

### Issue 6 - May 2010

So finally the dust is settling after the election and we are beginning to explore the new education and training landscape. **Michael Gove** is the new Education Secretary - of the [Department of Education](#), (there is something familiar about this 'new landscape'). Click [here](#) for information on further ministerial responsibilities for the new [Department of Education](#) and for [BIS](#).

A radical overhaul of the country's schools is promised with an [Education Bill within weeks](#).

We recommend that you read [Policy Watch](#) (16 May '10) for "**What does the coalition agreement mean for the world of education?**". As always, this gives a sharp and succinct overview of current events and policies in education.

At a regional level the SWitch Centre for Excellence in Teacher Training has merged with the Peninsula CETT to form the [South West Centre for Excellence in Teacher Training \(SWCETT\)](#) - a dynamic partnership to support and promote training for the post-16 education workforce in the region. The new partnership, co-ordinated by Learning South West, will act as a focus for Initial Teacher Training (ITT) and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for teachers and other staff working with post-16 learners.

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## NATIONAL NEWS

### FUNDING & CHANGES

Goodbye to the **Learning & Skills Council** - "[Mega quango's fall gives rise to new beginning](#)" (TES, 2 April '10) and hello to the:

- [Skills Funding Agency \(SFA\)](#), which publishes a weekly [Update](#) of news and views for the Sector. A recent publication from SFA is the [Guidance Note on "Managing Train to Gain and Apprenticeships funding from 2009-10"](#).
- [Young People's Learning Agency \(YPLA\)](#) - click here for more information on [Board Members](#) and [details of future funding arrangements for 16-19 education and training in England](#).

[Common core refreshed to meet the needs of today's workforce](#) (LLUK, 30 March '10)

**The Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC)** has launched a refresh of the common core of skills and knowledge that everyone working with children, young people and families should have.

**Endorsement of teacher training qualifications** for teachers, tutors and trainers in the Lifelong Learning Sector in England will become the responsibility of the Secretary of State. Click [here](#) for information on transitional arrangements 2010-2011. (SVUK)

[UK Commission takes over ownership of IiP](#) (UKCES, 1 April '10)

Strategic ownership of the Investors in People (IiP) framework has transferred to the UK Commission for Employment and Skills.

[Qualifications boom pays off for billion-pound exam boards](#) - size of market balloons but colleges are not benefiting from increased efficiency, reports Joseph Lee in the TES (26 March '10).

Every learning and skills provider funded through the LSC/Skills Funding Agency is now able to benefit from a [new LSIS Account](#). (24 March '10)

[Important Changes to FE Recruitment and Retention Incentives](#) (Skills for Life Network)

Ministers have approved proposals to implement a "Fee grant" arrangement from 2010/11, which will continue to support individual fee costs for those on Part-time, In-service DTLLS and Skills for Life related courses.

### LIFELONG LEARNING

**Funding cuts and new policies threaten lifelong learning:**

[New numeracy and literacy plan makes adults 'invisible'](#) - pupil-focused Skills for Life substitute will damage success in workplaces, warn training providers. (TES, 9 April '10)

[Cuts likely to hit adults with few qualifications](#) - one in four places to go in adult education cull, with costly and low-success courses probable targets. (TES, 2 April '10)

### Funding cuts and new policies cont:

[Committee slams cost of bureaucratic change that denies adults chance to boost skills](#)  
(TES, 9 April '10)

### Reports on lifelong learning:

[Sector Skills Assessment](#) - identifying the skills needs and priorities within the areas of work covered by lifelong learning. (LLUK, Jan '10)

[Teacher training in vocational education](#) - report recommends professional convergence of the two separate teacher training regimes, academic and vocational, in the post 16 sector. (The Skills Commission)

[Measuring the returns to lifelong learning](#)

(Centre for the Economics of Education, London School of Economics, March '10)

[The Benefits of Youth Work](#) - an LLUK report that sets out why youth work is so important. (28 April '10)

[New research reveals sector workforce growing despite recession](#)

(Skills Third Sector, 27 April '10)

