



## BULLETIN – ISSUE 4

### 1. ALPS INTRODUCTION

ALPS is a collaborative programme between five Higher Education Institutions with proven reputations for excellence in learning and teaching in health and social care: the universities of Bradford, Huddersfield, Leeds (lead); Leeds Metropolitan and York St John University 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 mission is to build on existing strengths across the partnership 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.

### 2. ALPS UPDATES

#### I. Interprofessional Practice Learning Seminar, Tuesday 2 May 2006, University Of Leeds

ALPS will be hosting a seminar on Interprofessional Practice Learning on Tuesday 2 May 10.30 am – 12 noon. We are delighted to welcome Professor Hugh Barr who will lead the seminar. Hugh is President of CAIPE (the Centre for the Advancement of Interprofessional Education) (<http://www.caipe.org.uk/>) and a member of the ALPS Advisory Board. The seminar will look at what constitutes interprofessional practice learning and how this aligns with ALPS.

The seminar is open to ALPS partners and anyone who has an interest in Interprofessional Practice Learning. It will be held at the University of Leeds with coffee served from 10.00 am onwards for a 10.30 am start. If you would like to attend please email Rosemary Porter on [alps@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:alps@leeds.ac.uk) by Wednesday 26th April as places are very limited.

#### II. ALPS Additional Capital

ALPS is delighted to report that we have been successful in our bid for £350,000 additional capital from HEFCE. This award will be used to develop a searchable web-based database/knowledge management tool, featuring the outcomes and competences for each of the professions and courses represented within the ALPS partnership, and an online repository for learning and assessment resources. The University of Bradford and York St John University College were also successful in their applications for additional refurbishment work as part of this award.

#### III. ALPS Research Update

We are very pleased to report a recent flurry of research activity in ALPS, as follows:

- Collaborative links established with “Development and Training to Enhance the Patient and Public Voice in Professional Education: a collaborative project” led by the University of Leeds (£33k award from West Yorkshire Workforce Development Confederation)
- Workshop presentation at All Together Better for Health Conference III (Imperial College, London 10-12 April 2006) led by two ALPS Partners
- Paper accepted for Work Based Learning in Primary Care (June 2006)
- Poster accepted for SOLSTICE Conference (Edge Hill College of HE, England 3 May 2006)
- Bid submitted by ALPS to the Higher Education Academy for education research on interprofessional learning (£15k)
- Bid on e-learning submitted by School of Medicine, University of Leeds, to the Higher Education Academy with ALPS quoted as partner (£40k)

For further information on ALPS research activity please contact our Programme Research Officer, Robin Waxman at [r.waxman@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:r.waxman@leeds.ac.uk).

#### **IV. ALPS Core Team – Office Move**

With the appointment of new staff (see item 8), the ALPS Core Team have now moved to offices in adjacent rooms in the Teaching Centre behind Fairbairn House. Our address and phone numbers remain unchanged but please note our new fax number 0113 343 3470.

#### **V. Mobile Technologies Pilot Projects**

ALPS partners are all busy preparing for or running their IT pilot projects. These pilots will start to identify some of the pro's and con's of using mobile technologies in the assessment of health and social care students in practice settings. They will also help identify the readiness to adopt mobile technologies, and the infrastructure available and required to support it. Partners' pilots will then inform the overall ALPS mobile technologies project due to start September 2006). Leeds Metropolitan and York St John tell us more about their pilots.

#### ***Launch of the Leeds Metropolitan Mobile Technology Pilot***

As an ALPS partner site, Leeds Metropolitan University is currently engaged in an initial mobile technology pilot project involving 30 pre-registration dietetic and physiotherapy students undertaking practice placements in a range of hospital and community-based settings between April and July 2006.

The aim of the project is to evaluate the integration of mobile technologies into practice placement settings and to develop and evaluate appropriate pedagogic approaches that exploit the technology to deliver an enhanced student learning experience.

The focus of the pilot is to evaluate the potential for mobile technology to enhance assessment, learning and teaching experiences. MediaBoard software is being used to set up web-based multimedia message boards that both students and tutors can interact with via SMS (text), MMS (picture), or audio files from either a personal digital assistant (PDA) or desktop PC. This will allow students and tutors to record “real time” experiences associated with practice placement learning, whilst at the same time exploit the features available on the mobile devices to record this information in multimedia formats.

The students involved in this mobile technology pilot are MSc Physiotherapy (pre-registration) students who begin a 5-week placement on 24 April, and BSc (Hons) Dietetic students who commence a 12-week placement at the beginning of May; it is hoped that the overlap of these practice placements will foster inter-professional learning and working. Tutors from both disciplines are also involved in the pilot project.

Students are being asked to collect and record information as part of a reflective media blog including information about observations and learning experiences, especially pivotal incidents that support learning via critical analysis. These include inter-professional interactions along with reflections on how they see the use of mobile devices adding value to their work-based experiences. Students will use the collected data to support reflective and reflexive learning experiences that support and enhance inter-professional working, and give them the opportunity to work collaboratively in evaluating the key skills of teamwork, ethics and communication. Although the emphasis of the pilot is on supporting formative activities, the data students collect will be used to support summative university-based assessment processes. For example the dietetic students will collate data in their reflective blogs and showcase this in their practice portfolios as evidence of their achievements in reflective practice, whereas the data collected by the physiotherapy students will be used formatively during a face-to-face clinical debriefing session, and to support the summative assessment for their Integrated Practice module.

