



## SLN Newsletter 8—Progression Update

This Summer edition focuses on the work the SLN has undertaken to support student progression to and through higher education, and takes a closer look at our online progression agreement database **Sussexroutes**

# Sussexroutes

Over the last two years, we've been working to develop a range of agreements that give learners a guarantee of an interview, or an offer of a place, on a higher education course.

Upwards of 300 agreements have been developed so far, in seven areas of the curriculum:

- **Arts and New Media**
- **Biosciences**
- **Community Practice**
- **Engineering**
- **Health and Social Care**
- **Sport and Leisure**
- **Travel, Tourism and Retail**

### Where I am now

Start here to find out about progression routes from your current situation.

### Where I want to be

Start here to find out about progression routes to your ideal qualification.

Learners can search for these progression routes online with **Sussexroutes**.

Learners can identify any agreements that relate to a specific course or, in some cases, experience with a local employer, and can print out a certificate which explains the guarantee, any conditions they'll have to meet, and how to apply.

Because our progression agreements are so varied, the way we communicate them is extremely important. We need to make sure that the learners who could benefit from these new arrangements are aware of them, and know what they have to do to make use of them. Equally, we need to be very clear that **Sussexroutes** is a database of progression agreements, not of the huge variety of routes that learners might follow to progress. So, the fact that progression from one particular course to another isn't mentioned on **Sussexroutes** simply means that there's not a guarantee attached to this route, but a learner can of course apply in the normal way.

Getting all this information out there to learners and advisers, and making sure that practitioners within the further and higher education institutions are up to speed with them, is a huge task. Our Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) team is promoting **Sussexroutes** to potential learners, advisers and employers, and we've run a series of staff development events for colleagues in our partner universities and colleges.

We're also working with colleagues in other Lifelong Learning Networks, especially our neighbouring three in Kent and Medway, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight (HI-LLN), and Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Surrey (Progress South Central), to develop a consistent approach to the development of progression agreements, and we're looking at agreements that cross Lifelong Learning Network boundaries in some specialist sectors. So watch this space!



## [THREE BY THE SEA— A triple success!](#)

With three conferences over three days in June this year, the second annual conference of the Sussex Learning Network, **Three by the Sea**, had something to offer everyone with an interest in vocational learning.

### [Learning about the new 14-19 diplomas](#)

Over 117 delegates joined us for day 1, an in-depth look at the issues around the introduction of the new 14-19 Diplomas in Sussex.

### [Learning from research](#)

Day 2 brought together 125 researchers and delegates with an interest in stimulating and supporting practitioner research into vocational learning.

### [Learning from practice](#)

Marking three years since the SLN's inception, 150 delegates joined us on day 3 to take a critical look at our impact on vocational higher education in Sussex.

### **A conference within a conference!**

On the morning of day 3 colleagues from City College Brighton and Hove and members of Sussex's entrepreneurial community joined us for an engaging discussion on the local skills agenda, asking the question 'can we all be entrepreneurs?'

<http://www.sussexlearningnetwork.org.uk/conference2008>



## News in brief

### [Learning Opportunities in Sussex: our new booklet](#)

Hot off the press our new Learning Opportunities booklet provides information and advice about higher education for vocational learners and those who advise them. Order your free copies today!



### [New training resources for advisory staff](#)

Use the SLN's training materials and help us build up a bank of resources.

### [Study of Sussex Learning Network students](#)

Who is the SLN learner? A new report provides a picture of the learners supported by the SLN, and explores their experience of higher education in Sussex.

<http://www.sussexlearningnetwork.org.uk/news-archive>