[Supporting ambition in our young people: councils and young people aged 14-19](#)

How councils will use the transfer of power and funding from the national level to ensure young people are given the opportunity to pursue their ambitions and fulfil their potential. (Local Government Association)

### Office of the Third Sector:

[New reports help develop better understanding of third sector](#) (10 March '10)

[Advisor recognises importance of third sector innovation in education and learning](#) (25 March '10)

[Budget 2010 announcements for the third sector](#) (25 March '10)

### EU Lifelong Learning Programmes:

[Funding opportunity: support European co-operation in Education and Training \(ECET\)](#) (6 April '10)

National and local government organisations, public bodies and stakeholders from the education and training sector can now apply for funding to support European objectives to make lifelong learning a reality for European citizens. **Deadline for applications: 16 July '10**

[CEDEFOP celebrating 35 years of excellence](#) (17 March '10)

This year the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP) is celebrating 35 years of promoting and developing vocational education and training (VET) in the European Union (EU).

### Resources:

[Making it work: a practical guide to effective delivery of Skills for Life in workplace learning](#)

This **LSIS guide** is the outcome of development work undertaken in 2009 by 38 colleges and training providers who were delivering Skills for Life provision to employers through Train to Gain.

### NIACE Resources:

- [NIACE reports increase in numbers of adult learners](#), with a rise of 3% from 2009. (BBC Education, 13 May '10)
- [Quick Reads transform reading habits](#) - new research from NIACE shows the dramatic impact Quick Reads are having in literacy classes and in the workplace. (3 March '10)
- [The continuing relevance of continuing education](#) (12 March '10)
- [Supporting adults with learning difficulties](#) (23 March '10)

### [600 organisations register interest in NEETs research](#) (NIACE, 10 March '10)

Almost 600 organisations have registered their interest in taking part in a **NIACE research programme** looking into the experiences of young people and adults who are not in education, employment or training.

## EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT

[Employees get right to request training from today](#) (whitehallpages.net, 6 Apr 2010) ... but a study by **research firm IRS** reveals that [time off for training regulations a mystery to a fifth of employers](#) (Personnel Today, 3 March '10).

### [Government funded research claims 20% of 16-19 year olds lack basic skills](#)

(TES, 7 May '10)

### Diplomas:

[Applied learning brought to life](#) in a series of booklets covering each level in the Phase 2 Diplomas. The new documents add to an existing brochure which includes [case studies](#) for the Phase 1 Diplomas. (QCDA, 1 March '10)

Curriculum planners urged to use the [latest version of the additional and specialist learning \(ASL\) catalogues](#) which have recently been published. [The National Database of Accredited Qualifications \(NDAQ\)](#) now holds catalogues for all Phase 1 and 2 Diploma lines of learning, available for teaching now, and all Phase 3 lines of learning, available for first teaching from September 2010. (QCDA, 10 March '10)

[New ASL guide](#) brings together the key messages about ASL and offers a series of case studies showing ASL in practice. (QCDA,

[Additional & Specialist Learning: a guide to planning for Diploma programmes](#) is designed to help staff in local authorities, consortia and other practitioners develop their planning and delivery of ASL at a local level. (QCDA, 17 March '10)

[New online publication - "Delivering Diplomas"](#) provides practical advice and support to anyone working in delivery consortia and partnerships, including secondary teachers and heads, college lecturers and principals, and employers.

[Hospitality Diploma a resounding success](#) according to teachers and lecturers polled by **People 1<sup>st</sup>**. (Excellence Gateway, 8 March '10)

### Ofsted:

**Talisman** - Ofsted's free newspaper for employers and learners in the learning and skills sector.

- [Talisman 84](#) (29 March '10) focuses on NEETs
- [Talisman 83](#) (4 March '10) focuses on sustainable development and includes a readers' survey

### **Ofsted cont:**

[New examples published in Ofsted's Good Practice Database](#) helping you to start your quality improvement journey with confidence. (Excellence Gateway, 9 March '10)

Update of Ofsted's [factsheet about CRB \(Criminal Record Bureau\) checks](#) (20 April '10) gives the latest position on using existing check documents, and including whether or not education and training providers should employ someone before they have obtained a CRB check.

