

Westminster Employment Forum Keynote Seminar: The future of adult and community learning

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 10th September 2013

Venue: Sixty One Whitehall, London SW1A 2ET

Agenda subject to change

8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee

9.00 - 9.05

Chairman's opening remarks

Baroness Sharp of Guildford, Vice Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning

9.05 - 9.30

Adult and community learning in England - challenges and opportunities for the sector

David Hughes, Chief Executive, NIACE

Questions and comments from the floor

9.30 - 10.20

Community Learning Trusts - lessons from the pilot schemes

What lessons can be learned from how the CLT pilots performed against the outcome criteria of learner participation and progression and wider social impacts on their local communities; how should Community Learning providers be assessed and held accountable for such outcomes as the CLT model is rolled out more widely from August 2013? Are CLTs a sustainable model for the long-term future delivery of Community Learning? With considerable variance in the size of areas covered by CLTs - one covered three local authorities whilst another covered only a city centre - is there a benefit to such flexibilities or should there be an agreed ideal size for CLTs that could be replicated nationwide? What benefits are derived from the partnership working required by the CLT model and what emerged as the key challenges to tackle if wider roll-out of CLTs is to be successful? Where operating costs were lowered or non-Government income increased, what were the main ways in which CLTs achieved such results?

Clare Latham, Adult Learning Manager, Cheshire West and Chester Council

Professor Karen Evans, Chair in Education (Lifelong Learning), Institute of Education, University of London

Tricia Hartley, Chief Executive, Campaign for Learning

Ros Parker, Chief Executive Officer, Aspire Sussex

Ruth Spellman, Chief Executive and General Secretary, Workers' Educational Association (WEA)

Malcolm Walsh, Assistant Principal, Exeter College

Questions and comments from the floor

10.20 - 10.45

The next steps for Community Learning Trusts

Eoin Parker, Deputy Director, Pre-employment and Skills, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills

Questions and comments from the floor

10.45 - 10.50

Chairman's closing remarks

Baroness Sharp of Guildford, Vice Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning

10.50 - 11.10

Coffee

11.10 - 11.15

Chairman's opening remarks

Gordon Marsden MP, Shadow Minister for Further Education, Skills and Regional Growth

11.15 - 11.35

Creating the 'two-way street': engaging employers in adult Vocational Education and Training (VET)

Frank McLoughlin, Principal, City and Islington College and Chair, Commission on Adult Vocational Teaching and Learning

Questions and comments from the floor

11.35 - 11.55

Reforming adult vocational qualifications

Judith Compton, Assistant Director, UK Commission for Employment and Skills

Questions and comments from the floor

11.55 - 12.55

The future for adult VET - participation, pedagogy, qualifications and the role of technology

What steps can Government and colleges take to widen participation in adult learning, particularly amongst disadvantaged groups and in rural communities; what role could technology play in improving access? Is the introduction of 24+ Learning Loans likely to have an impact on participation rates? Should Government invest, as the Independent Commission suggests, in the development of haptics/digital workplace simulation resources with a view to becoming a world leader and exporting these technologies? How might colleges and Government take forward the Independent Commission's recommendation on a new financial model for adult learning that is clearer for employers to see what state funding is available to them and what 'enhanced' programmes are available from external training providers? What steps need to be taken to embed the concept of 'dual professionalism' with teaching staff having a first-hand experience and up-to-date knowledge of industry? What will be the challenges for the successful creation of the proposed 'Teach Too' scheme, where industry experts are encouraged to teach part-time? How would a tailored local element for adult vocational qualifications work in practice, and how can Government and colleges do more to engage employers in the design and delivery of adult learning programmes?

Professor Alan Brown, Professorial Fellow, Institute of Employment Research, University of Warwick

Charlyne Pullen, Research Manager, Centre for Skills, City & Guilds

Adrian Lockwood, Managing Director, Integration Technology and Chair, Oxfordshire Skills Board

Paula Whittle, Principal/Chief Executive, Ealing, Hammersmith & West London College

Dereh Wood, Group Director of Adult Skills, learndirect

Nigel Wynne, Senior Academic in Teaching and Learning, Centre for Health and Social Care Research, Birmingham City University

Questions and comments from the floor

12.55 - 13.00

Chairman's and Westminster Employment Forum closing remarks

Gordon Marsden MP, Shadow Minister for Further Education, Skills and Regional Growth

Jonny Roberts, Associate Editor, Westminster Employment Forum



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