



Learning Together

Cheshire & Warrington

Working smarter together rather than harder alone

February-March 2008
Issue 14

Newsletter

Learning Network Meeting

The Learning Network Meeting held on 28th February focussed on the Cheshire Learning Resource Network and how it is able to assist member organisations access appropriate training for their staff.

Colin Ashcroft from Cheshire County Council explained the way that the Resource Network supports organisations involved in Social Care to develop their staff whether volunteer or paid



The meeting also provided the occasion for the first cohort of learners achieving the BTEC level 4 certificate in Voluntary Sector Management to receive certificates of completion

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If you have any comments on the newsletter or items for future issues please Email simon@learning-together.co.uk

If you require a text only version of the newsletter or want it in an alternative format please email the address above



Furniture Finders of Winsford was originally founded in 1997 by three local people who began to supply furniture at very little cost to those in need. The organisation was run by a few volunteers and operated out of an old toilet block in Over Recreation Ground in Winsford!

In October 2004 the premises were burnt to the ground. Those involved took the chance to take a step back to decide whether or not Furniture Finders should continue, and if so, in what form. It was realised that there is a need for furniture recycling centre in Mid Cheshire to cover Vale Royal (the conurbations of Winsford, Northwich and Frodsham).

In June 2005 the business was constituted as a not for profit social enterprise (Company Limited by Guarantee). In October 2005 there was confirmation of start up funding: CRED (Big Lottery) £90k) Cheshire Waste Partnership (£30k) and Weaver Vale Housing Trust (£10k). In March they secured warehouse premises on the Winsford Industrial Estate (18,000 square feet) and in May 2006 they started operations.

What do they do?

The purpose of Furniture Finders is to facilitate the reuse of donated household furniture and electrical items at affordable and realistic prices whilst creating supported employment and volunteer opportunities for members of the local community including individuals with physical and learning difficulties, those looking for employment, those on community payback schemes (probation) and school placements or people wanting to give something back.

In addition, they have recently employed a Learning & Development Manager who will specialise in supporting individuals who have low self esteem and confidence, basic skills needs and they will offer vocational training and work placements.



Their Aims

- Supply good quality furniture to those on low income
- Keep furniture out of landfill
- Minimise their own environmental footprint
- Provide support and training to
- Achieve financial sustainability
- Be creative in developing new opportunities



What have they achieved in 14 months?

- Provided nearly 2,200 households with furniture (over 1,200 on low income)
- Diverted 190 tonnes of furniture away from landfill
- Provided over 4,000 hours of New Deal work placements
- Employed 5 people (one from unemployment register)
- Provided over 2,500 supported voluntary hours (those with physical and learning disabilities)
- Engaged non-supported voluntary help of 5,000 hours
- Provided 225 formal (certified) hours of training for volunteers
- Achieved a Cheshire-wide award for work with adults with learning difficulties



For more information,
contact:
Bridge Building, Road Two,
Winsford Industrial Estate,
Winsford
CW7 2QH
t: 0845 0264727
e: info@ffow.co.uk
Website: www.ffow.co.uk

Learners Qualify for Level 4 BTEC Certificate!

LTCW organised the first course in the North West for the BTEC Level 4 Certificate in Voluntary Sector Management last year and the first group of 13 learners successfully completed the course in December. They received certificates from Mark Reading from "Capacitybuilders" at the Learning Network Meeting held last month at VRDS in Hartford .

A second group of 14 learners are currently enrolled in a similar course which started in the Autumn last year and are due to complete their course in July 2008.

Volunteer Centre Chester wins Award

The New Year got off to an exciting start for Volunteer Centre, Chester when it heard that its Pathways Project, run by Clare Harrison, had been nominated for the Michael Whippman Award for project work undertaken in conjunction with Chester Aid to the Homeless. Following the nomination they were announced overall winners of the Award at a special Homeless Link Parliamentary reception in London in February. The group were presented with a £500 cheque from MP Ian Wright.