[City & Guilds Assessor and Verifier Units](#) - details of the new Assessment and Qualification Assurance Qualifications. (1 April '10)

### **Ofqual News:**

[Ofqual publishes two reports from its Reliability Programme](#) - research into the reliability of assessment methods. (Excellence Gateway, 10 March '10)

[Ofqual Report \(March '10\): "Maintaining standards in on-demand testing using items response theory"](#) (Excellence Gateway)

[Ofqual Report \(March '10\): "Regulatory Research into on-demand testing"](#) (Excellence Gateway)

[Ofqual publishes Annual Market Report](#) (Excellence Gateway, 22 March '10)

[Public attitudes towards A-levels and GCSEs remain positive](#), survey finds. (Excellence Gateway, 19 March '10)

### **Lifelong Learning UK:**

[Employability application guide arrives](#) - defines the skills, knowledge and understanding that any teacher, tutor or trainer will need to support the development of employability skills in their learners. (6 May '10)

[2009-10 Further Education Research Reports](#) (6 May '10)

[Additional further education video case studies released](#) (6 May '10)

[New qualifications for people delivering career guidance to adults](#) (6 May '10)

Aimed at those delivering career guidance to adults in England, this framework of three new qualifications will help to train staff and encourage progression within the sector.

[New Interim Chief Executive for Lifelong Learning UK](#)

**Sue Dutton** formally took over as Interim Chief Executive of LLUK on 16 April '10.

[Are all your staff qualified?](#) (30 April '10)

The General Professional Recognition Learning and Skills (England) Scheme (GPRLS) is still an option for those who are experienced and competent teachers tutors and trainers.

[Want to know more about Career Guidance?](#) (29 April '10)

Over the 12 months since Career Guidance became part of LLUK's footprint a lot of work has been done to help support the career guidance workforce across the UK.

[Assuring the quality of assessment](#) (Excellence Gateway, 16 April '10)

LLUK has released new guidance for 'assessing and assuring the quality of assessment'. This has been produced as a guide to the new qualifications developed for the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF), which cover assessment and the quality assurance of assessment.

**"Mastering Assessment"** (Excellence Gateway, 22 April '10)

A **new MEd course** aimed at those with an interest in developing their understanding and expertise in assessment in education is being introduced in October 2010.

#### **NEETs:**

**Tackling the NEET problem - how local authorities are getting young people back into education, employment and training**, an **Ofsted report**. (Excellence Gateway, 17 March '10)

**NEETs on the move** (TES, 15 March '10)

The number of 16 to 18 year olds not in employment, education or training fell to 177,000 in the last quarter of 2009.

**NEETs must get benefit support, say MPs** (TES, 9 April '10)

**No need to go Dutch for top-quality NEET support** (TES, 30 April '10)

Why did MPs feel it necessary to travel to the Netherlands to learn about the support that can be offered to NEETs?

#### **Train to Gain:**

**One million employees get skills boost with train to gain** (4 March 2010)

**Train to Gain is money well spent** and has helped thousands of employers and employees, says an article in **The Guardian** (6 April '10).

#### **Research & Proposals on the Development of Employment Skills:**

**Skills for Jobs: Today and Tomorrow - The National Strategic Skills Audit for England 2010 - Volume 1: Key Findings** (March 2010)

**UKCES publication** that aims to provide a greater insight and foresight into England's existing and future skill needs.

**Employability Skills: A Research and Policy Briefing** (UKCES, April 2010)

**Contributing to the Debate: Assessing the UK Evidence Base on Employment and Skills** (UKCES, April 2010)

#### **EU Sector reports now available online:**

**Transversal analysis on the evolution of skills needs in 19 economic sectors** (9 March '10)

and, **Sector councils on employment and skills at EU level - A study into their feasibility and potential impact** (25 March '10)

They are also available on **Anticipedia**.

