

## **Breakout Parallel Workshops (1hr sessions)**

Workshops are at 11.30am and repeated at 13.30pm. Registered delegates will be able to select in advance the two workshops they would like to attend.

Workshop Details

**(A) New Business Partnerships for the New Environment**

**(B) New Higher Level Vocational Qualifications**

**(C) Quality Assurance in the Workplace**

**(D) Accreditation and Progression to Higher and Professional Frameworks**

**(E) Higher Education and Further Education - Academic and Business Partnerships**

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### **(A) New Business Partnerships for the New Environment**

Innovation in 'employer-led' curriculum design. This session highlights two original and innovative approaches to successful partnership working with businesses and support agencies. Delegates will have the opportunity to engage with employers first hand and examine the key performance indicators required to bring these projects to fruition.

#### **Case study 1 'From Chalk Face to Work Place'**

The Regional Development Agency One North East embarked on a research and development initiative focused on the business and education sector's ability to develop a programme of higher level skills learning suitable for flexible delivery in the work place. The EIAT Consultancy provided a research framework to generate a sustainable partnership model with the business sector and Newcastle College for the development of an employer facing Foundation Degree.

This workshop will explore why this employer-facing FD was so different and innovative than similar initiatives to create and engage employers and equip employees with business knowledge and develop entrepreneurial skills and competencies.

The workshop will explore;

- Getting employer/employee buy in
- The importance of the initial research and consultation with all stakeholders
- Getting teaching and support staff buy in
- Developing the curriculum
- Preparing for validation

*Presenters:*

**Stephen Gibson** *Operations Manager, School of Creative Industries Newcastle College*

**Antony Crerar** *Director, The R&B Group, Newcastle & York*

**David Haley** *Client Services Director for Wipro Technologies*

#### **Case study 2 'Higher Level Skills Partnership'**

This case study looks at the successful HLSP bid which was collaboration between the LLLN, NW Texnet, an industry cluster organisation and Blackburn University Centre. The funding by the HLSP facilitated the development of a Foundation Degree in Advanced Flexible Materials. This met the need of companies in the Northwest who had new ideas for product development but lacked the knowledge of how to take the initial idea and convert it into a product which could be taken to market. This FD focuses on the process and project management of the whole product life cycle within the Advanced Flexible Materials Sector.

The workshop will look at:

- The model of collaboration - keeping employers interested
- Challenges of developing employer led curriculum
- Innovative delivery and design methodology

*Presenter:*

**Melissa Conlon** *Sector Consultant Advanced Engineering & Manufacturing LLLN/Head of Engineering University Centre Blackburn College*

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## **(B) New Higher Level Vocational Qualifications**



*Edexcel sponsored workshop*

### **Case study 3 'BTEC Higher Nationals - Building on Employer Recognition'**

This seminar focuses on the new QCF BTEC Higher Nationals and how they are going to be redeveloped in order to respond to employers' demands for more responsive qualifications and learners' desire for more flexible forms of delivery. Issues to be covered will be the development of a vocational level 6 top-up for HNs, the development of e-resources for HNs and potential development of new HN sectors, focussing on how these developments will meet employers' needs.

*Presenter:*

**John Davies** *Head of HE Programme Development*

### **Case study 4 'Higher Apprenticeships - Opportunities and Challenges?'**

With the increased focus on Apprenticeships and progression into Higher Education, it is likely there will be significant expansion of the Higher Apprenticeship programme over the coming years. This workshop will look at the opportunities and challenges this will create.

*Presenter:*

**Jack Kerr** *Senior Business Manager (Apprenticeships)*

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## **(C) Quality Assurance in the Workplace**

This session will focus on some of the recent changes in Quality Assurance and the possible impact on workplace provision. Concentrating on the 'Academic Infrastructure' a range of issues will be explored including workplace assessment and accreditation of employer training provision. The 'Academic Infrastructure' is a set of UK-wide nationally agreed reference points which give all higher education providers a shared starting point for setting, describing and assuring the quality of the learning experience and standards of higher education awards or programmes.