The Michael Whippman Award is an award that recognises the contributions of homeless people to the communities they live in. Clare Harrison has been working with Gareth Lloyd from CATH's Crispin House, facilitating group volunteering projects for some of the homeless residents.

The Volunteer Centre's knowledge and contacts with the huge variety of local voluntary sector groups in the area meant she was able to liaise, set up and supervise suitable voluntary work for the group of men involved. The group work projects

have now become a regular weekly activity and a lot of work has already been undertaken revamping the Quaker Meeting House, refurbishing the Clwyd Special Riding Centre and building a sensory trail, decorating the offices of MIND in Wrexham and sorting and reorganising stock rooms for Save the Family in Northop.

The £500 prize will be spent on safety equipment, including overalls, tools and steel-capped boots to help with future projects. The Mulberry Centre on Sealand Road is next in line for help with the group taking on the job of tackling the gardening for the Centre. Clare Harrison is currently supporting one of the individuals involved in this award through the OLASS project. This is a partnership which was facilitated through Learning Together Cheshire and Warrington involving City College Manchester, The Probation Service and the Third Sector.

Things I did in February by Jolene Weaver

As some of you will already know—because I went on and on about it - I visited Toronto in February (please see obligatory CN tower picture right).



It was very cold. The highlight of the trip was watching *Evil Dead the Musical*—particularly seeing my friend splattered with fake blood!

PTLLS

I am pleased to be able to report that all of the twelve people who started the PTLLS course have now completed and all have passed with flying colours. The course which was developed in joint partnership with VAVR, funded by the Cheshire Learning Resource Network was a real success with all participants wanting to further their studies.

Voluntary Sector Trainers' Network

The next meeting of the Trainers' network will be held at Barrowmore Training Centre and will focus on the induction of learners. The meeting will be held on Wednesday 7th May from 10:00 until 12:00.

At our last meeting we discussed the training needs of the group and identified the need for members to gain the A1 Assessor award. We are therefore researching the most effective way of delivering this qualification. If you can offer any advice or if your staff need obtain this qualification and would like to be involved in our programme please let me know asap.

If you would like to come along to the next Trainers' network meeting please email me to join the mailing list.

LRN Development day

I attended the LRN development day at the beginning of February and found it to be very informative. I was pleased to see lots of members at the event. The days are a great opportunity to find out more about the impact of strategic developments in Health and Social Care. I was fascinated by the increasing role that VCS providers are playing in the sector particularly as local authorities look to alternative ways to deliver services.

The next free event will be held on 22nd May—look out for more information in upcoming newsletters.

Consultation on Train to Gain for Volunteers

We have been approached by 'Community Concepts' who have been asked to undertake a survey of VCS organisations to assess the demand for Train to Gain. Volunteers are now eligible for training support as part of the Train to Gain funding stream and the LSC are trying to find out what the demand for the service is likely to be.

It is important that organisations working with volunteers respond to ensure that the results reflect the real situation in Cheshire and Warrington. There is a short telephone survey to complete and you can register your interest in being involved by emailing: teresah@communityconcepts.uk.com with your contact details. They will then give you a call and work through the survey with you.

Can you help young volunteers?

Global Xchange is a unique international volunteer exchange programme managed by Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) and the British Council.

In March 2008 a team of 18 volunteers (aged 18-25), 9 from Malawi and 9 from the UK, will begin a 6-month program. They live and work together for 3 months in Manchester and for 3 months in Salima, Malawi.

Could a pair of volunteers be placed in your organisation?

This could provide an effective and rewarding work placement for young people.

Can you host a pair of volunteers in your home?

Do you have one spare room? Volunteer pairs (from UK and Malawi) will share for up to 11 weeks? Volunteers are expected to be part of the home and are willing to cook and clean for themselves if required.



Global Xchange

Young people active in the community

If you can help, or for more information please contact:

Daniel McVeigh,
Global Xchange Programme
Supervisor

Tel: 07913 099323

Email: daniel.mcveigh@vso.org.uk

DISABLED STAFF FACE WIDESPREAD DISCRIMINATION

- COMMISSION FINDS

NIACE reports there has been a systemic failure to take disabled staff working in lifelong learning seriously. That is the headline finding of the NIACE-led Commission for Disabled Staff in Lifelong Learning in its final report just published.

