

ANNUAL REPORT: 1 August 2009 – 31 July 2010

The year had a particular focus on IT developments and cultural sector – education and employers interests.

Culture Campus Liverpool

Culture Campus is a partnership between the three universities and major cultural organisations in Liverpool that aims to attract talent, enhance employability and improve graduate retention in the city. City of Learning was asked to act as the shared services developer and a number of successful developments have emerged drawing on City of Learning's experience in this innovative way of working and the vision of the cross-sector Board, including:

Networking Seminars - bringing together university academics and arts and culture practitioners. Keynote speakers:

Professor Steven Connor of the London Consortium; Aileen McEvoy, responsible for Arts Council England HE strategy; Professor Nigel Llewellyn, Head of Research; Sally Taylor of London Centre for Arts and Cultural Exchange (LCACE) a consortium of nine HEIs working with arts and cultural organisations; Professor Shearer West, Director of Research, Arts and Humanities Council on the Impact agenda; also seminars introducing the cultural consortia Liverpool Arts and Regeneration Consortium (LARC); Liverpool Small and Medium Arts Consortium (SMAC) now called COOL; promoting CPD, volunteering and placement opportunities. Future seminars include: Richard Deverell, Chief Operating Officer, BBC North and MediaCity.

Between 40 -50 academics and practitioners attended seminars and we are advised that a of a significant number of developments have emerged from the relationships forged.

Culture Campus Liverpool CPD Portal

The experience of City of Learning with the CPD Noticeboard creation, and its relationship with the city's cultural employers was drawn upon for the Culture Campus Portal (CCLiP). A successful bid was made to JISC (Joint Information Systems Committee), a HEFCE linked agency concerned with innovation in the use of ICT for education and research. The (CCLiP) project involves the use of the new UK eProspectus standard, 'XCRI', a schema for structuring information about courses and opportunities. It offers organisations enhanced capabilities for course marketing and management information, one authoritative source of courses information, the keying in of data once for multiple purpose use – 20 websites can be populated and updated instantly, an aid for shared services whilst retaining individual data ownership.

CCLiP based on XCRI offers the opportunity for professional development courses, events and opportunities, offered by the Liverpool HEIs and cultural sector employers to be viewed through a single portal.

CoL held the initial leadership role engaging all nine cultural employers of LARC and COOL, and the three HEIs to the first critical path point - a rather dry process of mapping each organisation's data format, process and marketing against the XCRI schema. Drawing on national expertise, the particular nuisances pertinent to employers interests were accommodated. The University of Liverpool, Centre for Lifelong Learning as the lead accountable body took on the implementation and project management thereafter.

CCLiP is potentially an exemplar of a shared service use, and could hit a number of government department agendas; in common with it's precursor, CPD Noticeboard, it has generated considerable interest across the education sector. The project is due to be launched in January 2011.

UK eProspectus standard (XCRI) national development work

JISC invited City of Learning to lead a national project drawing on expertise across the country to support the promotion of the new UK eProspectus standard, 'XCRI' particularly focusing on decision makers. The project runs from January to September 2011

XCRI was mandated in January 2009 by the National Information Standards Board as the national standard for electronic course descriptions; European approval is anticipated in 2012. CCLiP is the first to use the schema with employers. Erica Jones was asked to speak on Employer Engagement at the JISC National Conference, 2010.

CPD Needs study

Funding was secured via the NWDA Innovation Voucher for a study into the CPD needs of the city's cultural sector, in association with Liverpool Arts Regeneration Consortium (LARC). The report will be completed in the following year.

NW Cultural Observatory and the Research Institute for Cultural Capital

The reinvigoration of Culture Campus aided the successful attraction of the North West Cultural Observatory to Liverpool from the NWDA. It was also a key factor in the establishment of the Research Institute for Cultural Capital as a joint venture between two universities, integrating Impacts08 and the NW Cultural Observatory.

Research study into the retention and employment destination of graduates in the creative industries - funded by the NWDA, this study assessed the interaction of students with the cultural sector and the perception of the cultural institution by students. The work was completed in the year and is helping inform future developments.

A Leverhulme Trust research bid under the heading of 'Beauty', bringing together a diverse group of scholars and cultural practitioners, including design, science and medicine. Whilst unsuccessful directly, various components of the bid are being built on by partners for smaller research projects.

Knowledge exchange has been stimulated following the major conference held at the end of the previous year bringing together 150 academics and cultural sector practitioners from across the city.

