

Health and Social Care

In October 2008, our Health and Social Care Forum identified a need to respond to business challenges which face the social care sector and their impact on the workforce. 'Putting People First' Adult Social Care Workforce Strategy (2008) raised implications for leadership and management of new roles, for joint and integrated working across sectors, upskilling to meet the needs of service users. Round table discussion referred to new types of roles emerging, a wider range of skills required to meet service needs and the importance that learning be delivered flexibly in a variety of ways.

Mindful of The Leitch Review, which championed a move towards investment in skills by employers and individuals alike, we reserved a **2009 New Year Fund** and invited bids for projects which targeted social care. The aim was to stimulate interest to

create innovative and forward-thinking projects or develop more relevant education and training provision to enable individuals to raise their aspirations within a changing workplace.

Bidding closed on 31 March and we received proposals for nine projects from a mix of education providers and a hospital trust. Topics include:

- Career opportunities within mental health and learning disability sectors
- Written communication skills
- Making work experience work
- E-learning resources.

The outcomes of the projects will be disseminated through the Health and Social Care Forum and materials added to our website.

The **Health and Social Care Forum** is hosted by our partner HEIs in turn and meets twice a year. The format is a key topic

led by a speaker followed by round table discussion, finishing with buffet lunch and networking. Representatives from FE, HE, sector skills councils and employers drawn from health and social care across the region are welcome to attend to share current practice and future developments.

October 2008 *University of Surrey* – Challenges facing social care providers.

May 2009 *Oxford Brookes* – Workforce development to deliver the national Dementia Strategy.

November 2009 *Bucks New University* – NHS South Central staff training needs bands 1–4.

For more information, contact Ann Stainton, Development Manager, Health and Social Care k.a.stainton@reading.ac.uk

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Institute of Civil Engineers Mentoring project promotes progression

A recent initiative has enabled professionally qualified ICE members to demonstrate they have the same capabilities as those who have taken a more traditional academic route to higher education in this sector. In all 35 employers engaged with the project and 39 candidates were identified as suitable for the Technical Report Route to ICE membership. For more information and a copy of the full report see <http://www.progresssouthcentral.org.uk/publications/>

Construction and the Built Environment



Over the next two years Oxford Brookes will be working as our lead partner in this sector. We are planning to progress current discussions about Masters Level courses in Construction Management, and hope to offer a package of CPD modules which can draw on the full range of expertise across our partnership. We will be trying to support progression to higher education for Apprentices, through a package of support for current and future students. We will also be supporting the introduction of the new 14–19 Diploma as a route to higher education.

For more information email psc@reading.ac.uk in the first instance.

Defining the Lifelong Learning Network's 'learner constituency'

Defining the Lifelong Learning Network's 'learner constituency' is essential in the process of evaluating the success of the network, as it establishes a baseline from which it is possible to assess impact. How the LLN defines its learner constituency will determine how progress is assessed in terms of vocational progression to HE in the region.

A synthesis of the guidance provided by HEFCE necessitates a two-pronged approach to baseline data, and to defining 'learner constituency':

- 1 Learners/potential learners at Level 3 in Progress South Central's region: these are the students who are the core 'focus' of the LLN's efforts to increase vocational progression into HE.
- 2 Learners already studying at HE level in the region on programmes in Progress South Central's vocational sectors. Increases year-on-year in these numbers will be consistent with improved progression opportunities for vocational learners in the region.

Progress South Central's approach to monitoring its learner constituency will take broadly the following form:

- Tracking the progression of pre-Level 4 learners into HE using Learning and Skills Council and HESA data and via liaison with our HEI partners
- Monitoring of numbers enrolled on HE courses in our four funded vocational sectors, to track year-on-year increases.

The first is underway through working with ILR data from the LSC for learners enrolled on Level 3 programmes in Progress South Central's geographical region. From this, and from data obtained from our partner HEIs on students' previous institutions, we will be able to analyse progression rates to HE within the region. Also being monitored are student numbers on all HE programmes that are being supported by Progress South Central. These include:

- Courses receiving Additional Student Numbers (ASNs) through the LLN,



e.g. Foundation Degree in Paramedic Emergency Care at Oxford Brookes University

- 'Destination' courses for LLN Progression Agreements, e.g. BSc (Hons) Biomedical Science at University of Surrey
- Courses whose development or modification has been funded by the LLN, e.g. Foundation Degree in Radio Production at Amersham & Wycombe College
- LLN activities, e.g.' Experience Days' being held at Bucks New University.