### **Case study 5 'Academic Infrastructure'**

The Quality Assurance Agency for higher education (QAA) have developed and maintained the Academic Infrastructure in partnership with the higher education community for the past ten years. During 2009-10 QAA conducted an evaluation of the Academic Infrastructure and are currently co-ordinating work on possible changes to be made as a result of the evaluation. This will be the subject of a consultation during December and January. This case study presentation will outline the recent work by QAA and will be followed by a discussion which will allow participants to contribute to the debate about how the Academic Infrastructure is developed.

*Presenters:*

**Janet Bohrer:** *Assistant Director in the Development and Enhancement Group QAA*

**Harriet Barnes:** *Development Officer, Development and Enhancement Group QAA*

### **Case study 6 'Making the Academic Infrastructure Work for Business'**

This session will provide a critical review of the different employer engagement models that have been embedded across the College's foundation degrees and within the context of Academic Infrastructure. Taking a 'lessons learnt approach', various improvement and enhancement strategies adopted within the college will be presented as a means to disseminate practice through sharing of College resources.

*Presenter:*

**Ellen Thinnesen:** *Director of Quality Standards Higher Education Grimsby College*

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## **(D) Accreditation and Progression to Higher and Professional Frameworks**

The Government has signalled a commitment to substantially increase the number of work based apprenticeships to build the skills required in the key areas of economic importance. Delegates will be introduced to new approaches in designing appropriately accredited and effective apprenticeships and consider the role of various service providers in working together to create a coherent system.

### **Case study 7 'Developing Higher Apprenticeships in England'**

This workshop will outline the current developments taking place at a national level. It will enable delegates to contextualise their own position within a national perspective and how individuals working within the LLN can participate.

Objectives;

- to enable people to understand the importance of a collective approach towards, and engaging with, the LLN movement
- to share details of strategic relationships now established
- to identify how these relationships can help sustain practice and policy in the future.

*Presenter:*

**Jill Ward** *Director of Lifelong Learning, Staffordshire, Stoke-on-Trent, Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin*

### **Case study 8 'Employer Based Training and Accreditation'**

This session will focus upon the *fdf*/EBTA Service as one practical approach towards supporting employers to meet their higher level skill needs through the development of a range of collaborative partnerships involving employers, independent training providers,

HEIs and FECs. Through a case study approach, participants will be able to gain an overview of how EBTA has provided a catalyst for the development of innovative and flexible approaches to the delivery of HE in ways which make higher level learning more relevant to both employers and employees, particularly through augmenting existing in-company training through the integration of HE quality assurance arrangements.

*Presenter:*

**Bop Dhillon** Associate Director fdf/EBTA Manager

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## **(E) Higher Education and Further Education - Academic and Business Partnerships**

This seminar focuses on how universities and colleges are exploring alternative approaches to building new and sustainable partnerships to meet the changing business demands of the next decade.

### **Case study 9 'Creating an Academic Community'**

#### ***Supporting communities of practice; relationship, collaboration and operational learning***

This session will outline interventions made or supported by the work of the Higher Education Learning Partnerships (HELP) Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) to support and facilitate communities of practice across the University of Plymouth Colleges (UPC) partnership. Key lessons learned and challenges identified will be explored.

Participants will have the opportunity to;

- Explore community of practice facilitation interventions in practice
- Understand a range of issues, challenges and opportunities in supporting diverse and dispersed communities of practice
- Develop strategies for continued collaboration

*Presenter:*

**Mark Stone** Associate Dean Teaching & Learning University of Plymouth Colleges.

### **Case study 10 'Strategic Options - Operational Challenges'**

#### ***Perspectives of Higher Education in Further Education***

This presentation outlines the outcome of a major HE in FE survey undertaken by the Mixed Economy Group of Colleges (MEG), supported by the Learning & Skills Improvement Service (LSIS). Sixty colleges were surveyed, in a "territory mapping" exercise which focused on a range of issues impacting on the delivery of higher education within the further education sector including:

- Identifying the issues
- Perceptions of Risk
- HE in FE partners in Economic Development

*Presenter:*

**Madeleine King** Research Secretary - Mixed Economy Group (MEG)

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