

## **Annual Report: Period 1 August 2007 – 31 July 2008**

### **'CPD Noticeboard' (Continuing professional Development Noticeboard)**

'CPD Noticeboard' is the first of its kind in the country, a portal for viewing in one place the continuing professional development (CPD) opportunities offered in a city region, by the four universities in the vicinity. The year saw significant developments to the facility, with the initial pilot covering programme offerings in Education and Children's Services sector, extending to include Health and Social Care, and Business and Management. This involved bringing together the expertise and input of eleven faculties across the institutions and twenty three departments.

The cutting edge software is premised on two key features: the ability to capture data from different organisations simultaneously and entirely under their respective control, and a data system compatible with the anticipated national data standard 'XCRI' (cross-course related information). UCAS and other bodies including 14-19, Learn Direct are piloting the XCRI system in 2008 and tests to date have passed with green lights.

Liverpool City of Learning pioneered this new approach of promoting professional development programmes offered by group of universities within a particular locality. The work has generated considerable interest amongst the higher education sector across the country. Such a facility is particularly pertinent at the present time where learning and upskilling at work are increasingly important. With changing demographics the government's emphasis on work-related learning, Leitch agenda, this new facility is a considerable asset. Moreover, the system is an exemplar of shared service use. Working with four institutions across their respective Education, Health and Business Faculties entailed considerable iteration. Liverpool City of Learning worked with them to collate their CPD course provision using the XCRI compatible format. This entailed extensive-ordination on a large scale and working closely with cutting edge software developers

A sector based approach was adopted as part of a phased development of the facility, thus enabling the course data gathering to be manageable, and an identifiable target market. The emphasis forthwith is embedding locally in partner organisations. City of Learning recognised that effective business intelligence provision was a major asset of the new facility and the CPD Noticeboard gathers data on user patterns of the facility thus enabling the university to plan more effectively their future provision.

### **Liverpool Professional Educational Partnership Group**

The Liverpool Professional Educational Partnership Group is an overarching group brought together by Liverpool City of Learning to provide a framework for the education expertise of the four higher education institutions to come together. During the year the work encompassed the completion of the Schools Learning Networks Research. The Networks were established in Liverpool in April 2005, to provide a new structure for groups of schools to work together. Through the development of new relationships it was intended that the sharing of resources and professional development, would enhance the learning and achievement for young people. Across the country, various forms of networks were piloted, but Liverpool was seen as being in the vanguard of network development covering the whole of the city.

The research aim was to identify the processes involved in establishing an effective Learning Network and its role in promoting collaborative professional development aimed at improving teacher and pupils learning. The objectives were to: explore the structural, managerial, economic and cultural issues involved in establishing a Learning Network; to investigate the impact of the Learning Network on the professional development experiences of staff; to identify and evaluate the impact of the Learning Network on the opportunities presented to pupils for personalised learning; to assess the impact of the Learning Network on schools' collaborative arrangements for pupil enrichment activities. The final report was presented in January 2008 to the Steering

Group and a number of dissemination events and activities followed involving both higher education and Children's Services staff and schools. Six collaborative academic papers have been published with a further two pending and presentations at international conferences arranged.

The four Collaborative Learning Research Projects came to completion in the spring. Each university took a research lead in a collaboration with a group of schools from across Merseyside on a different aspect of the government's 'Every Child Matters' agenda. Each was independent, but through the City of Learning network, they also shared their findings throughout, so gaining a wider understanding of the Every Child Matters context. This yielded more from the research, and the partners were able to contribute more holistically to the Every Child Matters for schools.

The areas covered included: working with professional development and action research groups in enhancing the role of widening participation school/college co-ordinators and contributing to the design, co-ordination and evidence base of an effective widening participation progression curriculum; addressing the needs of children during transition from key stage 2 to key stage 3; transforming partnership for professional learning and inclusive education; the challenges of implementing the Every Child Matters in schools and potential ways forward

The Liverpool Professional Educational Partnership Group also provided a wider forum for education discussion across the respective sectors. One development emerging from the cross-sector networking is the establishment of accreditation opportunities for work undertaken by education staff. Liverpool Children's Services has been active in developing a number of new programmes to meet needs within their schools and education support, including developing programmes such as Core Innovators and Emerging Leaders. With input from the university education faculties a number of aspects of the education practitioners' current learning including experiential learning have been able to be accredited with the local universities providing further benefits for the students. Progression for further workforce development has also been a positive outcome. Action Research is an area identified by both sectors as having potential benefits. Fora to enable discussions on potential areas of development are being arranged to take this forward.

Through the partnership approach, the sum of the parts of each of the small projects totals more than the sum of the individual elements. A key aspect is the active dissemination of the work throughout to relevant stakeholders, as well as at the conclusion.

#### **14-19 Agenda**

Following the government announcement of the new 14-19 Diploma qualification, Liverpool City of Learning has been actively engaged providing a forum for the six local authorities and further education colleges across Greater Merseyside to work together with the higher education institutions to aid in the establishment of this major new qualification in Merseyside. From one end of the spectrum, City of Learning provided opportunities for the respective parties to be kept updated and forged dialogue across the sectors. It also pursued more detailed liaison work on the specifics of progression and admission policies to higher education and opportunities for the HEIs to inform the development of the new Diplomas including some curriculum content and delivery.