**National Employer Skills Survey for England 2009** - key findings report on current skills issues affecting employers in England. (UKCES, March 2010)

**"Fuelling Potential"** (BIS, March 2010)

A blueprint for skills accounts and the adult advancement and careers service, setting out the core principles that will underpin the operation of the policies, how they will work, and the plans for implementation.

### [Poor numeracy is a problem we must tackle now](#)

Poor numeracy is affecting the life chances of children and adults alike, says an article in **The Guardian**, 27 April '10.

### [Education and employers join forces to improve youngsters' life skills](#)

**ODCA** has launched a new qualification to provide young people with essential life skills to help them succeed in further education or employment. (Excellence Gateway, 10 March '10)

### [Skills to fuel growth in key new industries](#) (The National Skills Academy, 17 March '10)

New National Skills Academies to cover five new sectors.

### [Simpler skills system formally comes into effect](#) (whitehallpages.net, 1 April '10)

New system for allocating government funding to further education and training in England.

### **Apprenticeships:**

[Apprentices start benefiting from AGE 16 and 17](#) - excellent response to the Apprenticeship Grant for Employers (AGE). (NAS, March 2010)

[Apprenticeship pay and National Minimum Wage](#) - all apprentices in the United Kingdom must now be paid at least £2.50 an hour. (NAS, 25 March '10)

...and 'Dragon', **Peter Jones**, advocates a broader scheme combining entrepreneurship and business skills, led by education providers and supported by several employers rather than one. ["Let's breathe new life into apprenticeships"](#) (The Guardian, 20 April '10)

### [Opening the door to apprenticeships: reaching young people who are disadvantaged and disengaged from apprenticeships.](#)

A report produced by [The Young Foundation](#) on the Apprenticeship Pathfinder Project discussing barriers that prevent young people from accessing the Apprenticeship pathway.

### [Is business ready for an ageing nation?](#) (BIS, March 2010)

Analysis of economic opportunities and challenges of an ageing population.

[LSC boss, Geoff Russell, is education's best paid with £258K a year](#) according to a **TES Survey** published 19 March '10, but its not clear how long he will remain the highest paid when he takes on the role of Chief Executive at the Skills Funding Agency in April.

### [New National Minimum Wage from October 2010](#) (direct.gov.uk, 25 March '10)

## **E-LEARNING**

### [New Academy launches to drive use of mobile technology](#) (Excellence Gateway, 1 March '10)

**The Learning & Skills Network (LSN) and the Learning & Skills Council (LSC)** are championing the use of mobile technology in education by creating eight cutting-edge Academies, including **Gloucestershire College**, to support mobile learning throughout England.

[Using computer games to support learning](#) - exploring the ways in which computer games, digital games and digital learning games can be used to enhance and support teaching and learning. (wired.gov.net, 1 April '10)

[e-Skills Manifesto announced](#) (Excellence Gateway, 2 March '10)

Major employers from across the UK have joined together with [e-skills UK](#) (the Sector Skills Council for Business & IT) to set out their recommendations on how to e-skill the workforce to create sustainable economic growth.

## JISC

### National News:

- [JISC publishes latest three-year strategy](#)
- [Publisher wins award for making resources accessible to disabled people](#) (29 April '10)
- [Podcast: "Should business engage more with universities?"](#) (26 March '10)
- [Podcast: "Efficiency and effectiveness in public and private education"](#) (23 April '10)
- [Public engagement opens doors for historical research online](#) (27 April '10)

"Your country needs you" is the message from a new set of JISC projects which are appealing for everyday experiences of history to help build digital resources for the public, community organisations and researchers.

### Regional News:

- [Stress in the post-16 learning and skills sector](#) (10 March '10)
- [Partnership and Place](#) - five case studies of colleges that are playing a pivotal role in addressing a variety of social and economic issues in their local communities. (10 March '10)
- [Leadership and e-learning programmes provided by LSIS](#) (8 April '10)
- [Network Promoting E-learning for Rural Development](#) (7 April '10)

**Issue 17 of the JISC RSC SW Newsletter (May '10)** has been published and is available to view [here](#).

### Resources:

[Online toolkit for a workforce development strategy](#): **FE BROWSE** is a new online toolkit to help managers build a workforce development strategy for their staff. (Excellence Gateway, 23 March '10)

## INSTITUTE FOR LEARNING (IfL)

[IfL Membership renewal - it's not too late](#), simply login and complete the short form.

