

Issue 7 - July 2010

Readers are probably planning a summer break now and hoping that the sunshine will continue (though of course with a little rain to keep everything green).

This has been an 'interesting' year with budget cuts across the sector and significant changes to delivery frameworks. HE is seeing changes in funding and the number of places available, FE colleges may amalgamate to gain economies of scale and there are concerns about the transition of vocational qualifications to QCF. Everyone agrees on the importance of education and training in promoting economic recovery - but the details of how this will be accomplished are still being discussed.

We know how important we are to the success of our learners - so enjoy that well-earned summer break, relax and come back invigorated to carry on with the good work.

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NATIONAL NEWS

Click [here](#) to check the list of ministerial responsibilities in the new Government.
(Cabinet Office, 1 July '10)

The Government announces its intention to [reduce 'interference'](#) (DfE, 24 June '10) - such as reducing Ofsted inspections for colleges rated as 'outstanding' and allowing some colleges to move money between budgets - **and to encourage more collaboration in a 'Big Society'** (Number10.gov.uk, 18 May '10).

[Can efficiency savings in the sector deliver significantly 'more for less'?](#) asks John Stone, Chief Executive of LSN, in FE News. (3 June '10)

[College freedom from state control must include reducing the cost and burden of data collection](#), says Nick Linford, Head of the Pearson Research Institute, in FE News. (22 June '10)

[George Osborne unveils two-year public sector pay freeze in Emergency Budget.](#)
(FE News, 22 June '10)

[Department for Business, Innovation and Skills' contribution to government savings](#)
BIS has announced a package of £836 million worth of efficiency savings, and in year savings to its spending. (SLIM, 25 May '10)

[Ministers to resurrect the FEFC](#), but new single funding body system has to reconcile Tories' and Lib Dems' conflicting plans for sector. (TES, 28 May '10)

FUNDING & CHANGES

[Vince Cable outlines Government funding for 2010-11](#) - read his **Letter to Geoff Russell, Chief Executive of the Skills Funding Agency** (17 June '10) ... and the [announcement from the SfA](#) outlining that £200 million of the Train to Gain budget will be redirected to fund the delivery of 50,000 Apprenticeship places and establish a fund for college building programmes. (SfA, 25 May '10)

['Delivering Value for Money through Infrastructural Change'](#), KPMG Report reviewing current delivery models to identify potential new ways of shaping the delivery infrastructure to provide better value for money. (SfA, 3 June '10)

- The **BBC News** item (5 June '10) on the KPMG report headlined that ["Fifty colleges may close"](#).
- [Who will feed our appetite for change?](#) - TES comment on the KPMG report. (4 June '10)

[What does the emergency Budget mean for education?](#) An average real cut of 25% over the next 4 years and the Spending Review evaluating the way services are being provided. We won't know details until October but [Policy Watch](#) outlines key points. (Edexcel)

[The Pearson Research Institute](#) (formerly Edexcel's Policy Watch) held a ['Hot Breakfast Briefing' on 16-18 funding](#) (24 May '10) to discuss the impact of the latest figures.

"The overall 16-18 budget is rising 6.2% to £7.5bn for the 2010-11 financial year, but the national rate remains unchanged with college-based learners funded 3% less than those in school sixth forms."

See the [slides](#) and the [YouTube presentation](#)

[The Institute for Employment Skills](#) (IES) puts forward ["six critical priorities for the next Government"](#) (April '10) including discussion of paying for higher education and skills for the future.

[Leading education groups call on Government for ICT assurances after Becta scrapped.](#) (FE News, 24 June '10)

[The Association for Learning Technology's Chief Executive, Seb Schmoller](#), discusses ["The way forward after Becta"](#) (FE News, 28 May '10)

[LSIS Improvement Adviser Service](#) (ALP, 10 June '10)

The LSIS Improvement Adviser Service offers a range of support to enable providers to improve their provision. **The LSIS Regional Development Manager for the South West is Deborah Rusbridge.** Click on the above link to download an information flyer.

[The ending of FND to make way for the Work Programme](#) (ALP, 10 June '10)

[AoC welcomes new in-house procurement team](#) (18 May '10)

The former Learning & Skills Council's successful procurement team has joined the Association of Colleges to help members find ways of cutting their costs in the current stringent financial climate.

