



*ensuring 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*

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## **ALPS Progress**

It has been a very busy time for ALPS in the last couple of months as we have reached the end of certain stages of our work and are embarking on the next.

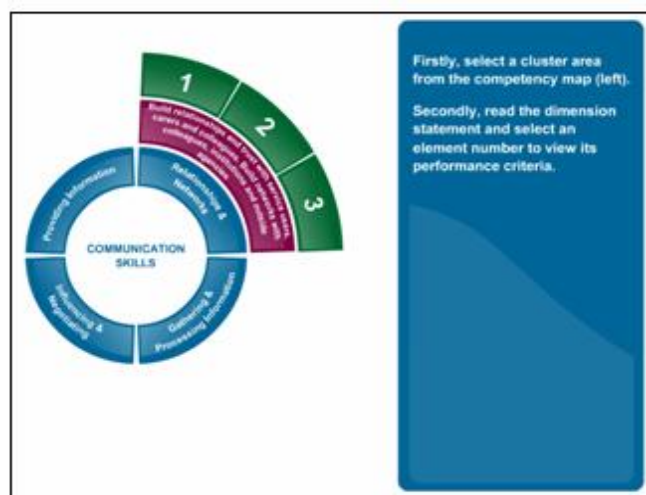
December saw the end of the consultations on the Common Competency Maps, and the information gathered at these events was then incorporated into the final versions of the Maps. At the last Tools Working Group Julie Laxton, as Chair of the Common Competency Mapping Working Group was able to present the completed versions of the Maps for use in developing the ALPS Interprofessional Assessment Tools.

The mobile devices have been allocated and are now being given to students so they can familiarise themselves with the devices in preparation for when the ALPS Tools are completed. This increase in activity has also meant that the ALPS support desk at Bradford is increasingly busy.

The ALPS Core Team has moved into the newly refurbished offices in the School of Medicine. We are now on Level 7 of the Worsley Building sharing a large, bright, open plan space with the Medical Education Unit and the School of Medicine Learning and Teaching Office. So we are now looking forward to the next exciting stages of the ALPS programme, building upon the work which has been achieved in preparation for the development and implementation of a truly interprofessional assessment tool to be used in practice settings. We will be devoting the next issue of the Bulletin to showcasing some of the research that is going on throughout the ALPS Working Groups and Partner Sites.

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## **Common Competency Mapping Working Group**



### **We have finished!!**

This is to announce the completion of the three Common Competency Maps on Communication, Team Working and Ethical Practice. This work has taken over eighteen months to complete, with a very dynamic group changing as different experts and advice were required. It has seen amazing collaboration across the sixteen ALPS professions, the five HEI partner sites and the NHS Yorkshire & Humber.

In addition to the actual production of the Maps each partner site has held consultations with practice professionals, students, service users and carers, and a seminar back in September provided all partners and professions an opportunity to consult with the Professional Statutory and Regulatory Bodies on the Ethical Practice Map. The information from these consultations has been fed back to the Working Group and incorporated into the final versions of the Maps.

*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. There are 16 professions across the partnership from Audiology to Social Work and a wide range of partners including Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority and practice networks. We are also working in consultation with the professional statutory and regulatory bodies.*

It has been hard work but the opportunities for cross-institution and interprofessional working have made it enjoyable and indeed fun at times. We have received this message from Professor Trudie Roberts, ALPS Director and Head of the School of Medicine at the University of Leeds.

*“Can I pass on my thanks and congratulations to the Common Competency Mapping Working Group and the wider Review Group for their work on building and completing the three Common Competency Maps. It is a great achievement not just to have produced such interprofessional maps but also working across the five partners and our practice colleagues, service users and students”.*

**Julie Laxton, Chair and ALPS Teaching Fellow**

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## **University of Leeds Learning and Teaching Conference**

ALPS ran a pre-conference workshop at the University of Leeds Learning and Teaching conference in January 2008. The purpose of the workshop was to introduce the participants to the use of mobile technologies for learning and teaching. Participants from the Schools of Healthcare, Geography, Dentistry, Music, Law and the centre for Bioscience and the SDDU used the ALPS mobile devices to download video learning objects and discuss their use in learning. They also used the camera function of the device to record these discussions and send them to a portfolio with comments.

The workshop generated some useful and enthusiastic discussion about the use of technology for learning. It stimulated ideas on how the technology could enhance learning and assessment between professions and within a work placement scenario.

