The Consortium remains buoyant even in these exceptionally turbulent times. Recruitment to the PG and Cert Ed courses is encouraging, and BA recruitment continues to rise year on year. Many thanks to all of you for your hard work not only in recruiting students but also ensuring that they enrol in good time.

This term we welcome Askham Bryan College to the Consortium, and validation events are planned at Northern College and Tameside College for the BA, and South Tyneside College for the Adult Certificates in Skill in Literacy and Numeracy.

We still await news from DBIS about the future of maintenance grants for part-time teacher education students starting in 2010. Through HUDCETT we have been working with the Association of CETTs and the University Council for the Education of Teachers to try to persuade the Department to retain some financial support for students. We will keep you informed as soon as we hear anything.

I have been busy attending awards ceremonies at seven of our centres as well as those at Huddersfield. These occasions are always very special. It is lovely to see graduands and their families really enjoying the atmosphere.

Last year we spent a considerable time on strategic planning. Two aspects to emerge from this were celebrating success and increased marketing. As part of our celebration of student success we have awarded the first three Keith Webb Prizes. These have gone to David Brook on the BA (Education and Training) course, Tracey Hudson and Martha Fitton on the CertEd PGCE course; congratulations to all three. Can I remind centres to start thinking now about any students they might wish to put forward for next year’s prizes.

On the marketing side we have produced a professionally designed version of our flyer. This version is aimed at FE colleges. We are also working on a version for work-based learning providers. Once this is produced we will provide you with copies to send to local WBL organisations. We will also send them out via distribution lists provided by HUDCETT.

Finally may I wish you all the compliments of the Season. Do have a well-earned rest!

Margaret McLay

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**Taster Courses and using the Guide**

The Consortium is reinstating another round of the Taster Courses to promote marketing of the Cert Ed to under-represented groups to teaching. As part of this round we will be supporting three colleges to run a taster course. Sandra Rennie, Consultant, will be interviewing participants as to their experience and the perceived value. We will be producing a report on how the taster courses and the Guide can be used in supporting other Consortium partners.
Professional Formation Workshops towards QTLS status

14 teachers attended the Professional Formation workshop on 6th October. A second workshop will be held on 14th January, 2010. A charge will be made for attendance. However, we can deliver the workshop at your college for a number of your staff, which will reduce the cost. Please contact HUDCETT at hudcett@hud.ac.uk for further information.

Gain QTLS towards Qualified Teacher Status (QTS)?

The IfL is holding discussions with the Teacher Development Agency (TDA) to consider how those practitioners who hold QTLS might proceed towards QTS offering opportunities to work in the Schools sector. We will keep you up to date on any news we receive.

Mentor Training on Observations

Mentors’ basic training is now established across the Consortium colleges with the University also offering a full day’s training along with Mentor Coordinator Development days. The first mentor event this year was held on 5th November 2009 and the Mentor Coordinator meeting was held on 24th November. A repeat of these two events will be held on 21st Jan and 4th February 2010 respectively. Please see the HUDCETT web site for details and booking form: (http://hudcett.hud.ac.uk).

Free CPD on Functional Skills

You can access free CPD on Functional Skills. Please contact the Yorkshire and Humberside Regional Helpline on 01484 478250 or email yorkshireandhumberside@fssupport.org. There will be a network meeting on Functional Skills on Friday 5th March 2010 - look out for details.

Date for Consortium and HUDCETT Conference 2010

This year’s conference will be held on WEDNESDAY 23rd June (please note change of day). The change is to allow participants to stay on for a public lecture to be given by Professor Richard Pring at 6.15 pm (a light tea is provided beforehand). Further details will be given as soon as they are available but please book this date into your diary!

Summary of E-facilities: available to teacher educators and trainees

A summary of all the e-facilities available to any teacher educator and trainee of the Consortium is to be sent out directly to trainees with copies emailed to teacher educators. The objective is to remind trainees of the considerable facilities that they can access from work, college or home. Essentially, the e-facilities are:

- OurSubject (ASSOciate Online): to support subject specialist pedagogy
- Blackboard: provides access to a range of module specific resources and the Specialist paper facility
- Metalib: access to Journals and some e-books. As a trainee said to a DALO at a recent Specialist Paper session, ‘Metalib is a fantastic facility and I am definitely going to use it to support my assignments.’

Look out for the new leaflet that is being designed at the moment that will help to show trainees how to use these facilities and how they can help them with their teaching practice and with the Cert. Ed course itself.
Consortium Conference at the Cedar Court Hotel
26 June 2009

Policy and Implementation: The FE Training and CPD Reforms

We were fortunate to have both Phil Willis, MP (Chair of the Innovation, Universities and Skills Select Committee) and Professor Denis Gleeson of the University of Warwick. Both were well received by participants. One person said of Phil Willis, ‘It was interesting and refreshing to have a politician with such a grip on the state of education’ and of Professor Denis Gleeson, ‘An in-depth exploration of the audit culture within which we operate.’

Workshops were held on racism, mental health, grading observations, dual role of trainee teachers, colour vision deficiency, teacher educators – gender and identity, TNA of CPD, E-learning and ITT, the role of JISC and Wakeypedia.

Phil Willis (MP)
Chair of the Innovation, Universities and Skills Select Committee

Kathy Boyer
Regional Support Centre, Y&H

Roy Fisher and Dave Tyas
(former Steering Committee member)

Prof James Avis, University of Huddersfield and Prof Denis Gleeson, University of Warwick

Trisha Clark
Regional Mental Health Co-ordinator, NIACE

Jane Burrows
Training Needs Analysis for CPD

Consortium for PCET, SEPD, University of Huddersfield, Queensgate, Huddersfield HD1 3DH
CEDEFOP Study Visit to Poland

CEDEFOP, the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training, organises an extensive programme of 4-5 day study visits for those involved in the education and training of vocational teachers with a view to sharing best practice across the EU. The visit was hosted by the Wyższa Szkoła Przedsiębiorczości i Administracji w Lublinie, a small, privately-funded HEI offering courses in Business Administration, Management, ICT and Economics. Lublin is an attractive city in the east of Poland on the Vistula River, with a late medieval town centre.

I met colleagues from Turkey, Romania, Germany, France, Spain and Portugal as well as England. Our group numbered 10 in all. We learnt a good deal about the education systems and the training of teachers in our respective countries. We also visited various public and private providers of teacher education and training in Lublin which gave us a thorough insight into the Polish education system.

As a group we all got on well and I hope there will be some useful joint projects or exchanges in future.

Margaret McLay

Discussion with the Rector of WSPA, the host institution

Farewell to Charles Toker

This CPCET Steering Committee are sorry to say ‘farewell’ to Charles Toker of Kirklees College. Charles has recently taken on a new role in management of the College and has had to review his overall commitments in the light of this.

Charles has chaired the CPCET Board and Steering Committee and served the HUDCETT Advisory Group with great distinction. He has been not only a friend of the University of Huddersfield but also a principled advocate of the mission of HE in FE more generally. His ability to chair meetings and conferences with consummate timing and a spirit of collegial good humour will be greatly missed.

Charles leaves with our thanks for his outstanding contribution to our work, and with our very best wishes for the future.