The report - *From Compliance to Culture Change* - illustrates how many disabled staff members are reluctant to disclose impairments because they fear discrimination. 20% of the adult population has a disability; however the disclosure rate among staff in lifelong learning is only 4%.

The Commission did encounter evidence of good practice and of 'reasonable adjustments' in recruitment, induction, employment and promotion practices. Practical support for disabled staff would include funding 'reasonable adjustments' from a central budget and trained disability equality officers or staff with a responsibility for disability equality.

Above all, the Commission found a lack of consistency in the lifelong learning sector - in terms of recruitment, induction, employment and promotion of disabled staff - that amounts to institutional discrimination.

The first recommendation of the Commission is that a disability equality implementation group should be convened and serviced by Lifelong Learning UK (LLUK) to ensure disabled staff are treated as fairly as students in lifelong learning.

Further information from the NIACE website from:

<http://tinyurl.com/3c57uu>

What is BenchLearning?

When thinking about benchmarking, it's tempting to think virtuously about how you choose not to compare yourself to others, but rather stand apart from the crowd and set your own targets. However, comparing your organisation with others, to help set your targets, is actively encouraged in the arena of Performance Improvement, and in the striving towards best practice.

This process is described as "BenchLearning": it is more about useful learning for participants rather than developing a league table of third sector organisations. For example: completing the KPR questionnaire will support senior staff when reporting back to their boards of trustees; can be used within Performance Improvement processes; and can promote effective decision making and change.

BenchLearning is a collection of tools that will enable Third Sector organisations to compare and share their results and ways of doing things. Similar to benchmarking, BenchLearning enables organisations to share information anonymously to encourage learning through comparison. Benchlearning can help the whole organisation develop and improve its performance.

Further details from...<http://www.socialenterpriseworks.org/benchmarking/>



Surplus goods distributor scraps membership fee

In Kind Direct, which receives surplus products from businesses and distributes them to its member charities, has waived its annual registration fee for charities.

The charity's staff costs were reduced after it launched an online catalogue with the help of funding from Proctor & Gamble.

Member charities can choose goods online and pay a handling fee of between 10 and 15 per cent to receive them. The products

must be used in the running of the charity or distributed to its beneficiaries.

<http://www.inkinddirect.org/>



Computer Tips from MACAW



How Skype can benefit you and your organisation

Put simply, Skype lets you make telephone calls over the Internet, using a technology called Voice Over Internet Protocol (the famous VOIP!). You download and install the program, create an account (this is all free) and you're ready to go. When you've installed Skype, you can do the following:

- Make **free** calls to anyone else who is also using Skype
- Make very cheap calls to "real" phones all over the world (for example, calling a landline in Australia will only cost you about 1.5p/minute).
- Use other useful features such as online chat

Worldwide, over 50 million people are using Skype, but it's still relatively rare in the UK and so you shouldn't expect everyone else to have it.

However, it's great for organisations - especially if they're spread across several sites. Install Skype for everyone and they can talk to one another for free. Or if you have international calls to make, using Skype may well be cheaper than using a BT phone.

MACAW uses Skype, so if you install it, you can use it to get IT support fast. Just add the name "**macawsupport**" to your contact list, or click one of the buttons on MACAW's website's main page

What does it cost?

The software itself is free to download, and setting up an account is also free. **You do need (at least) a microphone and some headphones for your computer.** In theory you can make calls with a normal set of speakers and a microphone - or even with the built-in microphone that comes on most laptops - but it tends to echo, and everyone else in the office will be able to listen to both sides of your conversation!

A headset with a microphone can cost as little as £4 plus delivery. Alternatively, manufacturers now make "Skype phones" which look, and ring, like a normal telephone, but you plug them into your PC via USB. They start at around £8 plus delivery, and they're well worth the extra money. MACAW can advise you on which is best to buy - their current favourite is a wireless Linksys model at around £23.

