

5. Further Education and Work Based Learning Sector

Developments in the Further Education and Work Based Learning Sector in 2006-2007

There has been a lot of energy and interest within this sector across a wide range of ESDGC aspects from procurement, to whole college planning to estates. Several initiatives to take forward work in this sector have received funding from the ESDGC panel for this year. The ESDGC champion has met with staff within the FE sector and links have been made with existing ESDGC work in colleges (Ymlaen Ceredigion project at Coleg Ceredigion) and current initiatives build on the expertise that has been developing to date.

Strategic planning letter, ESDGC report and resources (Actions 5.1.4, 5.3.3, 5.3.2)

The Welsh Assembly Government included a request within the annual strategic planning letter to further education institutions (FEIs) to produce a report on ESDGC within the college. These reports have now been collated and are being used as a baseline to assess developments, needs and successes within the sector. After discussions with the colleges regarding their reports additional resources and good practice examples will be produced to share back with the sector. It is planned to repeat this request to colleges in 2008.

Work Based Learning audit (Action 5.2.2)

All Work Based Learning (WBL) providers were asked to report on their ESDGC actions as part of their reporting requirements by the Welsh Assembly government. This has given a clear indication of need for the sector. A funded project is now underway to address the needs of this sector and to provide them with materials, support and best practice to move them forward in addressing ESDGC within their organisations and within their training delivery.

Conferences (Action 5.2.3)

The ESDGC champion has spoken at numerous conferences and meetings within the sector this year, from the national Fforwm conference in Cardiff to individual colleges' staff training days and at project meetings within colleges.



Conference planned for April 2008 - (Action 5.1.3)

Following the development of additional resources for colleges (mentioned in 5.1.4 above) a conference is being planned for April 2008. This will be aimed at senior college staff to raise the profile of ESDGC and to offer additional training and workshops on key areas for delivery.

Additional links

Following a pilot project bid from the ESDGC panel, Ymlaen Ceredigion has been successful in finding funding to carry forward their project embedding ESDGC within Coleg Ceredigion. As part of the developments the Sus Gil project will endeavour to support national developments with feedback from their project and through these links best practice will be taken out to other FE colleges over the next three years.

Sustainable Procurement Strategies (Action 5.3.1)

The Welsh Further Education Procurement Consortium (WFEP) has been allocated funds from the ESDGC panel to take forward an initiative that looks to develop sustainable procurement strategies for each college. A mixture of workshops, resources and face to face support help will ensure that policies, and practice are altered to ensure sustainability is at the heart of procurement within the colleges.