The [Mind the Gap - Research and Reality in Practical and Vocational Education](#) report was recently published by the [Edge Foundation](#) alongside [Bodies of knowledge - how the learning sciences could transform practical and vocational education](#).

The report highlights the value of practical and vocational education, despite this being poorly recognised in comparison with academic fields

## Podcasts:

*IfL's new series of regular podcasts focus on a range of aspects on the work of IfL and how members can contribute.*

- [How does IfL listen to members and use the voice of the membership to influence policy?](#) (15 April '10)
- [Member voice](#)  
As we focus on member voice, watch this website for podcasts, our member video and ideas for getting involved with IfL's work. We want to know how you want your voice to be heard.

## FURTHER EDUCATION

### Funding Issues:

[Cash cuts will rip hole in FE's recession recovery formula](#), says **Association of Colleges**. (TES, 5 March '10)

[Viability in doubt for 100 'vulnerable' colleges](#) - cuts of 20% over next three years could cause some providers to go under, **TES report** warns. (19 March '10)

[Topping up: colleges look for fees to hand back what cuts have taken away](#)

FE providers have been told to get on with filling the gap in public funds by charging more; but in reality it is not that easy, finds **Joseph Lee** in the TES, 12 March '10.

[Leaner and fitter, but at what cost?](#) (TES, 30 April '10)

... and a variety of suggested solutions:

[The best option is often to share services](#) says **LSN's John Stone**. (TES, 26 March '10)

[Demand-led FE funding system needed](#), says **Association of Learning Providers**. (TES, 26 March '10)

[Bigger doesn't always mean better colleges](#) (TES, 16 April '10)

[Further education 'needs HE makeover'](#) (12 March '10)

[Colleges urged to outsource services and save thousands](#), by **Becta**. (TES, 12 March '10)

[1.7m staff lack skills to do the job](#) - largest knowledge gap for seven years presents colleges and training providers with an opportunity. (TES, 12 March '10)

[Students take pride of place in 16-19 framework](#) (TES, 9 April '10)

Students have been placed at the heart of 16-19 education and training by the new **National Commissioning Framework (NCF)**.

### Resources:

[Catalyst resources available](#) (LLUK, 30 March '10)

Catalyst the recruitment and development support programme managed by **Lifelong Learning UK** has made its resources available [online](#).

[Mental Health Matters: FE Teachers Toolkit](#) (NIACE, April 2010)

A free resource from **NIACE** to help further education teachers deliver learning to people with mental health problems.

[How to survive FE](#) (UCU, 20 April '10)

A comprehensive survival guide for new staff in further and higher education has been published by the **University and College Union**.

## HIGHER EDUCATION

### Cuts:

[Universities fear extra cuts are in the offing](#) (The Guardian, 12 May '10)

Universities fear the new Government could announce millions of pounds in extra cuts to higher education as early as next month, which they say would play havoc with their budgets for this year.

[How much will my university be cut by?](#) - details of cuts to university budgets.

(Guardian Datablog, 18 March 2010)

[Doubts raised about the long-term sustainability of Foundation Degrees](#) (THE, 8 April '10)

### Issues:

[British education is in danger of losing its appeal](#) - rising costs for overseas students could well mean that we lose them to foreign competition. (The Guardian, 16 March '10)

[Higher education institutions need to tackle their skills shortages](#) (LLUK, 19 March '10)

[Why university standards have fallen](#) (The Guardian, 10 March '10)

[The expansion of higher education is a key element in our democracy](#)

(The Guardian, 16 March '10)

[University students expect to graduate with debts in excess of £15,000](#)

(The Guardian, 18 March '10)

[Admissions tutors face squeeze on university places](#) (The Guardian, 13 April '10)

University staff are being torn between their concern to be fair to applicants and pressure to limit student numbers.

