

ALPS BULLETIN

1. WELCOME TO THE ALPS CETL FIRST BULLETIN

We're very pleased to welcome readers to this, the first ever Bulletin of the **Assessment and Learning in Practice Settings (ALPS), Centre for Excellence in Learning and Teaching (CETL)**. The overall aim of this 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 hope that you will be both keen readers and contributors to the Bulletin, making it a valuable, relevant, collective resource. You can contribute by emailing the ALPS Support 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 will eventually be available in PDF format and posted on our (yet to be developed!) website. Please send any items by the last working day of each month.

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.

2. WHAT'S ALPS AND WHAT'S A CETL?

Assessment and Learning in Practice Settings (ALPS) is a collaborative programme between five Higher Education Institutions with proven reputations for excellence in learning and teaching in medicine, health and social care: Bradford University, Huddersfield University, The University of Leeds (lead); Leeds Metropolitan University, and York St John College. There are 16 professions across the partnership from Audiology to Social Work, and a wide range of partners including the Workforce Development Confederation, clinical networks and professional bodies.

ALPS aim is 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. We'll achieve this by extending excellence and innovation in assessing practice, helping students learn both within their professions and across professional boundaries. ALPS will raise the status of teaching in practice. We will work with practice-based educators so they can assess generic skills (e.g. communication, team working, ethics) and professional competences common to many groups. Practitioners who teach can benefit from and contribute to the work of ALPS and its networks. ALPS will reward staff, with opportunities for Teaching Fellowships, sabbaticals and teaching awards. We will notify you of these opportunities in detail in forthcoming issues of this bulletin.

ALPS is one of the 74 Centres for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETLs) funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) to promote excellence across all subjects and aspects of teaching and learning in higher education. Funding of £315 million over five years from 2005-06 to 2009-10 represents HEFCE's largest ever single funding initiative in teaching and learning.

3. INTRODUCING THE TEAM

The ALPS Support Team has 3 full-time members of staff now in post:

Trish Walker – Senior Programme Manager

Trish comes to the team from the Higher Education Academy Centre for Bioscience, where she was Centre Manager. Her role will be to provide management support to the CETL, maintain strong working links with the partner 5 HEI, Workforce Development Confederation and NHS, develop and maintain a communication strategy across the partnership and establish financial, monitoring, dissemination and evaluation arrangements. Trish can be contacted on t.e.walker@leeds.ac.uk or 0113 343 4860.

Jo Mallows - Learning Development Officer

Jo's background in lifelong learning and professional education, joining ALPS from the University of Leeds, School of Continuing Education. It's Jo's job to provide the educational development support for the main team. Her work with partner institutions and work based teachers, will include: advising and supporting academic and professional colleagues in developing and implementing improved procedures and techniques for assessing clinical and professional competences in practice, and co-ordinating educational developments across the partners, to ensure validity and consistency across professional and institutional boundaries. Jo will also be keeping a close watch on national and international developments in practice-based and work-based assessment in professional settings, and making links with other projects (e.g. other CETLs in related areas). Jo can be contacted on j.mallows@leeds.ac.uk or 0113 343 6909.

Rosemary Porter – ALPS Programme Assistant

Rosemary has come from the School of Oral Biology at the University of Leeds. Her role is to provide support to the ALPS Team. Rosemary will work with colleagues across the partnership and lead initiatives such as data collection and analysis, and support the networking and collaborative function of the CETL. Rosemary will assist in raising awareness of the work of the CETL across the institutions, nationally and internationally. Rosemary can be contacted on r.c.porter@leeds.ac.uk or 0113 343 6352.

The ALPS Support Team are based in Room 23, Fairbairn House, University of Leeds, 71-75 Clarendon Road, Leeds LS2 9PL. For all general enquiries telephone 0113 343 6352; fax 0113 343 6997; email alps@leeds.ac.uk.

4. RESOURCES/LINKS/NETWORKING

The Higher Education Academy

The ALPS team are working closely with 3 of the 24 [Higher Education Academy](http://www.heacademy.ac.uk), Subject Centres. The HEA is a UK-wide initiative supported by the four UK Higher Education Funding Councils in order to enhance the student learning experience. The Subject Centres work with institutions and individuals who support student learning throughout the UK. There is a wealth of regularly updated information on each of the Centres' web sites, plus mailing lists, bulletin boards, networks and events to sign up to.

www.medev.heacademy.ac.uk provides the link to the Higher Education Academy Subject Centre for Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine.

<http://www.health.heacademy.ac.uk/> takes you to the Health Sciences and Practice Subject Centre.

www.swap.ac.uk is the link for the Social Policy and Social Work Subject Centre of the Higher Education Academy.

The Academy also has web pages with more information about each of the 74 CETLs and related links. See www.heacademy.ac.uk/CETL for more details.

Miscellaneous websites

The following website has just been launched as a result of a European Social Fund project about careers in health and social care <http://www.careincareers.co.uk/home.htm>

5. FORTHCOMING EVENTS LISTING

Breaking Boundaries Conference, 9-10th November 2005, Edinburgh

The HEA Subject Centre for Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine has linked up with other projects (including CETLs and ASME (<http://www.asme.org.uk/>) to deliver a registration-free conference, for the benefit of Higher Education in the UK. This conference is aimed at sub-deans, curriculum developers and support staff (including information specialists, those who run VLE support and staff developers). For more information about the conference look online:

http://www.medev.ac.uk/show_workshop_page_public?entry_id=46

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.