



**Assessment & Learning
in Practice Settings**

BULLETIN – ISSUE 5

1. ALPS INTRODUCTION

For the benefit of new readers, and as a reminder to everyone else...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. Please see our website for the latest ALPS briefing with the most up to date information on ALPS
www.alps-cetl.ac.uk/documents/currenttrustbriefing.pdf.

2. ALPS EVENTS

i) 'Informing the Next Phase: an ALPS Workshop', Monday 11th September 2006, 9.30 – 4.00, University House, University of Leeds

ALPS partners have been invited to participate in this important workshop where colleagues will feedback on the outcomes of their Mobile Pilot projects and contribute their knowledge and expertise into defining future requirements. There will be the opportunity to workshop several themes looking at the professional and user needs for assessment. Contact Gareth Frith for further details on g.s.frith@leeds.ac.uk.

ii) 'Professional & Statutory Regulatory Body Seminar',

ALPS is delighted to be hosting a seminar to which all the PSRBs who have a role in professional regulation across the ALPS subjects are invited. The aims of the meeting are:

- to introduce the ALPS programme and its relationship with the PSRBs for professional regulation purposes
- to establish a spirit of partnership between the PSRBs and ALPS
- to identify strategies to work with PSRBs to take ALPS work forward
- to identify potential barriers to implementing inter-professional assessment
- to identify preferred mechanisms, including effective communication, for future engagement

We have also invited colleagues from practice and all sixteen professional subjects involved in ALPS will be represented. We hope that this will be the first of a number of meetings where we can progress the work of ALPS in collaboration with the PSRBs. We will be reporting back on the outcomes of the meeting in a future edition of the Bulletin.

3. ALPS UPDATES

i) Common Competency Mapping

A Working Group, chaired by Sara Eastburn, CETL Fellow at Leeds Metropolitan University, and involving representation from all partner sites and practice, is taking forward the earlier work on common competency mapping. The aim being to develop a common assessment tool to improve the in-practice assessment of communication skills, teamworking and ethical practice. The Working Group is utilising appropriate professional standards, collaboration with colleagues from other CETLs, and IT expertise from both within and outside of ALPS to inform its work. Anyone wishing to know more about the work should contact Sara at s.eastburn@leedsmet.ac.uk.

ii) Mobile Technologies Pilot Projects

ALPS partners are all busy running their IT pilot projects. These pilots aim 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 assessment. Partners' pilots will then inform the ALPS mobile technologies project due to start September 2006.

York St John University College Moblogging Pilot

York St John University College students have been able to access a website to support their involvement in the MoBlogging pilot. The website was designed to provide both background information and technical information to reinforce the training that they received prior to going on placement.

Anyone interested in knowing more about the MoBlogging pilot may wish to visit the website.

At <http://www.yorks.ac.uk/alps/>

Leeds Metropolitan University Pilot Update

Two groups of students are currently engaged in the Leeds Metropolitan mobile technology pilot. The physiotherapy students have now completed their placements and have returned to the University. The dietetic students currently remain on placement. Focus groups were held with the physiotherapy students on Friday 14th July in order to gather rich descriptive data regarding their experience of using the PDAs and MediaBoard on placement. In addition, the students were asked to complete a "post-pilot" survey to gather more quantitative data. Jill Taylor, Sara Eastburn and Catherine Coates are currently in the process of analysing the data ahead of presenting results of the pilot at the Northumbria EARLI SIG Assessment Conference in the Autumn and running an interactive workshop at the Leeds Metropolitan Assessment, Learning and Teaching (ALT) Conference on 6th September at Elland Road.

University of Bradford Pilot update

The Bradford team have collected the first set of data from the PDA devices (HP iPAQ's) following the completion of student placements. Focused group interviews were conducted with students and individual interviews conducted with link lecturers. The data collected from these Focus groups will form the basis for the evaluation of the pilot project.

The team have moved into a second phase, having highlighted several issues that have arisen out of the first part of the project. The data will be collected in September. Two student representative on the project have been co-opted on to the Partner Site Implementation Group (PSIG).

At the latest PSIG meeting it has been identified that there needs to more activity to raise awareness of ALPS and facilitate clinicians engagement. Clear objectives have been set to undertake this communications exercise over the next few months.