[Audit predicts more student loan processing delays](#) (The Guardian, 19 March '10)

[Don't destroy our universities - our future depends on them.](#) With knowledge-intensive work growing ever more important, the Government must rethink its stance on university cuts, writes **Will Hutton** in **The Observer**, 21 March '10.

[We must not make some students less attractive than others.](#) Students' ability must dictate whether they get a university place, not their family income. (The Guardian, 30 March '10)

[Funding delays hit disabled students](#) (The Guardian, 6 April '10)

### JISC HE Resources:

- [Podcast: "The financing of higher education"](#) (2 March '10)
- [Toolkit helps universities keep identity safe online](#) (16 March '10)
- [Online resource gives freshers real picture of university life](#) (22 April '10)

### News:

ABC Awards [Level 3 & Level 4 Diplomas in Foundation Studies Art, Design & Media now on the QCF](#) (18 March '10)

[Times HE Awards](#) - the glittering prizes.

## REGIONAL NEWS & NETWORKS

### Awards:

**National Star College, Cheltenham wins prize for use of technology** (SW Business, 9 March '10)

**City College Plymouth employee gains award** for 'outstanding achievement' in delivering City & Guilds Level 1 in personal development and 'contributing to the community'.  
(Plymouth Herald, 9 March '10)

**Yeovil College students win at Somerset Education Business Awards**

(Yeovil Express, 26 March '10)

### Reports:

**State of the South West 2010** - launched to coincide with the South West Observatory's **Annual Conference** (31 March '10), **this** report details the key themes and trends from throughout the South West.

**South West RDA** (Regional Development Agency) **Annual Update to Stakeholders** (April 2010)

### Initiatives:

**First apprentice recruited in Somerset under grant incentive for employers**

(NAS, 5 March '10)

**College helps small firms to build a network** - **Norton Radstock College** are helping to build support networks for nature-based activity businesses in local rural locations.

(Excellence Gateway, 13 April '10)

**£25 million project to boost Plymouth's position as a global leader in science, innovation and marine research** (SWRDA, 18 March '10)

**Training with your local college** - **AoC South West** has expanded its operation in the South West and developed a new **website** to inform employers and employees on ways their local FE College can help them.

**Universities South West appears in the House Magazine**, with an advertorial to illustrate the success that collaboration between universities, businesses and partner organisations is having in the South West. (24 March '10)

**South West Design Forum launch the innovative "Design Buddy"**, giving final year design students an industry mentor to help them understand the industry, develop their portfolios and hone their skills. (Universities SW, 24 March '10)

**Korean training links** (TES, 12 March '10)

**City College Plymouth** is celebrating its selection as a one of the UK colleges helping to develop vocational training links with Korea.

### Opportunities & Resources:

**Education funding cuts to impact on third sector** - contribute to the mapping of the impact of funding cuts. **NIACE and the Third Sector National Learning Alliance** are seeking information to take to the LSC. (SW Forum, 5 March '10)

**Leadership and Management Skills: subsidised high-level qualification**

ILM Level 5 Award in Leadership and Management Skills - subsidised opportunities for Voluntary & Community Sector (VCS) Leaders in the South West. (SW Forum, 11 March '10) **Closing date for applications: 30 June '10**

## Opportunities & Resources cont:

### [Skills Audit: A toolkit for voluntary, community & social enterprise sector organisations](#)

Ladder4learning and Voscur formally launched a pack in March designed to encourage smaller groups to use skills audits. (SW Forum, 13 April '10)

### [Volunteer Management Courses - Apply for Bursary](#) (SW Forum, 5 May '10)

Apply for your Bursary now to pay for Lantra Level 3 Award in Volunteer Management!

**Closing date for applications: 30 June '10**

## Events:

### **JISC RSC South West Annual Conference - Thursday 24 June '10, University of Exeter**

The JISC RSC South West Annual Conference is now open for bookings. Visit the [conference page](#) for more information and to register for a place.