[Contracts awarded to deliver an integrated adults careers service](#) (SfA, 16 June '10)

The **Skills Funding Agency** has announced the appointment of 12 organisations to deliver **Next Step**, a free integrated adult careers service in England from August 2010.

["Transition to new framework is cause for concern"](#) (TES, 21 May '10)

AoC's comment on the transition to the Qualifications & Credit Framework (QCF).

[Vocational students left in the dark as qualifications undergo reform](#) (The Guardian, 1 June '10)

The shake-up of skills-based studies has left thousands of students not knowing if their courses will continue.

[New FE minister hails 'beginning of the end' for Train to Gain](#) (TES, 4 June '10)

In his first interview since taking office, **John Hayes** waves goodbye to Labour's flagship project and promises more apprenticeships than ever before.

LIFELONG LEARNING

[Skills Speech by John Hayes](#) - putting more flesh on the bones of the coalition's approach to workplace skills. (BIS, 10 June '10)

[Qualifications and Credit Framework - Podcast \(1 MB\) 19 June '10](#)

This **NIACE** podcast illustrates how the QCF embraces the culture of lifelong learning and the impact its flexibility will have on learners.

['Progression: moving on in life and learning'](#) - this **National Research & Development Centre for Adult Literacy & Numeracy (NRDC) report** aims to address key issues related to progression, such as how it is defined and the barriers to it, and explores people's experience of support in their learning and progression both inside and outside of the classroom. (26 April '10)

[EU Policy Papers](#) (CEDEFOP, May 2010)

Council of the European Union's conclusions on competences supporting lifelong learning and the 'new skills for new jobs' initiative - a selection of the most recent reports on VET policy produced by the European Institutions in May 2010.

[Identifying the workforce development needs of the Third Sector](#) (SW Forum, 11 May '10)

What skills and training does the third sector's workforce need to be able to deliver?

NIACE:

[PM and Skills Minister - 'adult learning crucial'](#) (26 May '10)

"*Adult learning, and the way it inspires people, is crucially important*", says the **Prime Minister, David Cameron MP**, in an interview in the May issue of Adults Learning magazine.

[Economic fears get more adults learning](#) (14 May '10)

Economic uncertainty appears to have had a huge impact on the number of adults who are in learning or who are thinking about learning in the future, reports [NIACE's Annual Adult Learners' Week Survey 2010](#)

NIACE cont.

[Rise in poor's demand for adult education: 'first in 20 years'](#) (TES, 14 May '10)

NIACE poll finds 6% learning leap in the lowest social class despite sector cuts.

[Adult Learners' Week Special Quick Reads Award](#) (26 May '10)

Adult Learners' Week recognised **Dame Gail Rebeck CBE**, Chair of Quick Reads and CEO of The Random House Group, with a special award for her outstanding contribution to literacy learning in the UK.

[14 projects get funding for community learning](#) (28 May '10)

Government funding has been awarded to 14 projects across the country to inspire local people to see the benefits of learning, under the second phase of the **Community Learning Champions' Support Programme**.

[Changes to Vetting and Barring Scheme](#) (18 June '10)

Following news that the entire Vetting and Barring Scheme for people working with children and vulnerable adults in England and Wales will be reviewed, NIACE is advising providers to carry on working within the existing framework.

[NIACE survey on adult participation in learning 2010 - Podcast \(6 MB\) 12 May '10](#)

Alan Tuckett talks about the NIACE survey on adult participation in learning 2010.

Updates:

[Young Person's Guarantee - Official Statistics](#) (DWP, 26 May '10)

The **Future Jobs Fund element** of the Young Person's Guarantee, covering the period October 2009 - January 2010.

[Timetable update for Equality Act](#) (SW Forum, 25 June '10)

The **Government Equalities Office** continues to work on the basis of the previously announced timetable, which envisaged commencement of the Act's core provisions in October 2010, but gives the proviso that the Government is currently considering how the different provisions will be commenced.

