

**ANNUAL REPORT: Period 1 August 2008 – 31 July 2009**

**‘CPD Noticeboard’ (Continuing Professional Development Noticeboard)**

Liverpool City of Learning pioneered the new approach of promoting professional development programmes offered by a group of universities through a single portal. The facility directly relates to the Government’s agendas of increasing workbased learning and upskilling, helping make information about opportunities more easy to find, and shared services.

The cutting edge development of CPD Noticeboard was created with technical developers in Devon. Liverpool John Moores University staff expressed particular interest in the technical background and the XCRI schema (referred to below) and as a result, working closely with City of Learning, took up the next stage to refine and enhance the user friendliness. This also enabled local capacity building in the skills of XCRI and the collaborative portal technical developments offering future development capacity. The sector approach worked well for CPD (Continuing Professional Development) offerings, which unlike undergraduate programmes, are traditionally organised and promoted locally, hence their data format and the scope of information provided can be very variable. The more structured the data, the enhanced capability it offers and it can be more easily promoted through multiple routes, without data input duplication.

The system is an exemplar of shared service use, hitting a number of government department agendas and generating interest across the UK education sector.

**Culture Campus Liverpool**

Following the invitation to Liverpool City of Learning to take the executive lead for Culture Campus Liverpool, the partnership of cultural organisations and universities in Liverpool was reinvigorated in 2008.

Culture Campus was established as a cross-sector alliance to address some of the graduate retention issues in the Liverpool city region in which both sectors had a common interest. It was recognised there was a dearth of formal relationships across the sectors and through demand from both sides, Culture Campus was established to bridge the sectors and create collaborative opportunities that support the attraction and retention of talent in the city. Activities included a series of Networking Seminars bringing together academics and cultural practitioners covering: the Arts Council England Higher Education Strategy; The London Centre for Arts and Cultural Enterprise (LCACE) a partnership of nine higher education institutions; The London Consortium; Research activity across the Tate Modern Art Collections; Liverpool Arts Regeneration Consortium. A range of participants from different disciplines from cultural organisation practitioners and university academics took part, and the networking opportunities have generated a number of spin-offs.

In June 2009, Culture Campus hosted a major conference bringing together over 150 participants from a range of cultural organisations and universities in cross-sector dialogue and helping to develop a vision for Culture Campus. Keynote speakers included Professor Sara Selwood, Nollaig Ó Fiongháile from GRADCAM, the three Vice-Chancellors from University of Liverpool, Liverpool John Moores University, Liverpool Hope University.

A myriad of new developments and collaborations have emerged including three cultural organisations securing groups of student volunteers for their peak activity periods; popular theatre collaborative research explorations underway; development of a collaborative bid related to exhibitions and ‘international Liverpool’; informing the development of the new Liverpool Culture Institute through the work of GRADCAM; enhanced national standing with funding bodies and influencers. A research study to determine destinations of graduates of the cultural and creative programmes from the three universities was completed, helping to inform future developments in provision and career support.

The revitalised Culture Campus partnership played a significant role in the bid by the universities, led by the University of Liverpool to build on the research work of Impacts 08, to successfully secure the North West Culture Observatory (NWCO) from the North West Development Agency. Building on this, the foundation of a new Liverpool Institute of Cultural Research (LICR) is being worked up, working closely with Culture Campus. These developments are of strategic significance to the City and Culture Campus has made a significant contribution in kick-starting a clustering of centres of excellence and opportunity.

## **JISC Culture Campus Liverpool CPD Portal**

The expertise and experience of City of Learning with the CPD Noticeboard development and its effective relationship with the cultural employers in the city through Culture Campus was drawn upon for the Culture Campus Portal. A successful bid was made to JISC (Joint Information Systems Committee), an agency linked to HEFCE concerned with innovation in the use of ICT for education and research by the University of Liverpool as the lead and accountable body, in partnership with Liverpool John Moores University, Liverpool Hope University, and cultural organisations working closely with LARC (Liverpool Arts Regeneration Consortium) and SMAC (Small and Medium Arts Collective). The model is based on the CPD Noticeboard.

The project involves the use of the XCRi schema (Exchanging Course Related Information) to develop an innovative portal for both universities and cultural employers in Liverpool to display in one place their professional development (CPD) opportunities. The XCRi technical schema, mandated by government in January 2009 as the national standard for course advertising, enables information on the portal to be automatically updated direct from partners' databases, saving time and resources. European approval of the standard is anticipated by 2011.

The project is innovative in its approach to employer engagement, the promotion of more easy access to information about professional development opportunities and the use of shared services. To date, XCRi work has not been undertaken outside of the education sector; the Culture Campus portal is the first.

## **Liverpool Professional 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 working collaboratively with the school and local authority sector.

