

# Learning Partnership News

6th July  
2001



## Welcome

Dear colleagues, Welcome to another edition of the Learning Partnership News.

As you may know, Cynthia Hannah, Team Leader of the Learning Partnerships team, has left for a short secondment at the South Yorkshire Learning and Skills Council. Meanwhile David Stephen, who many of you know by now, is filling the breach until Ian Goodwin takes over as the new team leader in September.

Following the Election, there have been a number of departmental changes including a new set of Ministers. But none of those changes alter the crucial role of Learning Partnerships pushing forward the agenda on issues such as follow-up to Area Inspections, Basic Skills, establishing learner consultation mechanisms and maximising progress towards Learning Targets.

We are currently briefing new ministers on these issues and arranging for them to visit Learning Partnerships and witness their work first-hand. Margaret Hodge is the Minister of State with responsibility for Learning Partnerships.

Watch this space and visit our website at [www.lifelonglearning.co.uk/llp](http://www.lifelonglearning.co.uk/llp) for updates.

## Demonstration Projects

A number of Demonstration Projects have now been agreed for 2001-02 to develop exemplars of successful Learning Partnerships in action.

## Feedback

We welcome your feedback on the newsletter and any contributions, examples of good practices or useful information. Contact us at the email address below.

[craig.toulson@dfes.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:craig.toulson@dfes.gsi.gov.uk)

These are:

Bedfordshire & Luton; Leicestershire & Leicester City; London (region-wide); Newcastle; South West (region-wide); Stockport; Wolverhampton.

These innovative projects focus on a variety of key themes including widening participation, rationalisation, student support and the learner voice. They cover a broad geographical spread and cater for a wide range of learners and potential learners.

The national conference planned for November will be an opportunity to take stock of some of these projects. DfES will disseminate final project outcomes in due course.

Many thanks to all Learning Partnerships who took the time to submit bids and to Government Offices for the part they played in getting the final projects agreed.

## NIACE "Consulting Learners" Project

Most of you will know that we are currently funding NIACE to undertake some research into what Learning Partnerships are doing to consult existing and potential learners of all ages. They're doing this (a) through telephone interviews with selected Partnership managers, and (b) through three regional workshops in July.

Those workshops (in Leeds on 11 July, Taunton on 12 July and Wyboston in Bedfordshire on 18 July) will bring together Partnerships, local LSCs, learners themselves and organisations representing potential learners. They should help NIACE to gather more first-hand information on existing practice as well as enabling Partnerships to share their experiences and knowledge. All Partnerships in the regions concerned should have received invitations by now.

By mid-September NIACE should have produced a report that provides evidence

of progress being made to fulfil Learning Partnerships' remit in this area, what techniques are being used to capture the voice of the learner, what Partnerships do with the outcomes of their information gathering, and examples of replicable good practice.

If you want to know more about this project and what we intend to do with its outcomes, then e-mail [Simon.Bateman@dfes.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Simon.Bateman@dfes.gsi.gov.uk)

## Management Information Survey

Many thanks to all those Partnership Managers who provided us with completed MI forms in response to our request for information back in March. We've now received forms from 99 Partnerships which is a far better return rate than in any of our previous attempts during the last two years.

In order to keep our information as current and accurate as possible we'll be coming back to you again in September to update your MI forms. Rather than asking you to complete a whole new form, we'll be sending back the one you provided previously for you to revise if necessary. At the same time (and on behalf of York Consulting Ltd, the national evaluators), we'll be asking you for an update on progress towards the objectives outlined in your learning plan executive summaries.

Full details will be provided in due course so no need for you to do anything yet; this is just an early warning!

## Policy Issues

Click on [\[More\]](#) to go to the source document on the relevant website.

First national targets announced for 14 year olds as part of the drive to transform their early years of secondary education.

2/701

[More](#)

£84 million in funding announced to help Further Education colleges develop IT infrastructure and increase the uptake of Information Learning Technology.  
28/6/01

#### More

An award to recognise achievements of young people at the age of 19 was proposed by Education and Skills Secretary Estelle Morris as she sets out her vision of education for 14-19 year olds. 26/6/01

#### More

Estelle Morris, sets out her vision for delivering a radical improvement in the education service. 21/06/01.

#### More

The biggest ever national drive to raise skills was launched by Margaret Hodge, Minister for Lifelong Learning and Bryan Sanderson, Chairman of the Learning and Skills Council. 20/6/01.