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## **ALPS Mobile Device distribution at the University of Bradford**

Distributing 130 ALPS mobile devices to students at the University of Bradford has been a challenging affair with hurdles overcome and lessons learnt. First off for distribution were the student nurses; a cohort of just twelve students. It was a lively afternoon that we managed well and students (most of them) were excited and delighted with the devices as we reaped the rewards of good preparation; a list of student names and University numbers ready to add device serial numbers to, hand-outs in packs and student contracts ready to sign. So it was with a sense of optimism that we approached distribution day for the student

midwives – however, we had not anticipated the difference between distributing 12 and 38 devices – this of course was considerable and we were exhausted! By the time we were distributing the 48 mobile devices to student physiotherapists our preparation list had grown to include a video and carrier bags for taking home the bulky boxes. What had by now become abundantly clear was that anything we had to say to students had to be said *before* we allocated the devices – because at that point organised chaos invariably erupted! Last week, students on the MA Social Work, who have commenced their programmes only this semester, became the last student cohort to receive their devices. This was a relatively seamless affair, with the team falling into practiced roles.

The technical support team have since run follow-up workshops with two cohorts, again honing their skills as they have developed the best solution to this process; because one-to-one help is often required they have found it works well for students to be working on a separate task rather than waiting for ‘their turn’ as the team work their way round the students who need help. They will be advocating this approach as they visit other sites in their mobile support roles.

So the devices are out and all students have initial guidelines in their use and support processes are in place. We are just about ready now for the next stage in this process now and are looking forward to when we will be sending the assessment tools up to the devices using the ALPS software suite. Early feedback is positive, with students already reporting a variety of advantages to going mobile.

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## **Delivering the Training for the Mobile Devices**

Since November last year the University of Leeds, School of Healthcare IT department have been developing and delivering training sessions for students and staff in the use of the ALPS mobile technology.

The radiography staff and students were the first to receive their devices and go into practice with them. Altogether 9 lecturer/practitioners and 40 students have been trained in their use. The IT department with the tutor from diagnostic radiography designed and delivered the session to the students. In addition several members of radiography and ALPS staff were in attendance to “trouble-shoot” when required. It was very hard work, very well delivered and quite noisy with 40 students and about 7 staff, in one room.

8 staff from the Dental Institute and 8 members of the Leeds PSIG were the next to be trained. The training in the Baines Wing was good, with 2 of the IT staff delivering with support from the ALPS Teaching Fellow – whose IT skills were improving daily. During the dental staff training it was discovered that reception is very poor in the Worsley Building (University of Leeds) which is where the Dental Institute School of Medicine are based. This meant it was almost impossible to “active synch” the PDAs with the staff’s ISS e-mail system.

In preparation for the training session for 25 dental hygienists/therapists, the room was checked first to ensure there was some reception. It still proved a challenge, with some students managing to links with their e-mail system and others not. All managed to find their hotmail accounts, though! This training was delivered by the, School of Healthcare IT department and the Learning Technologist from the ALPS Core Team. 2 members of staff from the Dental Institute and the ALPS Teaching Fellow helping to “troubleshoot” again!

Follow-up “drop-in” sessions have been arranged for those students who may still experience problems with their PDA

The nursing staff supporting the Advanced Diploma programme students were then trained, in 2 groups, by 2 members of the IT team and this went without a hitch.

48 medical students now needed training. This did not involve the whole cohort so the organisation beforehand was inevitably different. Ultimately there were more volunteers than PDAs, and some even brought friends with them on the training session, to see if they could have one too. It was an organisational challenge, with many students disappointed and some a bit reluctant!

One of the key points of the PDA training that has been highlighted is that the ratio of trainers to users is crucial. The more staff that are available on hand to help users who had difficulties, the smoother the roll out.

With the training it was important that staff and students followed quite a tight schedule, we found from the first few training sessions that if a user falls behind, or worse still clicks ahead it would disrupt the session by making everyone wait for

them. The point about listening and waiting for the trainer was reinforced throughout the session.

We also found that access to a visualiser was important; this served not only to display to the students the various keys around the PDA but helped to keep their attention, and we are able to ‘control’ the session.

We experimented with different room styles and layouts, with big groups having students sat on chairs using the devices didn’t work too well, whereas when staff were being trained this seemed to work well. Other styles that we trailed included a lecture theatre, classic classroom set up and bench style computer cluster.

The next round of training will be for the 40+ nursing students.....

**Julie Laxton ALPS Teaching Fellow**

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## ALPS Helpdesk Update

It may not seem like it but we’re now into the 5<sup>th</sup> month of the ALPS Helpdesk already! Zeeshan Miran joined the University of Bradford in Learner Support Services to work as the ALPS Support Officer on the Helpdesk back in October. Thrown in at the deep end with a project board meeting on his first day, Zee quickly launched the service in a whirlwind of activity. Have a look at the website located at:-

[www.brad.ac.uk/lss/it-services/mobile/alps/](http://www.brad.ac.uk/lss/it-services/mobile/alps/)

for some of the support documents and other materials that he’s produced so far.