Increases in student numbers, and changes in student profile year-on-year, will demonstrate the positive impact of the LLN and in the case of programmes that are 'destination' courses for progression agreements, will provide a potential means of studying the efficacy of these agreements.

These combined measures will result in a body of converging evidence pointing to the impact of the LLN initiative in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Surrey.

Learning opportunities in the South East

If you work with adults who are thinking of returning to learning, you know they have many questions that need answering before they embark on a Higher Education course, especially if they haven't studied for a while. If they're currently studying at college, they'll want to explore their options for moving on to a higher level.

The Learning Opportunities in the South East website www.learning-opportunities.org.uk provides essential information and guidance to help vocational students on their journey into and through Higher Education. Its focus is vocational learning – work-based and work-related learning that can help students to progress or change career.

The Learning Opportunities website is all adults need to get started on making those decisions. It will also hold information regarding all Foundation Degrees available in the South East and Progression Agreements signed by all the partner institutions of the four South East LLNs. This is a joint project undertaken by the four Lifelong Learning Networks in the South East who work in partnership with colleges and universities. If you would like a presentation to your student advisors or any other staff, please contact us to arrange. An advisor pack for use with the website and other marketing materials are also available, please check the website www.learning-opportunities.org.uk, or contact Judith Brindley on 0118 378 2339 or j.brindley@reading.ac.uk for more details.



Partner Perspective

**Crystal Oldman,
Associate Dean,
Academic and
Professional
Development,
Faculty of Health
and Social Care,
Bucks New
University.**



One of the most productive ways of working with Progress South Central has been having the FE/HE Liaison officer based at Bucks New University. Regular meetings have given us the opportunity to share information and make stronger links within our own institution and with network partners. The opportunity to explore new projects and monitor existing ones with the Liaison Officer has proved invaluable to the Faculty of Society & Health.

From September 2009 Bucks New University will have a brand new campus in Uxbridge dedicated to the Nursing and Health Care programmes in the Faculty of Society & Health. We are working with Progress South Central on projects that will support curriculum development and open doors to students who may not have considered entering into higher education or a professional career:

- Support from Progress South Central for the Work Based Learning Mentors of Further Education project; outcomes will be disseminated to share the good practice from this project
- Progress South Central support for Leadership in Multi-Agency Settings, in partnership with the Bucks County Council Children's Trust, led to the successful recruitment of the first cohort and attracted interest from other Local Authorities and agencies
- Networking opportunities whilst informing sector professionals and academics of the evolving dimensions of the sector.

I am delighted that Progress South Central has been extended to July 2011. The extension of this invaluable partnership can only be a positive move for widening the participation of students entering higher education.

Creative Industries

Support for the development of Foundation Degrees has involved feasibility studies, employer engagement activities and document preparation. This has led to the recent validation of:

- FdA *Radio Production* for delivery at Amersham & Wycombe College from September 2009 by Bucks New University,
- Foundation Degrees in *Publishing* and *Creative Music* (to be validated by Oxford Brookes University for delivery at Oxford & Cherwell Valley College and Abingdon & Witney College respectively),
- *Writing for Performance* (OU for Ruskin College) and *Costume & Fashion* (Bucks for Amersham & Wycombe) at various stages of development.

Other projects include entrepreneurial and business skills workshops for students studying performing arts, higher education Experience Days and the conference Creative Minds: Creative Futures.