Building on the work of the Liverpool Schools Learning Networks Research and Collaborative Learning Every Child Matters projects, ways to support the recruitment and retention of senior staff in the school sector emerged as a priority for the city. Initiated, supported and driven by City of Learning, the HEIs and local authorities worked on enhanced recognition of opportunities for CPD Action Research, and new approaches for accrediting learning programmes run by the local authority and some neighbouring local authorities. This has raised the status of the programmes for target groups: headteachers, deputy headteachers and middle management. HE accreditation was developed for Emerging Leaders programme, Senior Leadership and Core Innovators programmes. Further programmes are being looked into.

At the local authority's request, initial discussions are underway with their special needs staff in relation to similar enhancements to their programmes through joint working with the universities, accreditation and progression. More generally, access to information about CPD is raised as an on-going issue and is an area City of Learning is opening up through a variety of routes. The cultural change aspects involved are significant.

## **Widening Participation**

The Government introduced Lifelong Learning Networks to help achieve a step change in progression opportunities for vocational learners, in particular between level 3 and higher education. The initiative is intended to offer a network of opportunity for learners, particularly non-traditional students and those in the work place.

City of Learning facilitated initial explorations into the potential of a Network sub-regionally. Edge Hill University took the lead with the University of Liverpool and eleven further education colleges delivering new ways of supporting participation in higher education through the Gt Merseyside and West Lancashire Lifelong Learning Network. City of Learning is represented at Board and Executive Committee level supporting wider partnership engagement.

Aimhigher, the widening participation in higher education initiative has developed further, with City of Learning particularly focusing on the developing Progression Routes work. Pilot work has developed further in specific education sectors which enhance pathways for learners and open up more career opportunities with learning points being built into future programmes. Specific disadvantaged groups have been targeted including black and ethnic minority groups, and looked after children.

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

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 the establishment of the 14-19 Diploma. This covered opportunities to keep respective parties updated on developments, forged dialogue across the sectors, pursued more detailed liaison work on the specifics of progression and admission policies to HE, opportunities for the HEIs to inform the development of the new Diplomas including some curriculum content and delivery. A range of sector based workshops were held focusing on the respective diploma lines bringing together subject specialists from the universities with sector leads from the local authorities.

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 as a flagship, putting Merseyside ahead of the game in such joint developments.

### **Liverpool City Region**

As part of a major economic driver in metropolitan areas across the country, and in common with other areas, Liverpool and the surrounding local authority boroughs and key agencies are developing plans for joint working as part of a Liverpool City Region.

Working together, the Liverpool City Region partners aim to improve the city region's economic competitiveness through improvements in job creation, skills and training, the local economy, transport, housing and environment. City of Learning is engaged at various levels including the City Region Employment and Skills Strategy, supporting engagement across the partnership.

Staffing: Kerry Pickard was on maternity leave for part of the year, returning in June 09.

### **Board of Directors August 2008 – July 2009:**

Professor Michael Brown	Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive (Chair to Jan 09)	Liverpool John Moores University
Sir Howard Newby	Vice-Chancellor (Chair from Jan 09)	The University of Liverpool
Lynda Brady (to Aug 09)	Regional Director	The Open University in the North West
Dr John Cater	Chief Executive	Edge Hill University
Maureen Mellor (from Jan 09)	Principal	Liverpool Community College
Claire Dove MBE	Chief Executive	Women's Technology and Education Centre
Stuart Smith	Executive Director	Children's Services, Liverpool City Council
Professor Gerald Pillay	Vice-Chancellor and Rector	Liverpool Hope University
Alan Smithies	Representative	Liverpool Association of Secondary Headteachers

### **Executive Committee:**

Roy Bayfield	Director of Corporate Communications and Student Recruitment	Edge Hill University
Professor Bill Chambers	Pro Vice Chancellor: External Relations and Widening Participation	Liverpool Hope University
Dr Phil Margham	Director of Learning Innovation	Liverpool John Moores University
Dr Anne Merry	Director of Lifelong Learning	The University of Liverpool

### **Staff:**

Erica Jones	Director and Company Secretary	Liverpool City of Learning
Kerry Pickard	Administrative Assistant	Liverpool City of Learning

**Summary of Accounts for the period ending 31 July 2009:**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £ to 31 July 09	Total Funds £ to 31 July 08
<b>Incoming Resources</b>				
Incoming resources from generated funds:				
Voluntary income	95,342	-	101,342	72,000
Other income	4,697	-	4,697	13,798
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>	100,039	-	106,039	85,798
<b>Resources Expended</b>				
Charitable activities	142,888	-	142,888	243,818
Governance costs	9,646	-	9,646	8,277
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>	152,534	-	152,534	252,095
<b>Net Income/(Expenditure)</b>	(52,495)	-	(46,495)	(166,297)
<b>Resources for the year</b> including transfers between funds				
Balances brought forward	97,556	96,224	193,780	360,077
Balances carried forward	141,285	-	147,285	193,780

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:  
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