

Delivering the Skills Agenda

The North West Lifelong Learning Networks Regional Practitioners' Conference

Friday 19th October 2007 – 9:30am—3:30pm

The JJB Stadium, Wigan

There is a charge of **£25** per delegate for this conference. Please make cheques payable to 'Edge Hill Enterprises'.

Aims of the Conference:

- 1. To raise awareness of LLN developments across the North West**
- 2. To share experience and practice**
- 3. To enable practitioners to discuss key themes**
- 4. To give practitioners an opportunity to raise issues with a conference panel**
- 5. To identify new opportunities for the future**

Conference themes:

1. Employer Partnerships

Implementing Leitch: Placing employers at the heart of the design and delivery of vocational higher education programmes.

2. Developing Provision

Designing provision fit for purpose to meet the needs of vocational learners and employers.

3. Progression Opportunities

Creating Progression Agreements to provide clarity about higher education progression options for vocational learners

4. Supporting and Advising Vocational Learners and Stakeholders

Accessing learning and learner support and advising learners, advisors and employers

Conference Programme

Time		Activity	Lead
9.30	30 mins	Registration	
10.00	5 mins	Welcome	Rhiannon Evans, Chair
10.05	20 mins	Guest speaker Presentation	Lis Smith, Director of Skills Policy, NWDA
10.25	20 mins	Guest speaker Presentation	Penny Blackie, Director of Regional Strategy FdF
10.45	5 mins	Introduction to the employer	Rhiannon Evans
10.50	20 mins	Employer HE Partnerships – What works well and what needs to improve	Selected Employer (Balfour Beatty - TBC)
11.10	60 mins	Workshops 1-4	Various
12.10	50 mins	Lunch / networking	
13.00	60 mins	Workshops 1-4	Various
14.00	30 mins	Planning ahead: Sustainability and the role of LLNs in supporting employer engagement, 14-19 Diplomas	Kevin Whitston, Head of Widening Participation, HEFCE
14.30	45 mins	Panel discussion	Chaired by Erica Jones. Panel will include representatives from HEFCE, FdF, Aimhigher, HLSP, NWDA
15.15		Closing Remarks	Rhiannon Evans

Workshop Options

	Workshop Title
1	Employer Partnerships
2	Developing Provision
3	Progression Opportunities
4	Supporting and Advising Vocational Learners and Stakeholders

Speaker biographies

Penny Blackie – Director of Regional Strategy, Foundation degree Forward (FdF)

Penny has made a national contribution to supporting good practice in higher and further education and has a particular interest in higher education in colleges. Penny chaired the GMSA Council for two years and now chairs the HE in FE Reference Group of the Higher Education Academy. She has undertaken extensive work for both the Higher Education Funding Council for England and the Quality Assurance Agency. She is co-author, with Gareth Parry and Anne Thompson of *Managing Higher Education in Colleges*, which was published in the autumn of 2006 by Continuum. Penny held the post of Regional Director for the North-West at Foundation Degree Forward until recently and is now Director of Regional Strategy for FdF.

Prof. Rhiannon Evans – Pro Vice-Chancellor, Edge Hill University

Rhiannon is Pro Vice-Chancellor (Students and External) at Edge Hill University. She has had a wide-ranging career in further, adult and higher education and has served on numerous working parties, committees and steering groups nationally and regionally. Deeply committed to widening participation she has led, on behalf of the University, a number of funded initiatives including Partnerships for Progression, Aimhigher and most recently the Greater Merseyside and West Lancashire Lifelong Learning Network.

In January 2006, Rhiannon was appointed Director of Action on Access (AonA), the HEFCE funded national co-ordination team for widening participation, following the successful tender by the team for a new three year contract. The central team is now based at Edge Hill University. Rhiannon is the Action on Access representative on the National Steering Group for Lifelong Learning Networks.

Dr Lis Smith – Director of Skills Policy, North West Development Agency (NWDA)

Lis has been in her current role since the beginning of 2007 and has responsibility for influencing, developing and challenging emerging skills policy thinking at national and regional level.

Having joined the Agency part-time in 2004 as National Skills Policy Analyst, Lis quickly established herself as a key member of the team. In 2005 Lis became the full time National Skills Policy Manager for the Agency, a position which she held until today. Lis has been involved in the education and skills sector throughout her career and has held previously roles as the Director of Learning Enterprise and Development within Academic Enterprise and Regional Co-ordinator at the University of Salford.

Dr Kevin Whitston – Head of Widening Participation, HEFCE

Kevin joined the Higher Education Funding Council as Head of Widening Participation at the end of 2003. He was formerly Director of the Widening Participation Unit at the University of Birmingham and prior to that taught for many years in trade union education.

CONFERENCE BOOKING FORM

FRIDAY 19 OCTOBER 2007
THE JJB STADIUM, WIGAN

Please complete the following details to confirm your place at the conference and workshops

Name	
Organisation	
Position	
Address	
E-mail	
Telephone No.	

I **WILL / WILL NOT** be attending the North West Practitioner conference.
(Please delete as appropriate)

Please select **TWO** workshops from the following selection:

- Employer Partnerships Developing Provision
- Progression Opportunities Supporting and Advising
Vocational Learners and Stakeholders

If you have any particular dietary or access requirements for the day, please indicate here:

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There is a charge of **£25** per delegate for this conference. Please make cheques payable to 'Edge Hill Enterprises'.

Please return this form and your cheque to:
Greater Merseyside & West Lancashire Lifelong Learning Network
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Tithebarn Street
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