Further information:

MACAW ICT Support
0845 337 0577

www.macaw.org.uk

skype name: "macawsupport"

Website for family charities expanded

A website aimed at voluntary groups that work with children, young people and families has been expanded to include more information about training and commissioning.

The VCS Engage website, which was set up to strengthen the engagement of the sector in the Every Child Matters agenda, will now provide comprehensive information about VCS Engage initiatives as well as full details of training and events.

The improved website, www.vcsengage.org.uk, includes a new 'in your area' section, which will outline the work of development managers in the nine Government Office regions, as well as details of training and events in each region.

It will also update organisations on changes in the commissioning process, as well as providing links to useful publications, websites, toolkits and guidance.

Other features include a 'jargon-buster' designed to make sense of the sector's terms and acronyms, and a discussion forum.



Time for a volunteering minister?

The Government should make a cabinet minister responsible for volunteering and plough an extra £6m into encouraging people to take part, according to the Commission on the Future of Volunteering.

The Manifesto for Change claims that the Government could do much more to ensure that volunteering becomes "part of the DNA of our society" .

It says that there is "a very large amount of criticism" about the Government's existing initiatives to promote volunteering. The report suggests that a cabinet minister responsible for volunteering could have a brief across all departments.

Other recommendations aimed squarely at the Government include

- The creation of a £1m Access to Volunteering Fund.
- A Volunteering Matched Fund of £5m per year

Sector must act

The commission doesn't reserve its criticism solely for the Government; it is also scathing of some sector practices. The report says the sector lets itself down when it comes to diversity. It says that disabled people, those with mental health problems and asylum seekers all encounter difficulties when trying to volunteer.

The full report can be downloaded from this link:

<http://www.volcomm.org.uk/>

Are you top of the training bunch?

Highlight your training achievements with the National Training Awards 2008. These annual awards celebrate training that transforms businesses, organisations and individuals. Anyone and any organisation can enter.

Information sessions about entering the awards are being held throughout the country during March and April.

Enter online at www.nationaltrainingawards.com.

Entries close 25th April 2008

For more information call 0800 0191 475 or email
info@nationaltrainingawards.com



National Learning at Work (LAW) Day

LAW Day on Thursday 22nd May is the perfect platform for stimulating workplace learning and skills. Last year over 6000 organisations took part in the annual awareness campaign organised by the Campaign for Learning (CfL). It encourages people in public, private and voluntary organisations to offer learning to all employees including those that are traditionally 'hard to reach'.

The LAW Day team provides regional advice and guidance to organise your event. You can find out more by visiting www.learningatworkday.com

The Campaign for Learning's National Workplace Learning Network is holding a series of events see below for dates.

- **Line Managers - Whose Role is it Anyway?** Manchester - 13th March 2008
- **Marketing Learning to your Employees** Manchester - 17th April 2008

Adult Learner Grants

The Adult Learning Grant (ALG) has been designed by the Learning and Skills Council to help returning learners to pursue their dreams and achieve their ambitions.. ALG gives eligible adult learners up to £30 a week to help with the extra costs that learning can bring. Since the national roll out in September 2007 over 16,000 have received ALG.

ALG is available to adults in England aged 19 or over who are studying full time for a first full level 2 (5 GCSE's at grades A* to C or an NVQ2 or its equivalent) or a first full level 3 (2 A levels or an NVQ3 or its equivalent) qualification.

Call 0800 100 900 or visit www.direct.gov.uk/alg to see if you are eligible.

Good deeds go under the hammer

A website has been launched to let people auction good turns to raise money for small charities and local organisations.

The free site, www.auctionofpromises.com, enables organisations to post details of a project for which funds are needed.

People can then auction their promises, such as offering to help someone move house, to raise money for the causes listed.

Supporters can make their auctions visible to all site visitors or restrict them to visitors from certain postcodes.

Roland Peters, the website's founder, launched the site after he had helped local clubs run fundraising auctions and thought there was an opportunity to launch a service online.