[NEC and LSN merge](#) (TES, 21 May '10)

The **National Extension College (NEC)**, which has been providing distance learning for students for almost 50 years, is to merge with **LSN**.

Resources:

[ESOL Citizenship materials a Home Office requirement](#) (NIACE, 21 June '10)

Updated materials to help ESOL teachers develop learners' knowledge of life in the UK and to support applications for citizenship and settlement, have been launched at a London event, organised by **NIACE and LLU+**.

[New Chatabout training and resources from The Reading Agency](#) (Excellence Gateway, 7 June '10)

Chatabout is a free national network to support the growing number of reading groups for adults with literacy needs.

[Guidance for staff working with disabled learners](#) (NIACE, 18 June '10)

LLUK and NIACE guidance to help staff improve their skills and better meet the needs of learners.

[KnowledgeBank - for when you want to know](#) (SW Forum, 11 June '10)

KnowledgeBank contains a range of research conducted by, on behalf of, or representing primarily the voluntary and community sector in England.

[National Skills Strategy Consultation](#) (SW Forum, 17 June '10)

Skills Third Sector want to make sure that the importance of skills and learning are understood and supported effectively, so that the sector can meet the rising demands about what it can and should deliver. They are currently running a consultation process which includes a series of nine regional roundtable events (the South West event is taking place in Taunton on 7 Sept '10) and an online consultation – click on the link above to find how you can take part.

EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT

City & Guilds:

- [May 2010: Assessment and Quality Assurance \(6317\)](#) - contains information on the new Assessment and Quality Assurance qualifications.
- [May 2010: PTLLS \(7303\), CTLLS \(7304\) and DTLLS \(7305\)](#) - contains details of an extension to these qualifications.

[Ofsted News - Issue 17 \(May '10\)](#)

The **Adult Learning Section** features stories on:

- [Tackling the NEET problem](#)
- [A step in the right direction](#)
- [Implementing workforce reforms](#)
- [A cut above the rest](#)

[Talisman 85 \(May '10 Issue\)](#)

This edition looks at the importance of apprenticeships in areas like hospitality, and how apprentices bring real value to employers, and features good practice in sustainability (**see the article on Somerset College**) and celebrates those who've gained outstanding grades.

Diplomas:

[End of the line for 'academic' diplomas](#) (deliveringdiplomas.com, 9 June '10)

Development of the new Diplomas in science, humanities and languages, due to be introduced from September 2011, has ceased with immediate effect.

[Diploma news - New version of ASL catalogues live now](#) (QCDA, 25 May '10)

[DAS Release 4 successfully launched](#) (QCDA, 2 June '10)

A new version of the Diploma Aggregation Service (DAS) – Release 4 – has gone live.

[Important announcement about DAS for new Diploma Centres](#) (QCDA, 25 June '10)

Every centre offering the Diploma for the first time in September 2010 must sign up to the terms and conditions of use for the Diploma Aggregation Service (DAS).

[Diploma post-results guidance](#) (25 June '10)

QCDA has published guidance to help centres support students who don't achieve a full Diploma.

[Number of 'Neet' teenagers falls, statistics show](#), but the **Department for Education** said the number of Neets remained "too high". (BBC News, 22 June '10)

Apprenticeships:

National Apprenticeship Awards - find out who the [24 finalists](#) are. (NAS)

[Young Ambassadors Network](#) (NAS, June '10)

The **National Apprenticeship Service** has recently set up the **Young Ambassadors Network**, a group of 20 specially chosen, talented current and former apprentices, aged between 16-24, who we know will be able to give us great advice, inspire others and develop their talents as leaders of the future.

[National Minimum Wage](#) (NAS, June '10)

From 1 October 2010 Apprenticeship employers must make sure all their apprentices are being paid at least £2.50 per hour for all the time they are on their Apprenticeships. This includes time working plus the time spent training both on and off the job (such as time at college).

[ALP welcomes 50,000 new apprenticeship places](#) (ALP, 27 May '10)

Statement from the **Association of Learning Providers** on the Chancellor's £6bn spending cuts announced on 24 May '10.