What next .....

The Leeds Metropolitan ALPS team look forward to disseminating the results of the mobile technology pilot to ALPS partners in due course, and also to presenting the findings of the pilot at the Third Biennial Joint Northumbria/EARLI SIG Assessment Conference (30 August – 1 September). For further information on the Leeds Metropolitan pilot project contact Jill Taylor on [j.d.taylor@leedsmet.ac.uk](mailto:j.d.taylor@leedsmet.ac.uk).

### ***York St John University College Moblogging Pilot***

In collaboration with the ALPS IT Group York St John University College has launched a £30,000 pilot project to explore the use of mobile phone technology, linked to Blog and Flickr websites, to generate information on student learning in the workplace.

E-learning advisors Gerry Kregor and Mark Dransfield have been working against tight time scales to launch the pilot that is intended to provide information that will inform future ALPS purchasing decisions.

Maria Parks (Occupational Therapy) and Katie O'Byrne (Physiotherapy) will be working with students to evaluate the utility of the systems and identify ways in which the technology can contribute to enhanced assessment of student performance on professional practice placements.

Forty occupational therapy and physiotherapy students will be taking their Vodafone v 1240 handsets with them on placement in early June to gather data and transmit it back to their personal Blog and Flickr sites, where it will be analysed by academic staff. The pilot project team hopes that as well as gaining insight into the barriers the students encounter innovative ways of supporting students on placement will be identified. Further details on the York St John pilot contact Mark Dransfield on [m.dransfield@yorks.ac.uk](mailto:m.dransfield@yorks.ac.uk)

Click on the link below to see photo 1, 2 & 4 - students at York St John preparing to use mobile technology on placement for the first time, Photo 3 is Gerry Kregor & Mark Dransfield elearning advisors at York St John preparing Vodafone handsets for distribution to physiotherapy students.

<http://vkp.leeds.ac.uk/Drive/gotofolder.jsp?folder=479118.479119.492797.535922.535927.544936&space=team>

### **3. ALPS APPOINTMENTS**

#### **I. Robin Waxman Programme Research Officer**

Robin Waxman, has joined the ALPS Core Team as Programme Research Officer. She has more than 10 years experience as a Project Manager of a wide range of multi-centre and international epidemiological research projects in subjects as diverse as stroke, rheumatology, cancer and genetic epidemiology. More recently, she has managed projects in the NHS, developing patient pathways and clinical networks with Bradford & Airedale diabetes teams and in tuberculosis with the Yorkshire & Humber Health Protection Agency. With a previous career in course development and training in the IT industry, she will draw on her experience in both IT training and clinical research to assist in the development, implementation and co-ordination of the ALPS research strategy and to support research activities. Email Robin at [r.waxman@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:r.waxman@leeds.ac.uk) or telephone 0113 343 6970.

#### **II. Gareth Frith Mobile Technologies Project Manager**

Gareth Frith has also recently joined the ALPS Core Team as Mobile Technologies Project Manager. He will be responsible for developing and coordinating the ALPS mobile technologies plan and will be working closely with the Partner Site Implementation Groups to help them develop and implement the infrastructure and mobile technologies needed.

Gareth's background is in the Information Technology industry and he has worked for companies such as Compaq and HP (Hewlett Packard) supporting the business of telephony providers such as BT. He will bring with him IT Account Management and Project Management skills to the ALPS Core Team and the mobile technologies project including a good understanding of the necessary IT, mobility and network technologies.

Providing successful mobility solutions is one of Gareth's key interests and he is very keen about the prospects of developing solutions which can be used by all ALPS partners. Email Gareth at [g.s.frith@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:g.s.frith@leeds.ac.uk) or telephone 0113 343 6353.

### **4. WEST YORKSHIRE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT CONFEDERATION - PRACTICE PLACEMENT QUALITY ASSURANCE PROJECT**

The expansion of practice learning alongside complex organisational issues within health and social care has resulted in more innovative approaches to providing quality education for all students in a multidisciplinary environment.

During 2001-2005 considerable work had been undertaken on three separate collaborative initiatives;-

- (i) Student Evaluation Tool
- (ii) Practice Placement Profile
- (iii) Practice Placement Directory

These three separate initiatives have become the Practice Placement Quality Assurance Project (see the website;- [www.healthcareplacements.co.uk/](http://www.healthcareplacements.co.uk/))

This project has been undertaken by a collaborative partnership of all West Yorkshire stakeholders on behalf of the West Yorkshire Workforce Development Confederation. The ultimate aim being to develop robust operational processes to support quality practice learning experiences for all health care students within West Yorkshire to maximise placement capacity and promote inter-professional learning. For further details contact Fiona Bates – Project Manager on [f.bates2@bradford.ac.uk](mailto:f.bates2@bradford.ac.uk) or Chris Holroyd – Assistant Director of Practice Development & Quality on [chris.holroyd@westyorks.nhs.uk](mailto:chris.holroyd@westyorks.nhs.uk).