#### More

You can access all DfES and LSC press releases by clicking on each of the following links respectively.

[www.dfes.gov.uk/pns/newslist.cgi](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/pns/newslist.cgi)

[www.lsc.gov.uk/news.cfm](http://www.lsc.gov.uk/news.cfm)

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## Publicity Strategy

As part of our on-going publicity strategy, we have submitted an article to appear in Lifelong Learning News in mid July. It features some good practice by Kent, Medway and Kirklees Learning Partnerships to tackle coherency, regeneration, gaps in provision and engaging the community. If you would like a copy or wish to be put on future mailing lists contact:

[daniell.walton@dfes.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:daniell.walton@dfes.gsi.gov.uk)

or access the online version at:

[www.lifelonglearning.co.uk/iln](http://www.lifelonglearning.co.uk/iln)

In the meantime we would be very happy to hear about **your** good practice with a view to publicising it in one form or another.

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## Conference 2001

We have now established a provisional date for the Learning Partnerships National Conference 2001. We have chosen **Thursday 29th and Friday 30th November** which seem to provide the least clashes with other events.

Our current plan is for a 24-hour lunch-time-to-lunchtime event. We are attempting to secure a DfES minister to deliver a keynote address on that first day. With this in mind we hope Chairs AND Coordinators can attend this first day.

We will issue formal invitations in due

course to all chairs and managers/coordinators, including details of venue, agenda items, etc. In the meantime, you may want to note the date in your diaries.

We will also be convening a conference planning group with some representatives from Learning Partnerships and Government Offices.

If you have any comments about the planning at this stage contact

[kate.bagshaw@dfes.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:kate.bagshaw@dfes.gsi.gov.uk)



The panel at last years conference

## LSC Equal Opportunities

The LSC Countdown (a weekly email briefing aimed at work-based learning providers) ran an article in issue 48 highlighting the LSC Equal Opportunities guidance as set out in the LSC's remit letter last Autumn. It covers some relevant issues on the LSC helping with core costs and capacity-building among voluntary and community groups and setting up groups to advise on development of Equal Opportunities strategy. It can be found at the web-site below where you can also subscribe to future issues.

[www.lscbrief.org.uk](http://www.lscbrief.org.uk)



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## Post Election Changes

Following the election the newly formed Department for Education and Skills has set out details of the responsibilities of its new Ministerial team.

#### More

Estelle Morris - Education and Skills Secretary.

#### More

Ministers are:-

Stephen Timms - Minister of State for School Standards.

#### More

Margaret Hodge - Minister of State for Lifelong Learning and Higher Education (including Learning Partnerships)

#### More

John Healey - Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Adult Skills.

#### More

Ivan Lewis - Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Young People/Youth.

#### More

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## Web Watch

The DfES Learning Partnerships website now contains an archive of the Learning Partnership News and the recently revised version of Information and Guidance for Learning Partnerships, and guidance for working with the Learning and Skills Council locally. The website address is:

[www.lifelonglearning.co.uk/llp](http://www.lifelonglearning.co.uk/llp)

The LSC's website has undergone a recent revamp. Visit it at

[www.lsc.gov.uk](http://www.lsc.gov.uk)

The Library and Information Commission (LIC) was asked to advise the Secretaries of State for Culture, Media and Sport and for Education and Employment on how to improve and stimulate co-operation between the education and public library sectors in order to support lifelong learning. Read the report, *Empowering the Learning Community* at

[www.lifelonglearning.dfes.gov.uk/etlc/index.htm](http://www.lifelonglearning.dfes.gov.uk/etlc/index.htm).

Chapters mentioning Learning Partnerships include "The Recommendations" and "Annex D".

A report "Mutual Advantage: Working with Voluntary and Community Organisations on Learning and Skills" has been produced to share some of the lessons and good practice from partnerships. The report can be found at [www.dfes.gov.uk/led/ma.shtml](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/led/ma.shtml)

In November 2000 the DfEE launched the Children and Young People Unit to drive forward investment in services for children and young people. The foundation document for building a strategy can be found at

[www.dfes.gov.uk/cypu/downloads/cypu\\_strategy.pdf](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/cypu/downloads/cypu_strategy.pdf)

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## Evaluation

The national study continues to reveal excellent examples of good practice from its case studies.

We want to hear from other partnerships about their own achievements and successes. Contact

[craig.toulson@dfes.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:craig.toulson@dfes.gsi.gov.uk)