ALPS Monitoring and Evaluation Group

Evaluation of progress to date on the ALPS CETL Operational Plan 2005 – 2007
Updated 11th October 2006

Following the Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop on 15th June 2006, partner organisations agreed to carry an evaluation of progress against the Operational Plan. This analysis identifies areas of good progress as well as highlighting areas where all (or individual) partners have yet to make significant progress.

Key themes

PSIG membership enhanced by the inclusion of Practice Learning Facilitators at all (3) sites

Recruitment of teaching fellows has been slower than anticipated

Slippage across many of the original target dates for key activities but PSIGs now getting full membership and becoming more effective

Still at "set–up" phase in many areas so difficult to evaluate the impact of ALPS as a whole this early in the programme
Communication flows improving

Considerable reporting at national and international conferences as well as journal submissions helping to raise the profile of ALPS outside its partner organisations

Many target dates fall well beyond the date this data was collected so this exercise needs to be repeated on a regular basis to enable a clear picture of evaluation to be built up throughout the life of the programme.

Mobile technologies pilot projects have been successful with a wide range of staff and students involved – evaluation event on September 11th will inform technology-purchasing decisions for the rest of the project. Standard evaluation questionnaire has enabled feedback to be produced across the partnership. Even though sites have had relative freedom within the pilot the outputs will benefit the ALPS programme as a whole.

Role and involvement of service users and carers within ALPS requires further clarification

Evaluation requires input from the core team on some of the central key targets that are not the responsibility of individual partner organisations

Contributions to the body of knowledge

Key contacts could be an issue when partners share placement sites – need to ensure everyone aware but also to avoid duplication or mixed messages

Ethical clearance – co-ordinated approach required to facilitate research activity across the partnership – evaluation should be included in all research activities and collated centrally

Robust project management processes need implementing

Key Aim	Evaluation	Comments
A1.1 Map core/generic competences	All sites contributing to the work of the common competency sub group – reporting to JMG Sep 06 Pilot communication assessment tool during January 2007	Risk of this work taking too long and becoming too complex with the potential to hold back other developments Need to keep central data up-to-date as course documentation is rewritten in each institution April 2007 onwards
A1.2 Consult & identify good practice in work based learning and assessment	Not all institutions held workshops but a variety of other mechanisms in place	Best practice criteria still to be identified and clarification required as to how this relates to the core competencies work It is unrealistic to expect to revalidate existing modules / courses by July 07. Joint IPL/PSIG meeting in Huddersfield
A1.3 Develop virtual assessment environment	Mobile technology pilots run successfully – partnership wide evaluation event due 11th September to inform future purchasing decisions	Roll out should go smoothly as "teething troubles" resolved during pilot stage Equipment purchase underway
A1.4 Develop and pilot assessment "tools"	Good practice data collection underway – too early in plan to evaluate	Some direction from JMG may be required Huddersfield leading next stage early 2007

A2.1 Establish body of professionals knowledgeable learning theory and work based assessment	Underway at all sites – need to ensure good representation from the "smaller" professions	Strategic Health Education Partnership (SHEP) formed in Huddersfield
A2.2 Collaborate with SHA mentor support project	No comments Bradford Mentor group established Leeds Mentor Conference planned for Dec 06	Mechanism required to link all mentors across the partnership? Especially non SHA funded ones e.g. social work Good practice to apply for accreditation for mentor training Huddersfield modules due to be validated 2007
A2.3 Offer appropriate development opportunities	Directors and PSIG leads in place. Recruitment of Fellows delayed but processes now in place to recruit as required LMU Fellows in post since Dec 05	Evaluation of Fellows' roles required – standard evaluation format would inform whole partnership and wider CETLs
A2.4 Reward staff for enhancing work of ALPS	Institutions at different stages regarding reward policies – these include seconded time, salary enhancements and research funding LMU staff encouraged to engage with ALPS through annual appraisal process	Issue of rewards for non HEI staff More work required once Fellows established Reward structure not yet agreed at Huddersfield
A2.5 Work with relevant bodies to keep them informed of proposed changes to courses	Professional Bodies meeting took place 13 September 06	Two-way dialogue is vital to ensure that all parties aware of the impact of changes throughout the ALPS process and to ensure

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		multidisciplinary aspects are honoured within each profession? Suggest ALPS reconsiders timescales to match better with revalidation schedules
A3.1 Develop & extend programmes to include service users and carers	Data collection underway delayed till Dec 06 B Lead PPI representative appointed B One example of service user appointed to PSIG (L)	Concerns raised about the role of services users and carers within ALPS as well as issues around payment – referred to JMG in September Requirement for partnership wide co-ordination and unified evaluation mechanism Links being set up with CETL4Health NE and wider PPI groups Secondment established to map this activity across the school at Huddersfield
A4.1 Establish appropriate governance arrangements	Governance arrangements in place	Evaluation mechanism required to assess effectiveness and highlight any issues which need to be dealt with at institutional or partnership level
A4.2 draft, consult and implement strategic and operational plans		
A4.3 Manage budget and finance	All institutions submitting reports as required	Annual Report needs to include evaluation

		data
A4.4 Work in co-operation to ensure coherent common approach		More concerted collaboration required to establish common approaches – evaluation mechanism needs to be identified
A4.5 Establish PSIG with appropriate membership	Completed	Evaluation of PSIG operational effectiveness required
A4.6 Design PSIG work programme	Complete – more specific plans being developed for 2007	Evaluation of effectiveness of work programmes as drivers required Need to ensure PSIG responsive to operational changes in work programmes
A4.7 Monitor and review work programme	Ongoing	Evaluation of reporting mechanisms to ensure that it is coherent, co-ordinated and avoids duplication
A4.8 Contribute to body of knowledge	Data capture mechanism still at developmental stage in most places	Data needs collating centrally, presenting in relevant format for target audience and disseminating
A5.1 Produce evaluation of ALPS programme work	Participation in initial evaluation activities underway – only 3 of 5 partners submitted evaluation by 6th September (4 of 5 by 28th September) (Complete by 30th October)	Strategy being drafted. Baseline data collated and ongoing data collection mechanisms devised to ensure coherent reporting over time
A5.2 Develop pedagogic research into/on ALPS	Organisations negotiating internal mechanisms around the research agenda	Continued collaborative effort required to align institutional and school research strategies to embed ALPS – evaluation should be central theme to all this activity

A6.1 Become credible provider of advice on assessment of learning in practice	ALPS publicity widely distributed. Articles submitted for Trust newsletters. Conferences attended and journal articles submitted Web casts planned	Concerted collaborative effort required to engage professional, statutory & regulatory bodies
A6.2 Network, collaborate and share	Plans for CETL Fellows to instigate this activity	Papers submitted to conferences and journals