## 5. FORTHCOMING EVENTS LISTING

### ***Evaluation of CETLS: 18 Months On – 17 May 2006, Millennium Gloucester Hotel, London***

A Conference for those involved in evaluating CETLS (e.g. internal & external evaluators, CETL researchers.) [http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/events/List\\_4445.htm](http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/events/List_4445.htm)

If you are interested in attending please contact Trish Walker, ALPS Programme Manager [t.e.walker@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:t.e.walker@leeds.ac.uk).

### ***Professional Development for Medical & Healthcare Teachers – Meeting the National Agenda for Change – 8 June 2006, University Of Luton***

An opportunity to share effective practice, be informed on the government agendas in healthcare, professional development & higher education. For further information <http://www.medev.ac.uk/resources/meetings/workshops>

### ***Professional Lifelong Learning: Beyond Reflective Practice – 3 July 2006, Trinity & All Saints College, Horsforth, Leeds***

A joint conference between the Lifelong Learning Institute and Centre for Professional Education, University of Leeds and SCUTREA, to be held in Leeds. This one day conference is intended for all those working with professional learning. Also relevant for those concerned with initial and ongoing learning, both in work and in educational contexts.

Key note speakers;- Professor David Boud, University of Technology, Sydney, Australia, Professor Janis Fook, La Trobe University, Australia. Further details of the conference and registration information available at: <http://www.leeds.ac.uk/medicine/meu/lifelong06/>

### ***ASET Annual Conference 2006 – The Placement & Employability Professionals' Conference – 5 – 7 September 2006, Cadbury's Manor House, Birmingham***

ASET – the Association for Sandwich Education & Training, is calling for workshop presentations – 4 themes to include sandwich placements, shorter placements, flexible work-based learning & European/worldwide placements. Please submit to ASET by end of April 2006 or see [www.asetonline.org](http://www.asetonline.org)

## 6. ALPS WEBSITE UPDATE & VIRTUAL KNOWLEDGE PARK TRAINING

The ALPS website [www.alps-cetl.ac.uk](http://www.alps-cetl.ac.uk) continues to be developed. To keep updated on the latest ALPS news and to download this and previous bulletins please see the above link.

Virtual Knowledge Park (VKP) – A series of training events was organised recently by the ALPS team for ALPS partners to familiarise themselves with the Virtual Knowledge Park and give them the opportunity to explore how they would like to use the VKP. All ALPS partners should aim to use the VKP for storing and accessing shared data and information. Any further enquiries please contact [r.c.porter@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:r.c.porter@leeds.ac.uk) or contact [vkp@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:vkp@leeds.ac.uk).

## 7. FUTURE BULLETINS

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](mailto:alps@leeds.ac.uk) with brief details of events, links to articles and other information - 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 2 June 2006.**

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](mailto:alps@leeds.ac.uk). You can access this Bulletin and past copies as a pdf via our website [www.alps-cetl.ac.uk](http://www.alps-cetl.ac.uk).

## 8. ALPS KEY CONTACTS

**ALPS Core Team is based at the University of Leeds:**

*Trish Walker - Programme Manager*

[t.e.walker@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:t.e.walker@leeds.ac.uk) Tel: 0113 343 4860

*Jo Mallows - Learning Development Officer*

[j.mallows@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:j.mallows@leeds.ac.uk) Tel: 0113 343 6909

*Robin Waxman - Programme Research Officer*

[r.waxman@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:r.waxman@leeds.ac.uk) Tel: 0113 343 6970

*Gareth Frith - Mobile Technologies Project Manager*

[g.s.frith@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:g.s.frith@leeds.ac.uk) Tel: 0113 343 6353

*Rosemary Porter - Programme Assistant*

[r.c.porter@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:r.c.porter@leeds.ac.uk) Tel: 0113 343 6352

For all general enquiries telephone 0113 343 6352; fax 0113 343 3470; email [alps@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:alps@leeds.ac.uk); website [www.alps-cetl.ac.uk](http://www.alps-cetl.ac.uk)

**Each of the ALPS partners has a Lead Contact:**

1. University of Bradford, Chris Dearnley - [c.a.dearnley1@bradford.ac.uk](mailto:c.a.dearnley1@bradford.ac.uk)
2. University of Huddersfield, Cathy Doggett - [c.m.doggett@hud.ac.uk](mailto:c.m.doggett@hud.ac.uk)
3. University of Leeds, Margaret Lascelles - [m.a.lascelles@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:m.a.lascelles@leeds.ac.uk)
4. Leeds Metropolitan University, Ieuan Ellis - [i.ellis@leedsmet.ac.uk](mailto:i.ellis@leedsmet.ac.uk)
5. York St John University College, Peter Gray - [p.gray@yorks.ac.uk](mailto:p.gray@yorks.ac.uk)
6. West Yorkshire Workforce Development Confederation, Kath Hinchliff – [kath.hinchliff@westyorks.nhs.uk](mailto:kath.hinchliff@westyorks.nhs.uk)