A further series of sector based workshops were held focusing on the sector specific second phase diploma lines. Subject specialists from the universities met with sector leads from the local authorities and detailed discussion on the specifics relating to each diploma line worked through.

No other body in the sub-region provides this umbrella opportunity of bringing together these sectors at a Greater Merseyside level to move the development forward strategically. Moreover, nationally, the City of Learning framework enabling a strategic linkage between universities, schools, colleges and Children's Services is viewed a flagship, putting Merseyside ahead of the game in such joint developments.

#### **Widening Participation**

Aimhigher Greater Merseyside, the widening participation to higher education initiative has developed further. City of Learning provided the starting point for Aimhigher in the sub-region, enabling a strategic framework for engaging both across the sectors and at senior level to secure embedding. The partnership's particular focus throughout the year was on the Progression Routes across the sectors and the research and evaluation activity. Ways to

demonstrate impact have been explored that reflects the various partners particular areas of interest. Stronger regional links have been secured with sharing of good practice and mentoring.

### **Higher Education Sector and Further Education Sector in Greater Merseyside**

The linkage with the further education sector continues through the Merseyside Colleges' Association. Building on existing linkages and good practice, these enhanced inter-sector relationships are aimed at supporting and augmenting key areas of joint working. The emerging Lifelong Learning Network has extended these links further.

### **Culture Sector**

An initiative which received renewed impetus during Liverpool's year as European Capital of Culture is Culture Campus Liverpool. Originally formed between the city's major visual arts organisations and two of the universities, the lead up to 2008 and the year itself saw a new invigoration. The partnership extended to the three universities in the city and Liverpool Arts Regeneration Consortium (LARC) which represents the eight largest cultural institutions in the city. The prime purpose of Culture Campus is to attract, retain and develop artistic and innovative talent, providing Liverpool with a sustainable economic and cultural legacy from 2008. In developing Liverpool as a recognised centre of excellence for postgraduate study and research, a key feature will be the emphasis on collaborative working with the cultural sector. City of Learning was asked to take the lead on the higher education engagement and act as an interface with LARC. A series of networking seminars have been held bringing together academics and practitioners to develop stronger working relations. A postgraduate student network is being explored and profile raising activity.

### **Board of Directors August 2007 - July 2008:**

Professor Michael Brown CBE DL	Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive (Chair)	Liverpool John Moores University
Professor Sir James Drummond Bone	Vice-Chancellor	The University of Liverpool
Wally Brown CBE	Principal	Liverpool Community College
Lynda Brady (from May 07)	Regional Director	Open University in the North West
Dr John Cater	Vice-Chancellor	Edge Hill University
Claire Dove MBE	Chief Executive	Women's Technology and Education Centre
Cllr Beatrice Fraenkel (to May 08)	Liverpool City Council Member	The City of Liverpool
Stuart Smith (from May 07)	Executive Director	Children's Services, The City of Liverpool
Professor Gerald Pillay	Vice-Chancellor and Rector	Liverpool Hope University
Alan Smithies	Representative	Liverpool Association of Secondary Headteachers

### **Executive Committee:**

Professor Bill Chambers	Pro Vice Chancellor: External Relations and Widening Participation	Liverpool Hope University
Professor Rhiannon Evans/Dr David Laws	Pro Vice-Chancellor, Students and External Affairs	Edge Hill University
Dr Phil Margham	Director of Learning Innovation	Liverpool John Moores University
Dr Anne Merry	Director of Lifelong Learning	The University of Liverpool
<b>Staff:</b>		
Erica Jones	Director	Liverpool City of Learning
Kerry Pickard	Administrator	Liverpool City of Learning
Reporting to City of Learning Board:		
Councillor Phil Davies	Chair	Aimhigher Greater Merseyside

## Summary of Accounts for the period ending 31 July 2008:

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £ 2007-8	Total Funds £ 2006-7
<b>Incoming Resources</b>				
Incoming resources from generated funds:	72,000	-	72,000	72,000
Voluntary income				
Other income	8,301	5,497	13,798	16,662
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>	<b>80,301</b>	<b>5,497</b>	<b>85,798</b>	<b>88,662</b>
<b>Resources Expended</b>				
Charitable activities	206,115	37,703	243,818	292,661
Governance costs	8,277	-	8,277	13,488
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>	<b>214,392</b>	<b>37,703</b>	<b>252,095</b>	<b>306,149</b>
<b>Net Income/(Expenditure)</b>	<b>(134,091)</b>	<b>(32,206)</b>	<b>(166,297)</b>	<b>(217,487)</b>
<b>Resources for the year</b> including transfers between funds				
Balances brought forward	231,647	128,430	360,077	577,564
Balances carried forward	97,556	96,224	193,780	360,077

The charitable company has no recognised gains or losses other than the results for the year as set out above. All of the activities of the company are classed as continuing.

The full set of accounts are available on request.

Auditors:  
Bresnan Walsh  
1 Water Street  
Liverpool L2 9RD

Bankers:  
Barclays Bank plc  
Liverpool City Business Centre, Water  
Street Liverpool L69 2DU

Solicitors:  
Brabners, Chaffe, Street  
1 Dale Street  
Liverpool L2 2ET