



Assessment & Learning in Practice Settings

BULLETIN – ISSUE 2

1. INTRODUCING THE 2ND ALPS CETL BULLETIN

For those of you who missed our first issue we're very pleased to welcome new readers. The overall aim of the Bulletin is to keep colleagues up to date and involved with the work of the ALPS Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning and associated projects, networks and resources.

We are looking for keen readers **and** contributors to the Bulletin, in order to make it a valuable, relevant, collective resource. You can contribute by emailing the ALPS Core Team at alps@leeds.ac.uk with brief details of events, links to articles and other resources - basically any news and information that you think might be of interest. The Bulletin will be published every 4-6 weeks, and available in both Word and PDF formats. The deadline for contributions to the next Bulletin is Friday 27th January 06.

We'd be delighted if you would forward this Bulletin to your colleagues. Equally, if you've received this in error, or if you don't wish to remain on our circulation list please let us know – alps@leeds.ac.uk.

You can access this Bulletin as a pdf at our new website, see below.

2. ALPS WEBSITE & VIRTUAL KNOWLEDGE PARK

Our website is now up and running at alps-cetl.ac.uk. The site is very much in its infancy and there's lots of development work to be done on it. At the moment it will tell you more about ALPS, the programme and the staff, and you can also download copies of this and the first Bulletin from there.

To complement our website we also have a dedicated 'building' for ALPS on the Virtual Knowledge Park (VKP). The VKP can be accessed at <http://vkp.leeds.ac.uk/> by registered and non-registered users. In the ALPS building (an on-line repository) you will find much more detailed information, including minutes of meetings, plans, membership of ALP Groups etc. Most of ALPS resources are public documents and readily accessible to all users.

3. ALPS STRATEGIC PLAN

The Strategic Plan which will lead all of our work in the ALPS CETL has been approved by the Joint Management Group. ALPS mission is:

"Building on existing strengths across the partnership, the Centre for Excellence in Assessment and Learning in Practice Settings aims to ensure that students graduating from courses in health and social care are fully equipped to perform confidently and competently at the start of their professional careers so improving the standards of care."

Supporting this mission are six strategic aims:

- A1. to develop and improve assessment and thereby learning in practice settings for all health & social care students
- A2. to develop and promote skills of assessors in practice-based assessment
- A3. to develop the role of service-users and carers in practice assessment
- A4. to develop project management and partnership working
- A5. to research, evaluate, disseminate and change professional cultures
- A6. to respond & influence policy changes nationally and internationally

The Strategic Plan will now go to the next meeting of the ALPS Advisory Board for approval. Once the Plan has been approved we will make it available on the VKP.

4. LEEDS METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY APPOINT TWO ALPS TEACHING FELLOWS

Sara Eastburn and Catherine Coates have recently been appointed to the position of ALPS Teaching Fellows at Leeds Metropolitan University.

Sara Eastburn MSc, BSc (Hons), MCSP is a Senior Lecturer and Course Leader for the BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy. After 6 and a half years at Doncaster Royal Infirmary Sara moved into education at the end of 1998, initially joining Leeds Metropolitan University in a lecturer-practitioner role. Sara now teaches on both the BSc and MSc pre-registration physiotherapy programmes. She is particularly interested in exploring the uses of formative assessment both in university-based and practice-based learning settings. Sara has been involved in co-ordinating the initial generic skills mapping exercise at Leeds Met and will be a member of the Partner Site Implementation Group.

Sara can be contacted at Leeds Met, telephone: (0113) 2832600 Ext 3849 or email: s.eastburn@leedsmet.ac.uk

Catherine Coates BSc, RD a Senior Lecturer in the School of Allied Health Professions and has been Course Leader and Scheme Leader of the BSc Hons Nutrition and Dietetics courses since 1991. Her main focus at present is supporting the undergraduate dietetic students in their personal and professional development in preparation for the work-based clinical education placements in the NHS. Spending half her time as the Clinical Facilitator for Dietetics across West, North and East Yorkshire Catherine works with dietetic departments to encourage the development of quality practice placements. Currently she is piloting common assessment tools across a number of NHS Trusts. In this role she has spoken at a number of conferences about professional portfolio development and inter-professional practice placement opportunities. Catherine is already involved in ALPS as a member of the Monitoring and Evaluation Group and will belong to the Partner Site Implementation Group. Catherine can be contacted at Leeds Met, telephone: (0113) 2832600 Ext 3883 or email c.a.coates@leedsmet.ac.uk

Another of Leeds Met's existing Teaching Fellows, **Dr Jill Taylor**, is actively involved in ALPS working with the IT Group on developing pilot projects for using mobile technologies in practice-based assessment. Jill has a varied background in teaching and research and has worked both in the school and university sectors and the NHS. Jill brings many years of experience in the use of e-Learning and developing student IT skills. Jill can be contacted at Leeds Met, telephone (0113) 2832600 Ext 5819 or email j.d.taylor@leedsmet.ac.uk

5. VACANCY

ALPS PROGRAMME RESEARCH OFFICER

Research R1A – circa £25k- £30k pro rata

FTE – 50-80%

This part-time post (50-80% fte) is available immediately for 2 years (secondments would be welcomed), working in the recently established ALPS Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning. The Programme Research Officer will be part of the ALPS Core Team based in Leeds. S/he will help to develop and support the research arm of the ALPS CETL by working closely with the ALPS Research Group, ALPS Teaching Fellows and the Learning Development Officer to assist in the development, implementation and co-ordination of the ALPS research strategy and to support the research activities of CETL staff. The post holder will be expected to co-ordinate and publicise research-funding opportunities across the partnership and work with ALPS colleagues on bids to generate further research income. Additionally the Programme Research Officer will make broader research links with other CETLs and research groups nationally and internationally to ensure publication and presentation of the ALPS work. See the University of Leeds vacancies page for more details by visiting <http://www.leeds.ac.uk> and click on 'jobs'. Closing date for applications 10 January 06.

