



## SLN Newsletter 9

This Autumn edition focuses on the work of the SLN going forward, in particular the new and innovatory Learning Opportunities in the South East information, advice and guidance service.

## Learning Opportunities in the South East

### New! Learning Opportunities in the South East

Learning Opportunities in Sussex, the innovatory information, advice and guidance (IAG) materials and service developed by the Sussex Learning Network is to be rolled out to cover 9 counties across the South East.

The four Lifelong Learning Networks (LLNs) in the South East

- [Hampshire & Isle of Wight LLN](#)
- [Kent and Medway LLN](#)
- [Progress South Central](#)
- [Sussex Learning Network](#)

have joined forces to create a new Learning at Work Information Service (LAWIS) that will promote vocational higher education to the workforce and those who advise, support and employ them. This is the first joint initiative of its kind in the country and provides a model for other LLNs to work collaboratively.

This new service builds on the work done in Sussex and is a direct response to the Leitch targets of 40% of adults in work achieving higher education qualifications by 2020. It will capitalise on the investment already made in Sussex by extending and embedding the Learning Opportunities model to Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Kent, Medway, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Surrey.

Learning Opportunities in Sussex will become Learning Opportunities in the South East and will deliver:

- **Personalised online information and advice across 14 broad careers areas**
- **An “ask a question” facility supported by an extensive database**
- **The option to search for information by postcode or town across the South East**
- **An interactive progression tool that simplifies the detail of progression agreements for users**
- **A Personal Planning Pack that includes advice on making a decision about study and applying for a course**
- **A Foundation degree/HND/HNC search that links to course descriptions and provides a facility to email questions direct to the institution**
- **Complementary paper resources**
- **A pilot “email an adviser” service for the South East**
- **Staff development opportunities**

This is being funded jointly by the 4 Lifelong Learning Networks, the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) and the Learning and Skills Council South East (LSC). The project has funding from September 2008 to August 2010 and during that time the team will be keeping a close eye on how their work fits with the development of the new Adult Advancement and Careers Service.

For more information about the project, please contact Maureen Haywood – [m.haywood@brighton.ac.uk](mailto:m.haywood@brighton.ac.uk) or telephone 01273 873104.



## [SLN Board bids farewell to Chris Baker](#)

On the 18th September 2008 the SLN Board met for a special meeting to review the work of the last three years and say farewell to Chris Baker, founding member and Director of the SLN, who has stepped down from the helm.

Joined by members of the Core Team and the wider SLN Curriculum Team, the Board thanked Chris for his inspirational and tireless leadership over the term of his tenure, and congratulated him on a job well done.

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

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

This report forms part of the SLN's overall evaluation. Its aim is to provide evidence of the SLN's effectiveness in reaching its target audience, and assess the impact of learning on the experience and plans of higher education students on a range of vocational courses. The report includes analysis of data relating to the learners enrolled on places provided via the SLN, as well as the results of a series of in depth interviews and focus groups.



## News in brief

### [Major report highlights universities' links with schools](#)

Work on student progression carried out by the SLN, in conjunction with Aimhigher Sussex, links to recent report recommendations

### [Are vocational courses failing students?](#)

Graeme Hall, Director of the West London Lifelong Learning Network, hits back on his blog against claims in the Guardian newspaper that vocational courses are failing students.

### [HE credit framework for England](#)

Universities UK, GuildHE and QAA have jointly published a higher education credit framework for England, and associated guidance. This guidance is intended to clarify and make explicit existing practice in higher education.

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