

Notes from the London Staff Developers Group Meeting held on Tuesday 30 January 2007 at Stewart House

Openers

We welcomed new members, introduced ourselves and agreed the notes recorded at our previous meeting

Our interests activity

Jacqui MacDonald updated us on next steps from the activity session last time, when we were invited to identify areas of interest for ourselves and for our London group.

Some of the key areas identified included appraisal, induction, coaching and mentoring, performance management, E-learning and working with researchers.

It was suggested we might make use of some of the SDF funds we had now banked to run sessions on some of these topics, using internal group members where possible.

A number of offers were made by attendees to facilitate sessions, including Steve Rathbone, Andrew Taylor and Jacqui herself. Steve Collins, incoming Staff Development Head at Goldsmiths, was also identified as a possible speaker on coaching and mentoring.

These offers will be pursued in advance of the summer meeting at Kings, which Ken kindly offered to host as an extended workshop session with lunch on June 6th.

Guest speaker: Harry Bundred from ITOL (Institute of Training and Organisational Learning)

Harry introduced himself to the group, establishing a long lineage in the 'people development business' and his more recent involvement as Director with ITOL, which he described as the UK's fastest growing training institute.

He reflected on changes in the world of work, which underpin the centrality of learning- the speed of change, democratic empowerment from a widely accessible technology and need for organisations to promote information flow as an imperative- before looking at ITOL's emerging role within the profession.

He highlighted their specific and exclusive focus on whole- organisational learning and their desire to promote a renewed sense of professional status for staff developers.

He outlined their non-bureaucratic style, approach and core values, before outlining individual and organisational membership options.

He concluded by issuing sample copies of their magazine and by taking various questions from the floor on membership numbers/costs, relationships with Lifelong Learning UK and the ITOL journal.

Round robin

Susan Small mentioned that the Bloomsbury Group were planning a set of activities for Adult Learners Week/ Learning at Work Day in late-May (21-25 May) and were keen to share practice, hook up with other interested group members.

Steve Rathbone and Chris Connelley confirmed Imperial and LSE were also planning activity too

It was agreed that an open meeting on this specific Planning for Learning at Work Day theme would be scheduled by Chris for some time late-February, and issued to all members across our mail list.

Andrew Taylor offered updates on the HEATED project for technicians- now at the second stage of a HEFCE funding application- and Roberts money information from Stephen Tarling

Colleagues at the University of the Arts also requested details of work on CPD being undertaken by members, which we asked for more specific detail on in order that responses could be most helpful

Staff Development Forum

Bob Thackwray, from the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education (LFHE), standing in for SDF Chair Sandy Wilkie, offered an update of where things were at with SDF, building on notes from the recent SDF residential issued at the start of the meeting.

He identified ways some of the other regions had used local SDF monies, which included hosting open space sessions, staff developer residentials and Change Academies.

He also identified some thoughts from the SDF funding group on charging membership for staff development units, rather than individuals, the key point being that pump priming funds from LFHE (LFHE) were coming to an end and the SDF group would need to generate income to continue.

A discussion on funding LFHE and SDF membership options ensued. Chris requested specific thoughts on this be emailed direct to him at c.Connelley@lse.ac.uk for feedback to the next SDF meeting in April, where he represents the London area.

Training Systems

Ken Bromfield developed some ideas he had previously shared on email about management information systems for training. He identified the need to capture both local and central data, and offered to host a dedicated session on a potentially very attractive system for all those interested. Dates will follow via central mail out.

Next meeting

June 6 2007 at Kings for an extended session, with lunch, between 1000-1400. Specific venue tbc

Chris Connelley, January 31 2007