7. CETL CAPITAL TOWARDS SKILLS LABS AT HUDDERSFIELD

Cathy Doggett, Head of Nursing, Acting Associate Dean (Learning and Teaching) and Huddersfield University's Lead Contact for ALPS writes,

"High on our agenda in the School of Human and Health Sciences at the University of Huddersfield is further development of the already well established Clinical/Practice Skills Laboratories Suite. We are delighted with the addition to existing provision which incorporates a Simulated Ward Environment, Sensory Stimulation Room, Physiotherapy Laboratories and Podiatry Clinic. Funds from the ALPS CETL Capital contributed towards the new facilities which include a Midwifery Delivery Room, Operating Department and Occupational Therapy Laboratories, which will be officially opened in January 2006 by the Chancellor, Patrick Stewart.

Skill development in students using simulated settings promotes their safety and confidence, preparing them well for assessment and learning during clinical/practice experience. As an integral part of the curricula on health care courses, skills simulation is used extensively within the School. Although mainly uni-professional our plans are to further develop existing inter-professional learning through these facilities."

8. FORTHCOMING EVENTS LISTING

- ***Embracing Excellence in Learning & Teaching, 6th January 2006, Leeds***

We are delighted to have secured a limited number of places especially for the ALPS partners to attend the University of Leeds, Third Learning and Teaching Conference, to be held on Friday 6th January 2006. Full details of the conference including an outline programme for the day and details of the abstracts for all of the sessions can be found on the Conference website at:

<http://www.ldu.leeds.ac.uk/news/events/conference.htm> . If you are interested in attending please contact the ALPS team directly at alps@leeds.ac.uk.

- ***e-moderating for Health Care Educators***

The health and social care Subject Centres of the Higher Education Academy are jointly offering a 'health care educators' version of the highly popular Gilly Salmon 'E-Moderating' web-based course which runs for 4-5 weeks from 6th February 2006, at a cost of £320 per participant (subsidised).

E-moderating skills are essential for those supporting students in virtual learning environments, and this course will also be of interest to learning development staff. Accreditation is available, numbers are strictly limited: http://www.medev.ac.uk/show_workshop_page_public?entry_id=27

- ***Call For Papers: Third Biennial Northumbria/Earli SIG Assessment Conference: 30 August – 1 September 2006, Northumbria University, UK***

Main themes:

Excellence in assessment practices; Promoting excellence in learning; Achieving excellence with accountability

Submit proposals and register for the conference at http://northumbria.ac.uk/cetl_af/assessment2006/

Deadline for submission of proposals: 14 February 2006

- ***Call For Contributions: International Consortium for Educational Development, 6th International Conference: 11-14 June 2006, Sheffield Hallam University, Sheffield, UK***

Conference theme: Enhancing Academic Development – international perspectives

You are invited to submit proposals for the ICED 2006 conference (see <http://iced2006.shu.ac.uk>).

- ***All Together Better Health III – Challenges in Interprofessional Education and Practice, Imperial College London 10-12 April 2006***

The third international **All Together Better Health** conference will be your chance to build upon the foundations laid for interprofessional education and practice.

Take this opportunity to exchange your ideas and experiences with service users, carers, patients, clients, students, service managers, policy makers, researchers, practitioners and teachers from your own and other professions about ways to learn and work together to improve health and social care in different countries.

<http://www.event-solutions.info/pages/conference.asp?ecode=LH1259>

9. ALPS LOGO

As you'll see we now have a smart new logo for the ALPS CETL which you will find from now onwards on all ALPS official correspondence, publicity and promotional materials.

10. ALPS KEY CONTACTS

ALPS has a Core Team based at the University of Leeds:

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For all general enquiries telephone 0113 343 6352; fax 0113 343 6997; email alps@leeds.ac.uk.

Each of the ALPS partners has a Lead Contact:

Gwendolen Bradshaw, *Dean of the School of Health Studies, University of Bradford*

Cathy Doggett, *Head of Nursing & Acting Associate Dean, School of Human & Health Sciences, University of Huddersfield*

Ieuan Ellis, *Associate Dean & Head of the School of Allied Health Professions, Leeds Metropolitan University*

Peter Gray, *Head of Programme for Occupational Therapy, School of Professional Health Studies, York St John,*

Trudie Roberts, *Head of the Medical Education Unit, Faculty of Medicine & Health, University of Leeds*

Kath Hinchliff, *Director of Education Commissioning, West Yorkshire NHS Development Confederation*