Culture Campus identity and website - further development, with the website functioning as a means of communication and focal point for students, cultural sector organisations and academics to make linkages. It is also used to coordinate and publicise a student internships programme based on specific cultural sector theme for placements.

A new NW Public Engagement Programme bid for postgraduate researchers from across the north west to the Arts and Humanities Research Council has been successful; the Programme starts in January 2011.

Widening participation

City of Learning provided the strategic framework for Aimhigher across the city region, working across higher education, further education, schools and other agencies for a coherent approach. The partnership also played a lead role on the early development of the Lifelong Learning Network in the city region. City of Learning has continued to act in a connecting role between sectors, holding seminars and exploratory meetings on new approaches.

Liverpool City Region - City Region Employment and Skills, and Local Enterprise Partnerships

City of Learning is engaged at various levels in these developments, including the City Region Employment and Skills Strategy Consortia Board, supporting engagement across the partnership.

Local authority, Further Education joint working and 14-19 Strategy

City of Learning supported the six local authorities and further education colleges across Greater Merseyside to work together with the higher education institutions to enhance educational achievements. This included the latest phase of advanced Diplomas and aided their establishment in Merseyside. City of Learning forged dialogue across the sectors and pursued more detailed liaison work on the specifics of progression and admission policies to higher education. It facilitated 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 latest diploma lines. Subject specialists from the universities met with sector leads from the local authorities and further education 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 city region level to move developments forward strategically.

Regeneration

Towards the end of the year, exploratory discussions with local communities in North Liverpool at their behest were held to look at potential regeneration opportunities through education and health based approaches.

Users and Beneficiaries of our services

Learners and those working to support learners have used and benefited from the organisation's services. This includes lifelong learners and those from non-traditional, local backgrounds, local authority staff, further education staff, cultural practitioners, university academics, health service staff and funders of educational developments. The latter is pertinent in relation to demonstrating innovative ways of joint working.

Staffing:

Kerry Pickard, part time administrator will be maternity leave from January 2011.

Board of Trustees/Directors

Professor Sir Howard Newby	Vice-Chancellor	University of Liverpool
Professor Michael Brown DL CBE	Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive	Liverpool John Moores University
Professor Gerald Pillay	Vice-Chancellor and Rector	Liverpool Hope University
Dr John Cater	Vice-Chancellor	Edge Hill University
Stuart Smith	Executive Director, Children's Services	Liverpool City Council
Maureen Mellor MBE	Principal	Liverpool Community College
Alan Smithies	Headteacher, and Chief Executive	Liverpool Association of Secondary Headteachers: The Fiveways Trust
Claire Dove MBE	Chief Executive	Women's Technology and Education Centre
tba	Councillors	Liverpool City Council

Executive Committee

Dr Anne Merry	Director of Lifelong Learning	University of Liverpool
Steve Kenny	Pro Vice-Chancellor	Liverpool John Moores University
Professor Bill Chambers	Pro Vice-Chancellor	Liverpool Hope University
Dr David Law	Pro Vice-Chancellor	Edge Hill University

Summary of Accounts for the period ending 31 July 2010:

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £ 2009-10	Total Funds £ 2008-9
Incoming Resources				
Incoming resources from generated funds:		-		
Voluntary income	124,874		124,874	95,342
Other income	107	-	107	4,697
Total Incoming Resources	80,301	5,497	124,874	100,039
Resources Expended				
Charitable activities	114,815	-	114,815	142,888
Governance costs	1,028	-	1,028	9,646
Total Resources Expended	115,843	-	115,843	152,534
Net Income/(Expenditure) Resources for the year including transfers between funds	9,138	-	9,318	(52,495)
Balances brought forward	141,285	-	141,285	193,780
Balances carried forward	150,423	-	150,423	141,285

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:
 Harvey Guinan
 Chartered Certified Accountants
 310/311 Vanilla Factory
 39 Fleet Street
 Liverpool L1 4AR

Bankers:
 Barclays Bank plc
 48B & 50 Lord Street
 Liverpool City Business Centre, Water
 Street Liverpool L69 2DU

Solicitors:
 Brabners Chaffe Street
 Horton House
 Exchange Flags
 Liverpool L2 3YL

Liverpool City of Learning
 c/o Liverpool Hope University, Hope Park, Liverpool L16 9JD
 t: +44 (0)151 291 3608 e: liv@cityoflearning.org.uk www.cityoflearning.org.uk
 Registered charity number: 1053372 Company Limited by Guarantee 3162540