Of course the University of Bradford Helpdesk also provides remote support for the mobile devices given out by the ALPS programme. All students and staff taking part in ALPS can contact us weekdays for help and advice regarding anything to do with their devices. You can get in touch with us via the phone (01274 233328) or email:-

[ALPS-Help@bradford.ac.uk](mailto:ALPS-Help@bradford.ac.uk)

and if you have an MSN Messenger account, you can even add us to your ‘Buddies’ list [ALPS-Help@Hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ALPS-Help@Hotmail.co.uk).

Things were quiet at first giving Zee time to get the website and documentation done, but as partners

have rolled out devices across their institutions numbers have increased quickly.

If your institution has provided you with a mobile device then there is help available. If there are any problems with using the device, its connectivity or the software supplied by ALPS then please contact the Bradford Helpdesk.

The telephone and Instant Messaging (IM) service will be available from 10:00am to 16:00pm, Monday to Friday. Email and IM can be accessed through the mobile device. Please note that phone calls will take priority over IM sessions.

**Tel Number:** 01274 233328

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**Email:** [ALPS-Help@Bradford.ac.uk](mailto:ALPS-Help@Bradford.ac.uk)

**Website:**

[www.brad.ac.uk/lss/it-services/mobile/alps/](http://www.brad.ac.uk/lss/it-services/mobile/alps/)

**Service Hours:** Mon – Fri: 10:00am to 16:00pm

We look forward to hearing from you!

## Forthcoming Events Listing

**5<sup>th</sup> LDHEN Symposium: Learning Development: Who needs it?, University of Bradford, 17 – 18 March 2008**

Association for Learning Development in Higher Education is a professional network for staff in Universities & colleges who provide additional support for students to develop their skills for study and their awareness of academic practices.

Booking forms now available, please see [www.aldinhe.ac.uk](http://www.aldinhe.ac.uk).

**Understanding and Implementing the National Professional Standards for Teaching: Standard Descriptor 3. Sheffield Hallam University, 3 April 2008.**

This one-day conference aims to explore the meanings and possible implementations of the UK Professional Standards Framework Standard Descriptor 3. The event will provide examples of work being done across the sector to develop and embed the standard within institutions. The day will comprise a number of presentations with parallel interactive sessions providing the opportunity to discuss various approaches and case studies. A final plenary will share the main learning and identify necessary future steps.

For further information SEDA events can be viewed on <http://www.seda.ac.uk>.

**FINAL CALL FOR ABSTRACTS FOR CONFERENCE ON PROFESSIONAL LIFELONG LEARNING - 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual**

**Conference on Professional Lifelong Learning: Critical Perspectives, at the University of Leeds, Leeds, UK – 24 June 2008**

Final call for abstracts – to be submitted by Friday, 7 March 2008

Keynote speakers: Professor Tara Fenwick, Professor and Head, Department of Educational Studies, University of British Columbia, Canada Professor Kirsti Lonka, Director, Research Centre for Educational Psychology, University of Helsinki, Finland.

Further details about the conference and guidelines for the submission of abstracts, to be received by 7 March, 2008, can be found at [www.leeds.ac.uk/medicine/meu/lifelong08/index.html](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/medicine/meu/lifelong08/index.html)

**ALT-C 2008: Rethinking the digital divide, The University of Leeds, 9-11 September 2008**

Second call for papers & abstracts – deadline 29 February 2008

Online submission system now open at <https://alt.conference-services.net/>.

**Education Waking to Threat, Hope & Possibility, The University of Plymouth, UK, 9-11 September 2008**

The aim of the conference is to explore, in the context of threat to our planet, how to shape and deliver an education for sustainable futures that brings hope, possibility and transformation. All aspects and levels of education are on the conference agenda; but there is particular emphasis on the contribution to be made by the universities and other institutions of higher education. Call for papers deadline 4 April 2008, for more information please see <http://csf.plymouth.ac.uk>.

## Future Bulletins

The Bulletin is distributed electronically and via the ALPS website three times a year to keep colleagues up to date and involved with the work of the ALPS Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning and networks and resources. For further information on the articles featured visit our website at - <http://www.alps-cetl.ac.uk/>

We are looking for keen readers **and** contributors to the Bulletin, in order to make it a valuable, relevant, collective resource.

**The deadline for contributions is 12 May 2008**

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.

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).

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