[A qualitative study of apprenticeship pay](#) (Institute for Public Policy Research, January 2010)

An IPPR Report to the Low Pay Commission examining variations in apprentice pay across the UK and the role of apprentice pay in young people's decisions to start and complete an apprenticeship. The report also considers the potential responses of employers to the introduction of a national minimum wage for apprentices.

[Functional Skills in Apprenticeships](#) (skillsforlifeframework.com)

An information resource from the **Functional Skills Support Programme** that will help you plan and deliver your Functional Skills provision for Apprentices.

[New qualifications for delivering careers guidance to adults](#) (LLUK, 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.

[Helping people into employment in rural areas](#) (SLIM, 8 June '10)

Read new guidance produced by the **IDeA** that captures examples of positive practice and suggests how local government can support employment in rural areas within the national policy and delivery framework.

[Student loans bosses forced to quit after warnings of renewed chaos](#) (Guardian, 25 May '10)

Ministers take action on Student Loans Company bosses amid warnings of more chaos this year.

[David Willetts appoints Student Loans Company non-executive director](#)

Minister of State for Universities and Science, David Willetts, today announced the appointment of a new non-executive director of the Student Loans Company Limited (SLC). (wired-gov.net, 28 June '10)

[New SWitch CETT Evaluation Toolkit](#) (SLIM, 3 June '10)

Marchmont SLIM have just completed work on a new Evaluation Toolkit on behalf of the **South West Centre for Excellence in Teacher Training (formerly SWitch CETT)**, and is designed to support self-assessment by providers of training for teachers of adults.

Reports on Re-engaging with Education & Training:

[Not the end of the story: supporting teenage mothers back into education](#) (SLIM, May '10)

Report on **Barnardo's** services across the UK to report on the barriers experienced by 38 young mothers trying to re-engage with education and what helped them move forward.

[Guiding at-risk youth through learning to work: lessons from across Europe](#)

This **CEDEFOP Research Paper** draws attention to guidance measures and initiatives applied across Europe to aid school completion and education-to-work transitions of young people who risk dropping out of mainstream education and training or who already have done so.

Three Reports focused upon Young People:

- [Building a learning agenda around disconnected youth](#) (MDRC, March 2010)
- [Rising youth unemployment during the crisis: how to prevent negative long-term consequences on a generation?](#) (OECD, 2010)
- [Youth voices on employability](#) (Youth Commission/The Edge, 2010)

Reports on Skills:

[2010 Review: The Integration of Employment & Skills](#) (UKCES, Feb '10)

The **UK Commission for Employment and Skills** has been charged by the Government to review, in 2010, the progress that is being made in integrating employment and skills systems in Great Britain and to provide advice on what more needs to be done to further integration.

[Improving skills has long-term economic benefits](#)

A report by the **Organisation for Economic Co-operation & Development (OECD)** suggests that relatively small improvements in the skills of a nation's workforce can have significant impacts on future prosperity.

[An appetite for learning: increasing employee demand for skills development](#)

Raising the skills levels of the UK economy depends to some extent on individuals being prepared to invest in their own skill development, as well as expressing to employers and others their demand for formal and informal training. (UKCES' Praxis 3rd Edition, Jan '10)

[Impact of globalisation on skills and competitiveness](#)

The latest edition of the **UK Commission for Employment and Skills' Praxis** series of exploratory think-pieces (March '10) contends that an expanded skills supply is not sufficient to secure the UK's place at the high value end of production or to maintain its competitive advantage.

[Employer-provided vocational training across Europe](#) (CEDEFOP, 2010)

European companies are converging in terms of the continuing vocational training (CVT) they provide, according to the **European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training**.

[Ready to grow: business priorities for education and skills - education and skill survey 2010](#)

With Government budgets under pressure, it is essential that publicly-funded workforce training delivers economically valuable skills. Employers want a greater focus on intermediate and higher level skills, along with a drive to strip out levels of bureaucracy. (**CBI Report, May '10**)

[Skills for Jobs: Today and Tomorrow - The National Strategic Skills Audit for England 2010 – Volume 1: Key Findings & Volume 2: Evidence Report](#) (UKCES, March '10)

[Award winning employers reap rewards of investing in training](#) (SfA, 2 June '10)

Large employers and familiar names in retail, healthcare and defence industries have shown the importance they place on skills training for staff at this year's Workforce Development Awards.