"The scheme is best suited to small organisations that might have fundraising targets of about £2,000," said Peters. "It's very simple to use and organisations can get a scheme up and running in no time.

Bidding starts and ends within set dates and auctioneers can send email invites and links to encourage their contacts to bid for the promise.



Auction of Promises

Fundraising through initiative

E-learning portal to go live with BLF cash

A new online learning portal for people working in the voluntary and community sector is to be launched with £2m of Big Lottery Fund money.

The Cass Business School's Centre for Charity Effectiveness will run the three year project, which will begin with a pilot later this year.

The project, which will be called the e-Learning Net, will have three zones, one for information on existing learning resources, one for problem solving, which will include online interaction, and another for study, which will include more formal learning such as e-learning and workshops. The site should become fully operational in 2009.

The Centre for Charity Effectiveness is part of Cass Business School and aims to increase the effectiveness and achievement of voluntary and community organisations, their staff and volunteers by offering the following services:

- * part-time MScs and postgraduate courses
- * short courses
- * consultancy
- * coaching and mentoring
- * research
- * learning network and online resources

www.centreforcharityeffectiveness.org/index.asp



Cass Business School
City of London

Working out of poverty

The Institute for Public Policy Research has published a new paper analysing the extent and nature of working poverty in the UK, investigating what kinds of people are low paid and which working households are poor. Link to the report : http://www.policyhub.gov.uk/news_item/working_poor08.asp
<http://tinyurl.com/27qzyb>



IT training in the voluntary sector - a perspective

On average, the staff of a small voluntary group can 'lose' 5% of their time because of poor IT skills. The problems they face lead to frustration and low morale. If your staff use computers, the chances are they could use them better.

Check out the hub's IT Training Action Plan from this link:

<http://tinyurl.com/ynowgn>

The full article can be viewed at:

<http://tinyurl.com/26xa5w>

Do you agree or disagree?

Discuss in the ICT Hub cafe.

(<http://forums.ictHub.org.uk/>)



Impact of Learning on Employability. LSC Research Report

The Centre for Economic and Social Inclusion, the British Market Research Bureau (BMRB) and the Institute for Employment Studies (IES) were commissioned by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) in 2007 to undertake a survey on the impact of learning on employability.

Overall findings from the survey

The results of this survey represent a first attempt to quantify the benefits of further education (FE) learning for welfare benefit recipients in England. The findings show statistically significant positive effects from learning for welfare benefit recipients, in terms both of moving into work and of improving employability.

Only 10 per cent of all learners in the survey had been in work prior to the start of their course (for less than 16 hours per week). However, 38 per cent had gone on to work at some point after finishing their course

Both the key findings and the full document can be accessed from the LTCW website at this address:

<http://tinyurl.com/2dqtju>

Vetting and Barring Scheme



A new vetting and barring scheme will run alongside the current Criminal Records Bureau system of checks from next autumn which will be overseen by the Independent Safeguarding Agency (ISA).

What is the system at present?

Anyone working with children or vulnerable adults has to have an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check to see if they have a criminal record or there is relevant police intelligence about them.

How will the new system work?

The ISA will similarly rely on criminal convictions and police intelligence. It will cover wider categories of staff - for example, domiciliary care staff will be covered, as well as staff in social care homes.

Applicants will be assessed using data gathered by the Criminal Records Bureau including relevant criminal convictions, cautions, police intelligence. Using this information they will decide on a case-by-case basis whether each person is suited to this work.

The ISA has a FAQ section on their website :

<http://www.isa-gov.org/default.aspx?page=4>

Further information from the "every child matters" website:

<http://tinyurl.com/2bh74e>

Also from the ISA website

<http://tinyurl.com/24gk94>



Family Learning Festival

throughout October 2008

To mark 10 years of family learning celebrations, Campaign for Learning (CfL) are pleased to announce that for 2008 Family Learning Week will be extended to incorporate the whole of the month of October.