University of Leeds

Two pilots are being undertaken at Leeds University.

Pilot 1 involves collecting summative assessment data from tutor led structured assessments using mobile data capture software. The project will focus on clinical competencies. It is envisaged that the assessment data captured by the mobile technology can be stored on a central database system, can be used to analyse the data and generate feedback. The user group will be Leeds radiography assessors and is due to complete mid August.

In Pilot 2, final year medical students have undertaken a short clinical evaluation exercise (mini-CEX) which has been assessed using a PDA based form. An initial analysis and consolidation of the outcomes has been produced.

University of Huddersfield

The pilot involves the use of mobile technology in a tripartite arrangement to enhance communication between the assessor, student and personal tutor. It is anticipated that at this stage we are simply testing out the user friendliness and ease of use or not as identified by the participants. The aim at this stage is to elicit the advantages and disadvantages as experienced by the participants

This aspect of learning and assessment in practice has been selected because it is an area in which difficulties with communication have been experienced, particularly when the off campus location of students is distant. If mobile technology can enhance this it will be of enormous benefit to all parties in this essential relationship.

4. ALPS DEPARTURES & NEW APPOINTMENTS

i) Farewell to Jo Mallows, ALPS Learning Development Officer

Jo Mallows is bidding farewell to ALPS and the University of Leeds on 31st August, after being with the ALPS team since its inception a year ago and the University for seven years. Jo is taking some time out to explore different challenges and opportunities (including the other Alps!), but will be staying in touch with ALPS and looks forward to making the occasional return visit. Jo wishes the very best to all colleagues involved in the ALPS partnership, and thanks them for making the last year such an interesting and stimulating experience.

ii) Welcome to Clare Smith, ALPS Learning Development Officer

We are delighted to welcome Clare Smith as the new ALPS Learning Development Officer. Clare is currently a Practice Learning Facilitator in North Kirklees Primary Care Trust. Her role within ALPS will be to co-ordinate the educational development work across the partnership, including working with academic and practice colleagues in developing and adapting improved procedures and techniques for the assessment of professional competences in practice settings. Clare will join the ALPS team early in September, when her induction will involve meeting partners and colleagues.

(iii) Welcome to Andrew Smith, ALPS IT Project Officer

Andrew Smith will be joining the ALPS Team on 1st August 2006 to work on common competency mapping. Andrew joined the Medical Education Unit in May 2005 to work on a TIF funded ePortfolio project *Engaging Teachers in Student's Personal Development Planning and Recording of Progress* to develop ePortfolios for undergraduate Medicine and Geography. Following on from the success of the Medicine and Geography ePortfolios further ePortfolios were created for Dentistry and Aviation. The ALPS team are delighted to have Andrew and his skills, knowledge and experience to add to the team.

iv) ALPS Advisory Board Membership changes

ALPS Advisory Board is also seeing some changes in membership:

- Alan Pearman, Pro-Vice Chancellor for Learning and Teaching, University of Leeds, and Chair of the Advisory Board will be replaced by the new PVC for Learning & Teaching Professor Vivien Jones.
- Peter McWilliam, Pro-Dean for Learning & Teaching, Faculty of Medicine & Health, University of Leeds has joined the Advisory Board.
- Peter Wright, General Social Care Council Regional Manager North has replaced Jane Roe.
- Mike Holmes will be replaced by Richard Hogston, Dean of the Faculty of Health, Leeds Metropolitan University.
- Linda Pollard will be replaced with Sue Proctor, Lead Nurse/Director of Nursing - West Yorkshire, Yorkshire & Humber SHA.

At the last meeting of the Advisory Board the Director of ALPS extended thanks to Professor Alan Pearman for his contribution to ALPS both as Chair and for the work he has done for ALPS outside meetings. The Chair extended thanks to all members, but particularly to those who were departing, and those outside the ALPS partnership who had been so generous with their time and idea in ALPS first year.