### **City of Bristol College Annual Research Conference 2010 - Wednesday 7 July '10**

Keynote speakers: Andrew Morris (National LSRN) and Ann Hodgson & Ken Spours (Institute of Education). Workshops to include a session on the [Children of the 90s](#) project. Click [here](#) to book your place now.

### **1<sup>st</sup> ICE House Conference: Teaching for Innovation, Creativity and Enterprise Friday 3 September '10 - University of Plymouth**

The conference will be focused around three main themes: creative problem solving, innovation skills and enterprising behaviour. Register for your place [here](#).

## LSW NEWS & EVENTS

### **South West Learning & Skills Research Network Annual Conference 2010**

*"A Road Less Travelled .. Research in the Lifelong Learning Sector"*

**Date & Venue: Thursday 8 July '10, Buckfast Abbey Conference Centre, Nr Totnes**

Registration is now open for this year's SW LSRN Conference. Our **Keynote Speaker** will be **Prof Gert Biesta of The Stirling Institute of Education**, who will lead the day with a session entitled *"research, practice and wisdom"*. The day will also include a series of [research-based presentations](#) led by colleagues from across the region, and in the afternoon there will be an opportunity for delegates to attend one of a number of [Research in Context "How to" workshops](#) led by experienced researchers in their field.

**Book your place [now!](#) The closing date for applications is: 25 June '10**

### **Adult Learners' Week 2010 South West Regional Awards Ceremony is a great success!**

Learning South West was delighted to again organise the 2010 Adult Learners' Week South West Regional Awards Ceremony. Award winners and nominees attended the event, held at Woodbury Park Hotel & Golf Club in Devon, to celebrate their amazing achievements and to share their inspirational learning journeys. **Lynda Bellingham**, actress and *'Loose Woman'*, presented the awards after treating guests to a funny, yet inspiring after dinner speech on her life, which really made the ceremony the special event that it should be. Attendance at this year's event increased by 20% compared to last year with almost 200 people at the ceremony. Learning South West was thrilled that so many of the Regional Award Winners attended and had their achievements recognised in such a memorable way; the feedback received showed what this evening had meant to all who came.

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

### ***2010 Learning Opportunities Fair***

**Date & Venue: Thursday 23 September '10, Rookery Manor, Nr Weston-super-Mare**

Following the success of our [2009 "Learning Opportunities Fair"](#), we will be offering colleagues another chance to attend this event which showcases the regional and national programme support available in the South West.

If you are interested in discussing exhibition opportunities at the Fair or would like to find out more, **please e-mail [John Gibson](#)**.

### ***Workshop Session led by Geoff Petty***

**Date & Venue: Thursday 7 October '10, Taunton**

We are delighted to offer colleagues the opportunity to attend a South West workshop led by [Geoff Petty](#). Those of you who have been to our previous workshops led by Geoff will know how practical, stimulating and fun these days can be.

[Click here](#) to request further information.

### **Learning South West host European Learn+ Project Visit**

Learning South West welcomed leading teacher educators from Portugal, Austria, Poland, Turkey and Switzerland to Bishops Hull House on 15 & 16 April '10. The group are working on the European Learn+ Project to help vocational tutors to manage diversity in their teaching and so aid learning success for all. The project will design a professional development programme of use to tutors across the European Union.

Commenting on Learning South West's involvement in the project, Paula Jones, Chief Executive, said: *"We are delighted to be a partner in this project as it will help bring a wider community of teacher educators together and find solutions which will hopefully help hundreds of teachers and their learners."*

The Learn+ Project is funded by the [Grundvig Lifelong Learning Programme](#).

We are pleased to announce that **ABC Awards** will be one of the sponsors of this year's [Skillsmart Retail Rising Star Awards](#), which recognises the up-and-coming stars who will be the future leaders of retail.

### **Summer 2010 Professional Development Opportunities:**

|   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| Inclusion Forum                                       | Wednesday 16 June '10 |
| South West Regional Staff Development Managers' Forum | Thursday 17 June '10  |
| Regional Skills for Life Good Practice Network        | Thursday 24 June '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)