The **Family Learning Festival** aims to be even bigger and even better than last year. It will mean more opportunities and flexibility to engage your audiences in learning.

The umbrella theme for the Festival will be **Challenge**, and this will incorporate four main strands:

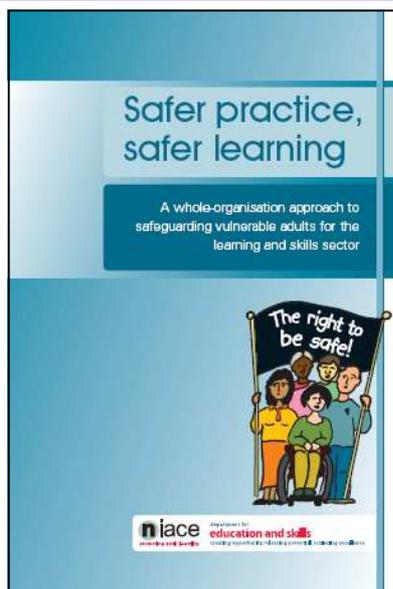
- New Media and Technology
- Wellbeing,
- the Environment
- Creativity.

More details will be available at the beginning of April, and we will keep you updated with new developments including partnerships for the Festival.

Further details from the CfL website via this link:

<http://tinyurl.com/295vx8>

Safer Practice, Safer Learning



NIACE have produced a handbook entitled "Safer Practice, Safer Learning" that sets out the safeguarding responsibilities of further education colleges, adult and community learning providers and providers of work-based training in the Learning and Skills Sector in England.

The booklet can be downloaded by clicking on this link :

<http://tinyurl.com/2tljmg>

or it can be ordered as a hard copy from:

Prolog

PO Box 5050

Sherwood Park

Annesley

Nottingham NG15 0DJ

Tel: 0845 60 222 60

Fax: 0845 60 333 60

Email: dfes@prolog.uk.com

Quoting reference number:

00491-2007BKT-EN

ACF wins Futurebuilders contract

"Futurebuilders England" has lost its bid to deliver the second phase of the Government's Futurebuilders loan fund. Community lender the "Adventure Capital Fund" has won the tender, the Cabinet Office announced last month.

ACF, which last year announced a radical expansion programme to increase its potential investments tenfold, will now be responsible for investing £65m of government funds. This is on top of the £150m already made available to the Futurebuilders Fund. The contract will start on 1 April and run until 31 March 2011.

The Cabinet Office has assured current investees that third sector organisations that have applications in the pipeline will not be affected.

The Futurebuilders fund was launched in 2004 to provide grants and mainly loans to third sector groups to run public services. It has so far provided more than £111m of grants and loans to about 250 groups. About one quarter of the loans made have been handed out to organisations with incomes of less than £100,000 a year.

Go to www.adventurecapitalfund.org.uk for more details

3Si Coaching Programme for New Providers in Health and Social Care

3Si (third sector interactive) coaching is the name of an exciting leadership development programme offered to provider organisations and start ups in the North West.

The programme is offered free of charge to six sets of participants, with educational grant support from Pfizer in partnership with NHS North West.

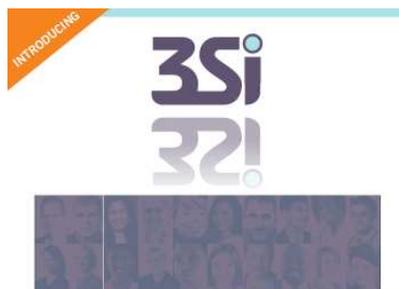
The programme will be independently evaluated to inform the future development needs for leadership.

How to apply

For more information log on to www.hopestreetcentre.com, then download the 'expression of interest' form and submit as instructed.

Eligible organisations...

- PBC trading arms
- 'Start ups' e.g. clinicians setting up new provider organisations
- Charities
- Any third sector organisation providing or wishing to provide services to the NHS



Government endowment scheme open for bids

Local third sector funders across the country are now being invited to become a local partner in delivering a ground-breaking £130million fund that will give grass roots third sector organisations access to grants of as little as £250.