E-LEARNING

In an article for FE News (28 June '10) **John Stone of LSN** says that "[Technology revolution is the way to beat cuts](#)".

[New research sparks call to FE providers to embed technology in their teaching](#)

LLUK is calling on lifelong learning providers to embed technology into their teaching methods, as new figures reveal 49% of people would feel more confident using technology in the workplace if it had been incorporated more into their training and education. (Excellence Gateway, 3 June '10)

[Virtual sharing can ease austerity's load](#) - **TES article** describes how sharing Virtual Learning Environments (VLEs) can reduce costs. (14 May '10)

JISC news:

[Looking forward to a good read](#) (24 May '10)

Disabled readers are already benefiting from using e-books, but according to a new report, publishers can do even more with the technology to improve access.

[Making the most of digital resources](#) (2 June '10)

Researchers connected to the UK's national grid service can now carry out long term collaborative research with peers across Europe through an improved network.

[Opening up research could boost UK economy](#) (17 June '10)

Universities could be adding millions of pounds to the UK economy, according to findings announced this week by JISC at a Universities UK event.

[New plans to open up UK resources revealed](#) (9 June '10)

New plans to open up library, archive and museum collections will make it easier for researchers and students to access resources, says JISC taskforce after announcing its vision.

[Access the JISC RSC South West Excellence Gateway case studies on Delicious](#)

[e-Skills UK joins Race Online 2012](#) (Excellence Gateway, 1 June '10)

10 million adults in the UK have never used the internet and **Race Online** aims to give them the skills and confidence they need to make the most of the social and economic benefits it brings.

[Exams come to the bedroom with new invigilation software](#) (Guardian, 8 June '10)

New technology allows students to sit tests at home while computer lock, webcam and microphone ensure they can't cheat.

Resources:

[Referencing made easy](#) (JISC, 17 May '10)

A new piece of free software to help students and universities manage academic references more easily has been developed by the Open University and its partners.

Resources cont.

[Leadership and e-learning programmes provided by LSIS](#) (JISC RSC SW)

[New learning and teaching resources from JISC RSC South West](#)

[New HE resources from JISC RSC South West](#) - "Teachers Voice" case studies of their experiences of using and utilising technology within education.

[Network Promoting E-learning for Rural Development](#) (JISC RSC SW)

Training providers who complete an online questionnaire can gain a copy of a Games Based Learning tool.

INSTITUTE FOR LEARNING (IfL)

[Take a tour of your new IfL website](#)

[IfL launches CPD application for iPhone and iPod Touch](#)

The Institute for Learning (IfL) has launched **i-REfLECT**, a mobile application that supports the use of REfLECT, the online personal learning space that IfL provides for its 200,000 members (teachers and trainers in further education and skills) to record, reflect on and share their continuing professional development (CPD) activities.

IfL have also released [REfLECT Connect](#), an enhanced Moodle block developed for IfL members that allows you to create REfLECT assets in Moodle and export Moodle assets to REfLECT.

[Your IfL community](#) - find other members online and enhance your collective voice as members of a diverse community, we want you to benefit from each others' experience, ideas and resources and to use your collective voice to influence how we can improve our work for you.

Podcast: [How can REfLECT help IfL members?](#)

[Join the discussion on diplomas](#) (IfL blog, May '10)

The Institute of Education's diploma discussion paper seeks to build discourse and debate on Government-led reforms. [Join the discussion using your favourite social media](#).

[Becoming Professional: An Investigation into the Experiences, Perceptions and Aspirations of New Institute For Learning Members](#) (IPSE, June '10)

This **Institute for Policy Studies in Education** report reveals a growing awareness of what professional development can mean for an individual and their identity as a teacher or trainer.

[Declare your CPD](#) - you can now declare your CPD hours for the year 2009-10. All you have to do is confirm the number of CPD hours completed for the year and provide a few brief details **by 31 August '10**.

[Collaboration in action](#) (FE News, 30 May '10)

Tony Fazaeli, Chief Executive of IfL, discusses a national strategy for teachers' CPD.