Creative Minds: Creative Futures conference

The theme of the conference, hosted by Bucks New University on 13 March and sponsored by Progress South Central was '*Identifying the importance of the Creative Industries Sector: How creative talents can be turned into productive employment*'. The event attracted key note speakers from the creative industries, including inventor Trevor Bayliss (pictured above with students), and an audience of current undergraduates and students about to enter higher education who were also able to attend workshops and masterclasses. The whole event was videoed and this will result in '**CMCF: the movie**' including edited highlights and longer segments which will be available shortly to act as an inspirational resource for students at all levels. To get your **free** copy, or to discuss project ideas, please contact Godfrey Smith on 0118 378 2334 or gj.smith@reading.ac.uk



Developing links to Higher Education study from Building Services Engineering qualifications, delivered in Schools

Progress South Central has supported Surrey Education Business Partnership (EBP) to develop opportunities which will extend the availability of Business Services Engineering qualifications throughout Surrey and the South East. An innovative approach is taking a Building Services Engineering Classroom to schools in Surrey where students can access the technology to undertake the Edexcel 'Skills for Working Life'. There are 130 students currently on this programme and over 80 students are signed up for intakes in September 2010 and 2011.

Surrey EBP has been instrumental in the development of one of the first 14-19 engineering diplomas with a specialism in Building Services Engineering at level 1 and 2. The diploma will start in September 2010 and will offer students progression pathways into local further education colleges which already have expertise of this industry.



Surrey EBP also carried out a research study with members of the Heating and Ventilating Contractors' Association to understand the higher level training needs of the industry. Details of the findings of the research and the final report are available on our website www.progresssouthcentral.org.uk

Progress South Central and Oxford Brookes University Associate College Partnership

The Associate College Partnership (ACP) was launched in 2004 to encourage a collaborative approach to learning, teaching and student support for Further Education Colleges delivering Oxford Brookes' Foundation Degree programmes. The ACP meets to share best practice, discuss future strategic plans, jointly promote Foundation Degrees and explore opportunities for staff development.

The colleges in the partnership are: **Abingdon and Witney College, Aylesbury College, Brooklands College, Oxford and Cherwell Valley College, Ruskin College, Solihull College and Swindon College.**

A nominee from Brookes' senior management team, the Partnership Liaison Manager, senior representatives from Brookes' schools and the Head of Quality Assurance also attend the ACP, offering advice and input from the University.

Progress South Central (PSC) representatives attend ACP meetings and work with the group to offer support. Updates are provided at each

meeting about relevant forum events, future bidding opportunities and other types of support PSC might be able to offer. As the Lifelong Learning Network Liaison Officer based at Oxford Brookes University, Janet Cox is working with the ACP Group to put together a staff development event for Level 3 tutors, college HE advisors and practitioners. This event aims to disseminate information regarding the progression opportunities available to FEC students in HE. Other exciting initiatives Janet is working on include:

- Undertaking case studies of vocational students who have progressed to Higher Education
- An employer engagement information pack
- A student finance presentation for use by staff advising students and
- Providing examples of PSC support which might be included in HEFCE strategy documents.

If you would like any further information about this, please contact Janet Cox on 01865 484933 or jcox@brookes.ac.uk



Land-based Industries

Progress South Central is working in conjunction with the University of Reading, as lead partner in the land-based industries sector, and funding the following activities:

- Research opportunity for high achieving Level 3 FE students to work with academics and research staff at the University of Reading was held on 13th to 15th May 2009 – please see our website for more information
- First Residential Progression Summer School to be run at the University of Reading for Level 3 Further Education students from 30 June to 3 July 2009
- Open Day on Tuesday 30th June 2009 to showcase the research, expertise and CPD opportunities at the University of Reading, aimed at FE staff.

Further work in the sector is in development, for example:

- Progression Mapping of provision in Animal Science and Equine Studies
- Support for progression of learners into higher education via development of online tools and resources to aid students in bridging the gap between school/college and university.

If you have any questions, or would like further information regarding these projects, please contact psc@reading.ac.uk in the first instance.



Diary

Partnership Conference – 9th July 2009

Creative Industries Forum – 13th July 2009

Health and Social Care Forum – October 09 – University of Surrey
IAG Conference – October 2009

Good news!

Progress South Central is being extended! We've had approval from HEFCE and our Executive Board to reprofile the project and this is allowing us to extend the project from November 2010 to July 2011.

Progress

South Central

www.progresssouthcentral.org.uk

The Lifelong Learning Network for Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Surrey

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