



## SLN Newsletter #1

Welcome to the first edition of the Sussex Learning Networks newsletter. Our new website and newsletter will be a key source of information on **vocational learning and higher education in Sussex**. We hope both will keep you up-to-date in this rapidly changing area.

If you have relevant local news, events or activities, you can take advantage of our website or newsletter to publicise these. Please contact Peter Rainger, our Information Officer ( email: [p.f.rainger@brighton.ac.uk](mailto:p.f.rainger@brighton.ac.uk) ).

This newsletter is also available online at <http://www.sussexlearningnetwork.org.uk/newsletter>

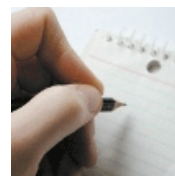
## Successful event highlights the challenge ahead for the SLN

With Over 70 people from institutions and organisations across Sussex and the South East attended an event to launch the SLN's delivery plan 2006-08 and to focus on the future and the challenges ahead.



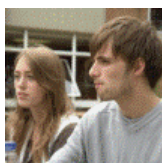
## Are you an employer who has benefited from higher education?

Have you used higher education to develop your workforce and business? Has higher education helped you develop your knowledge, career or skills? Then we would like to hear from you!



## Students wanted for new consultancy projects in Sussex

A new series of projects, funded by the SLN, will create new resources, including a website and newsletter for vocational students in Sussex. For more information contact Rebecca Duffy ( [r.i.duffy@brighton.ac.uk](mailto:r.i.duffy@brighton.ac.uk) ).



## SLN Delivery Plan 2006-08 published

The SLN's two year delivery plan is now available online and in a bound publication. For copies please contact Adam Stewart ( [a.m.stewart@brighton.ac.uk](mailto:a.m.stewart@brighton.ac.uk) ).



<http://www.sussexlearningnetwork.org.uk/delivery-plan>

January 2007						
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Coming soon our online staff development events calendar  
**A date for your diary:** The Sussex Learning Network annual conference will be held this year on 20 and 21 June 2007. We'll be publishing more details of this and other events on our website in February 2007.

Our new website is the place to go for news, events and information on vocational learning in Sussex



## Events

### [The challenges for shaping the future of Access to higher education](#)

Access as a dynamic and innovative force for progression - regional OCN conference looks to the future of vocational education and training.

(21 March 2007, London.)

### [Enhancing the student experience in lifelong learning: research and practice](#)

A two day conference organised by Escalate and the University of Nottingham.

(Thursday 24 - Friday 25 May 2007, Nottingham)

<http://escalate.ac.uk/3130>

## News in brief

### [SLN prize draw winner provides vocational training](#)

An entry level qualification with Re:Fresh could be the first step on the path to qualifying with an honours degree from a university in Sussex. (Dec 06)

### [Sussex Downs College wins Beacon Edge Award](#)

The Multimedia team at Sussex Downs College was presented with a Beacon Award for Practical Teaching and Practical Learning. (Dec 06)

### [HEFCE consultation: higher education in further education colleges](#)

HEFCE launched a consultation seeking views of: the role of HE in FECs, strategic development of provision, proposals for centres for HE excellence in colleges, funding and relationships. (Dec 06)  
(Responses by 20 February)

### [Lord Leitch publishes review of long term skills needs](#)

Employers should drive the UK's skills agenda to ensure the country can remain economically competitive in the decades to come, the Leitch review recommended. (Dec 06)

### [Controversy over vocational degrees continues](#) (Nov 06)

Universities boss blasts vocational degree critics (Telegraph).

'Mickey Mouse' degrees acclaimed (BBC)

### [Universities UK publication: 'Higher level learning: universities and employers working together'](#)

New Universities UK publication showcases the many ways universities are working with employers to develop business-focused degrees and to enhance graduate employability. (Nov 06)

<http://bookshop.universitiesuk.ac.uk/latest/>

### [Lifelong Learning Networks National Forum](#)

Creating a national resource for the exchange of ideas and good practice in the LLN community: the LLN National Forum launched its website and held its first conference. (Nov 06)

<http://www.lifelonglearningnetworks.org.uk/>

### [Nuffield Review of 14-19 Education released](#)

"progression to higher education can be problematic for those with vocational qualifications, and there is a need for these qualifications to be viewed and utilised more positively." (Nov 06)