Both single organisations and partnerships can bid to become 'local funders', which will be responsible for distributing the money. Tenders must be submitted to the Community Development Foundation, which is administering the programme nationally.

Between now and July 2008, CDF will be allocating the money to Local Funders.

Therefore, funding for grassroots community and voluntary groups will not open until after July 2008, and will be subject to the timelines set by the Local Funders.

Details of the successful Local Funders will be available on CDF's website after July 2008.

For further details from the CDF website follow this link:

<http://tinyurl.com/yqwguf>

<http://www.cdf.org.uk/>

grassroots
grants



Role of the BME Third Sector in Shaping Government Policies

25th March 2008, 2:15-4:40pm
Central Manchester

One North West and Voice4Change are holding a joint seminar on "The Role of the BME Third Sector in Shaping Government Policies"

The aim of the seminar is to introduce Voice4Change England; a new voice for BME Third Sector organisations to introduce central government's policies for the benefit of BME communities and BME Third Sector organisations. Attendees will learn how they can join and participate with Voice4Change England in influencing and lobbying for change.

Places are limited and need to be booked by 14th March



To book a place, contact:

Jane Stanistreet
Operations Manager
North West Network
2nd Floor, Albert House
17 Bloom Street
Manchester
M1 3HZ
0161 2366493

Aspergers Syndrome

Invitation to an Awareness Day

Cheshire Crossroads schemes in partnership with the National Autistic Society and Cheshire County Council are holding an awareness raising event being held on **Tuesday May 20th 2008** at **Ellesmere Port Civic Hall**. This is an all day event and is **free** to attend, having been funded by Cheshire Learning Resource Network.

This event is for staff at all levels in health, social care and education working with people with Aspergers Syndrome, parents and carers.



To book a place, contact:

Chester Crossroads
Caring for Carers
Richmond Place, 125 Boughton
Chester CH3 5BH
Tel 01244 346699
Email: chester@crossroads.org.uk

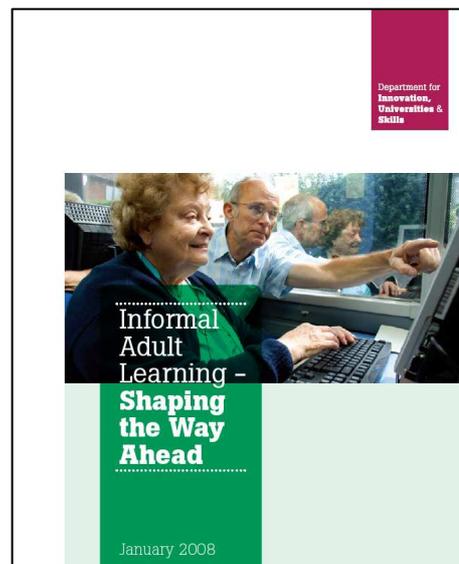
Consultation on informal Adult Learning.

As mentioned in last month's newsletter the Department of Innovations, Universities and Skills (DIUS) has launched a major consultation on the future of informal adult learning.

LTC&W is developing a response to this from the membership and we are very keen to involve input from as many organisations as possible in our response. We will shortly be arranging a special meeting to involve members in a focused discussion, so look out for the "E-message" announcing details,

In the meantime the consultation document can be accessed from the LTCW website on the special consultations page and you can see the draft response that has been developed already. <http://www.learning-together.co.uk/learning/Consultations/Consultations.asp>

The consultation period finishes on 15th May 2008



New Home Office paper

The Home Office has just published the green paper 'The Path to Citizenship: Next Steps in Reforming the Immigration System'. A copy of this paper is available online at www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/consultations/current/

The Home Office's objective is to create an immigration system which matches the benefits and entitlements of migrants with the contribution they make to the UK - a system in which migrants 'earn' their right to citizenship.

The deadline for formal responses to the green paper is 14th May 2008.

In order to respond to the consultation or if you would like a hard copy of the Green Paper please email: ImmigrationReform@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

