



SLN Newsletter 13 — Welcome to the new Sussex Learning Network

It's a busy time for the Sussex Learning Network! This newsletter introduces a new Director, a new Deputy Director, a new location and contact details, and, most importantly, a new phase of SLN activity.

Finally, keep reading to find out how you can order copies of our new Learning Opportunities booklet!

A message from our new Director, Viki Faulkner...

It is a great privilege for me to be able to welcome you to this newsletter.

On the 1st June I took up post as Director of the Sussex Learning Network and working with my colleagues, Pete Barron as Deputy Director, Adam Stewart as Network Manager, Maureen Haywood as Project Director for LaWIS and her team, we look forward to guiding the SLN into its second phase.



It is a time of great challenge, not only for higher education facing demographic downturns, ELQ and caps on student growth, but for the economy as a whole. Yet with challenge, comes opportunity and the Sussex Learning Network is ideally placed to build on the foundations of partnership working established amongst the SLN partners during the first phase of the network's activity, and to support and develop this partnership further as we move forward. The future of the SLN will see us building on the strong foundations established in supporting vocational progression, and see us moving our focus further away from those learners who are currently in the system, to look further at those learners who want to continue their studies, but within the workplace context. To ask: what will higher education will look like for these learners? And how can we identify and begin to tap into this latent demand?

Our new look 'phase 2' SLN will be driven by three main strands of work:

- the Learning Opportunities in the South East website, which will be providing a source of information, advice and guidance for those wishing to learn more about how to access study in higher education
- the Sussex Vocational Progression Accord (SVPA) which will oversee, maintain and build on the systems put in place to ensure a positive progression flow for vocational learners, both in learning currently and those in the workplace
- the Centre for Work and Learning, a new £1.7m HEFCE funded project to enable partner institutions of the SLN to work together on employer engagement activities, capacity building, curriculum re-modelling, trialling new and innovative methods of curriculum delivery such as bite sized modules, increased use of off-site and blended and e-learning models, production of support materials and the delivery of 360 co-funded ASNs over the three year period up to 2012.

The synergy between these three interrelated stands of work and the partnership aspects brought by the network of FE and HE providers working together in the SLN, make the future for work based learning at higher levels, and for vocational learners across Sussex, a very exciting one indeed. I look forward to keeping you all updated with our latest developments.

Viki Faulkner

Director – Sussex Learning Network

[Click here or more information about Viki](#)



...And our new Deputy Director, Peter Barron

I am delighted to have been appointed as Deputy Director of the Sussex Learning Network and have enjoyed the opportunity to meet most of our partners already.

The work of SLN and its partners over the last three years has been very impressive and the level of cooperation across further and higher education extensive and innovative. I hope to play a role in stimulating even deeper collaboration with the close-knit team at our twin bases in Hollingbury and Falmer.



Employer engagement and delivery of co-funded ASNs are hot topics in higher education at the moment but, whilst clearly necessary, these are tough challenges in a period of economic recession. There is, however, an argument that such times are just those in which confident organisations should look to retrench and prepare themselves for the upswing in the economic cycle by gaining new skills.

As institutions providing higher education, we need to be innovative and responsive to employers' needs in providing the excellent and accredited training which we know we do so well. This can be done not only through the choice of subjects to teach but also through organisation of provision to suit the learner's work patterns and finances. I am looking forward to an exciting three years working with you to make this happen.

Peter Barron

Deputy Director—Sussex Learning Network

[Click here for more information about Pete](#)

Update your contact details: The SLN's new location

Our new address:

Exion House, Crowhurst Road, Hollingbury, Brighton, East Sussex, BN1 8AF

Viki Faulkner, SLN Director:
V.J.Faulkner@brighton.ac.uk
Tel: 01273 641 092

Peter Barron, SLN Deputy Director:
P.Barron@brighton.ac.uk
Tel: 01273 641 090

Adam Stewart, SLN Network Manager:
A.M.Stewart@brighton.ac.uk
Tel: 01273 641 091

Please note that our Learning Opportunities work continues at our old address:

Sussex Learning Network, Sussex Innovation Centre, Science ParkSquare, Falmer Brighton, BN1 9SB

Email Maureen Haywood: M.Haywood@brighton.ac.uk
Tel: 01273 873102





New Learning Opportunities Booklets Bringing higher education to the South East

The new Learning Opportunities booklet is for all those interested in work-based and work-related higher education. It's for people in work, hoping to return to work or about to enter the workforce as well as those currently studying for a level 3 vocational qualification (in colleges and sixth forms). It complements the Learning Opportunities in the South East website and is also another useful resource for advisers and others who provide support to learners. Learners, potential learners and advisers are all welcome to email us if they can't find what they're looking for.

In addition to providing information and advice about vocational education at university level, the booklet focuses on the barriers to learning that preoccupy mature learners such as time management, juggling work and study, childcare while you study, and coping with redundancy. We have also included advice on using work experience to gain entry to higher education.



Four booklets are available:

- Learning Opportunities in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Surrey
- Learning Opportunities in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight
- Learning Opportunities in Kent and Medway
- Learning Opportunities in Sussex

Copies of these and our other Learning Opportunities resources can be order from our free online shop.

www.sussexlearningnetwork.org.uk/free-shop

Learning Opportunities is funded by SEEDA (South East England Development Agency), the LSC (Learning and Skills Council) and the four Lifelong Learning Networks in the South East. We work in partnership with colleges and universities across the South East.

www.learning-opportunities.org.uk

If you would like to know more about Learning Opportunities, please contact [Maureen Haywood, Project Director](mailto:m.haywood@brighton.ac.uk).
m.haywood@brighton.ac.uk



Where are they now?

Ex-SLN Director Chris Baker has recently taken up a new role as Head of Economic and Social Engagement (EaSE) at the University of Brighton.

As the University of Brighton is our lead partner, the SLN is now positioned within the new department. Consequently we are looking forward to working closely with Chris over the term of our second phase of activity

