build National Finals**.

### [A great piece of news for A-grade students](#) (Plymouth Herald, 15 Oct '09)

**Early Years students at Cornwall College (Saltash)** are among the highest achievers in England in their studies.

## Local Successes cont.

[College gets BDA OK](#) (TES, 18 Sept '09)

**Gloucestershire College** has earned a quality mark from the British Dyslexia Association (BDA) in recognition of its work supporting students with the disability.

[Weymouth apprentice carves out name for himself](#) (Dorset Echo, 28 Sept '09)

**Weymouth College** student, Oliver Clack, has won a Medal of Excellence at the WorldSkills 2009 in Calgary for his expertise in stonemasonry.

**SLIM Comment (Edition 31 - 14 Sept '09)** "[Future Skills and Employment Policy](#)" looks at each party's proposals and includes a number of links to useful articles and information.

[South West STEM Reports](#) on the state of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) in the region.

## HERDA - South West:

As 5 November '09 HERDA – SW will change its name to [Universities South West](#)

### New Leadership Report Available

The report "[Employer Engagement with Higher Education: Defining, Sustaining and Supporting Higher Skills Provision](#)" (July '09), is now complete and available to view. It forms part of the region's look at Higher Level Skills.

**The South West Observatory** is running a "**Skills for the Future**" Policy Seminar on **24 February '10 in Bristol** - [click here](#) for more information and to reserve a place.

[Higher comes closer](#) (TES, 16 Oct '09)

More people will be able to access HE locally in the new University centres to be set up across **Somerset** with the help of five local colleges.

## LSW NEWS & EVENTS

**New Level 3 & 4 QCF qualifications from ABC Awards in working with vulnerable young people** have been developed with the primary aim of enabling learners to acquire the depth of skills and underpinning knowledge to support progress into further education/training or employment, in association with Skills for Justice.

To find out more, please contact **Tracy Harker, Business Development Manager, ABC Awards**, tel: (01823) 365434 or 07854 991979 / e-mail: [tracyh@abcawards.co.uk](mailto:tracyh@abcawards.co.uk)

## **Learning South West is delighted to be co-ordinating Adult Learners' Week 2010 in the South West Region.**

Adult Learners' Week, the UK's largest and longest running learning campaign, will take place from 15-21 May 2010.

**Nominations are now open for the 2010 Awards.** If you know of an adult learner, group, family or project that opens doors to learning which would really inspire others by their learning journey, [download or fill the online form](#) to nominate them by **29 January '10**.

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](mailto:alw@learning-southwest.org.uk) or call **(01823) 347955**.

## **Learning Opportunities Fair's a Winner!**

Over 75 delegates from across the South West attended our first Learning Opportunities Fair at Dillington House in September to find out more about regional support programmes, discuss progress and approaches, and network. The day was about participation and exploring ways we can support and sustain innovation in a rapidly changing environment and included a range of interactive workshops and 'surgeries', offering delegates the chance to discuss, plan and prioritise how to manage opportunities available in the region.

A very popular "market place" also gave colleagues the opportunity to meet representatives from key national programmes with a regional presence.

Paula Jones, Chief Executive of Learning South West, said: "*The demand from delegates for a regional showcase such as this means that we will be running another fair next year*".

## **Forthcoming Professional Development Opportunities:**

Professional Formation - Applying for QTLS/ATLS	Tuesday 1 December '09
Subject-Specific Networking Event for New Teachers undertaking ITT Programmes focussing on Functional Skills	Friday 11 December '09
South West Regional Senior Curriculum Managers' Forum	Monday 18 January '09
Professional Formation - Applying for QTLS/ATLS	Thursday 28 January '10
LLUK Advice & Guidance Sessions	Thursday 28 January '10
Regional Skills for Life Conference: "Skills for Life - Future Directions"	late Jan/early Feb '10
Subject-Specific Networking Event for New Teachers undertaking ITT Programmes in Health & Social Care	Monday 8 February '10
Inclusion Forum	Tuesday 9 February '10
South West Regional Teacher Education Forum	Wednesday 10 February '10

**If you would like further information about any of these events please e-mail:**  
[events@learning-southwest.org.uk](mailto:events@learning-southwest.org.uk)