5. FORTHCOMING EVENTS LISTING

Patient And Community Voices In Professional Learning – Building A Platform For Change – 14 & 15 September 2006, Clare College Cambridge

Patient and community voices are increasingly engaged in health and social care learning & practice. The voice of service users, survivors, consumers, carers and the public aims to influence change and to support innovation. This meeting will explore how this works and reflect together. Models & approaches will be examined, good practice identified and difficulties will be addressed. To register and receive full programme contact Shelley Fielden on s.a.fielden@leeds.ac.uk or visit the Medical Education Unit home page on;- <http://www.leeds.ac.uk/medicine/meu/index.html>.

Annual Meeting for Clinicians who teach Medical Undergraduates, Weetwood Hall, 28 September 2006, University of Leeds

Gareth Frith will be presenting on behalf of ALPS on, ***The Use of IT for Assessment in Practice Settings***. Andy Pellow and Gareth will be holding a workshop in the afternoon. Anyone interested in attending contact Clair Robinson, Medical Education Unit by emailing medcrob@leeds.ac.uk

Higher Education Academy Innovations Programme - Autumn 2006

There is a full programme of events under the Innovations programme commencing in September, including:

The '***Curriculum Innovation for Diversity***' event (12 September, York St John University College) includes three disciplinary symposia as part of a thought-provoking programme designed to help academics share innovative and practical approaches to the enhancement of student learning through the embedding of equality and diversity in curricula content and delivery methods.

Leading and Embedding Innovations in Higher Education Institutions' (12 October, London) is for senior managers in HE and aims to demonstrate how HEIs can identify within their institutions effective innovative practice in the student learning experience so as to scale it up and embed it.

Bill Rammell MP has agreed to give the keynote at the '***Research-Based Learning in Higher Education: the Warwick Experience***' event being jointly organised by the Academy, the Centre for Academic Practice, University of Warwick and the Reinvention Centre for Undergraduate Research. The conference will examine the ways in which research-based learning is being embedded in the undergraduate curriculum at Warwick and help participants to address how their own institutions might establish similar schemes and approaches.

For further details and how to book places at any of these events please see the Academy website at: <http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/innovations.htm>

SRHE Annual Conference 12th-14th December 2006, Brighton, Sussex

SRHE Post Graduate and Newer Researchers Conference 11th December 2006, University of Sussex
The SRHE is keen to encourage research papers and presentations emerging from the CETLs to its conference this year.

Deadline for submission of proposals for the main conference is 31 July 2006. Abstract submissions for the Postgraduate and Newer Researchers Conference deadline for proposals 1 September 2006

You will find all the information you need on submitting proposals at the SRHE conference website at <http://www.srhe.ac.uk/home.asp>

Preparing for Academic Practice Conference – 19 December 2006, St Anne's College, Oxford

Aim to provide a forum to share good practice, to prepare doctoral students & postdocs for academic careers; and to discuss research concerning academic practice and its development. The conference is free for both presenters and participants (numbers limited to 80).

<http://www.materials.ac.uk/events/prepacprac.asp>

6. OTHER NEWS...

Congratulations to Professor Trudie Roberts, National Teaching Fellow

ALPS CETL Director, Trudie Roberts, has been awarded a prestigious National Teaching Fellowship by the Higher Education Academy. Alongside her achievements with ALPS Trudie, Head of the Medical School, at the University of Leeds is "passionate about recruiting the best people into medicine, regardless of background," and has worked with colleagues to set up the Leeds-Bradford Widening Access to Medicine Course to support this. Trudie has also pioneered an innovative programme which helps medical students develop a good bedside manner. Trudie and the other winners will receive their awards at a ceremony and dinner in London on September 19.

7. ALPS WEBSITE UPDATE

The ALPS Website is regularly updated;- www.alps-cetl.ac.uk. Please note the ALPS information briefing has been updated and shows the aims and objectives of ALPS. Any queries regarding the website please contact Gareth Frith on 0113 343 6353 or email g.s.frith@leeds.ac.uk.

8. 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 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 is published every 4-6 weeks, and is available in Word, PDF formats and via the ALPS website.

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.

Deadlines for contributions

Monday 25 September 2006

Monday 27 November 2006

Monday 8 January 2007

9. ALPS KEY CONTACTS

ALPS Core Team is based at the University of Leeds:

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Each of the ALPS partners has a Lead Contact:

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