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| **Support for Excellence Newsletter** | | | | | | | |
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| **September issue** |  | | | | | | |
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| 1. Time to stop wagging the dog | | | | |  | | |
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| “We just wish that providers would write about the improvements they have made, the outcomes of these and the impacts on learners, instead of writing about provision.”  These words were spoken by Jen Walters, Ofsted, during a recent meeting about how LSIS can best support providers in relation to the new inspection framework. They echo those of Lorna Fitzjohn, Divisional Manager, Learning & Skills Frameworks, Policy and Guidance Development Directorate, Ofsted, when she wrote **By focusing on quality improvement, you will be ready for inspection**.  The message is clear, so why do so many providers feel unable to take it on. Perhaps we can’t quite believe our ears. Read the full article [**here**](http://www.excellencegateway.org.uk/page.aspx?o=261403). | | | | | | | |
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| 2. KAFEC’s PRD success | | | |  | | | |
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| D:\Documents and Settings\mratcliffe\My Documents\Peer Review Groups\South East\KAFEC Sub-Groups\Jane Spurgin photo Aug 2010.JPG | | KAFEC’s thriving PRD group has made a real difference to the colleges of Kent and Medway.  In this article, Jane Spurgin, Director for the Kent Association of Further Education Corporations (KAFEC), shares insights into how this PRD group gains benefits from internal networking between members. Read the full article [**here**](http://www.lsis.org.uk/AboutLSIS/MediaCentre/NewsArticles/Pages/PRDPlus-KAFEC.aspx). | | | | | |
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| 3. Keep in touch – PRD Community Portal | | | | | |  | |
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| Don’t forget to access the [**PRD community portal**](http://www.excellencegateway.org.uk/page.aspx?o=sfe-community) – **your**online collaborative forum and workspace to:   * share ideas; * keep in touch; * access resources; and * join new groups.   This interactive PRD database supports existing providers and groups in their PRD activity by facilitating networking and information sharing. It also allows providers who are new to PRD to form groups and/or join existing groups; thereby, increasing the number of providers involved in PRD, the opportunities for networking and sharing of good practice and the potential for sector-led quality improvement.  The portal has been designed so that PRD groups can maintain a profile to record the progress of their own PRD group which is accessible by other groups …so please do take a minute to check your details are up to date.  See our [**Top tips for making the most of your PRD Community**](http://www.excellencegateway.org.uk/page.aspx?o=273009). | | | | | | | |
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| 4. PRD advisers | |  | | | | | |
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| There are three PRD advisers working across the country to support you and develop your Peer Review and Development activities. Find out who your PRD adviser is, their contact details and what support they can give you on the [**Excellence Gateway**](http://www.excellencegateway.org.uk/page.aspx?o=296789). | | | | | | | |
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| 5. Community Development bids | | | | |  | | |
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| Congratulations to the following PRD groups who were successful in bidding for grants to support future reviews around the theme of Community Development. A launch meeting for this project will be held in Coventry on Wednesday 13 October 2010.   * Y&H Collective and West Yorkshire Cluster Group * South Yorkshire Adult and Community Learning * NESPT (Norfolk, Essex, Suffolk, Peterborough, Thurrock Adult Community Learning Services) * WHISKC (Wandsworth, Harrow, Haringey, Islington, Southwark, Kensington and Chelsea) * West Midlands Peer Review Group * West London PRD group * Dorset and Somerset Training Provider Network PRD Group * Combination of the Local Authorities in the South West and West of England Community Learning Services groups * East London Quality Partnership * Essential Associates * LEARNIT * Eccles College PRD Group * Shropshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire Peer Review Consortium * Royal National College for the Blind (National Star College and Derwen College * G4S Group * Nottinghamshire PRD Group * Tyne & Wear and Northumberland Provider Association formerly Tyne & Wear Provider Association * The Learning Curve (Vista and Brake farm) * E-Learning PRD group (Sunderland Tyne and Wear) * The Learner Voice   The aim of this funding is to facilitate feedback to LSIS as we undertake the development of a sector wide strategy for Community Development. In addition, the learning derived from the groups’ approaches to these reviews can inform future PRD activity and sustain collaborative development activity leading to positive outcomes for learners and communities. | | | | | | | |
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| ****6. Flexibility and Innovation Fund: Round 4 Funding**** | | | | | | |  |
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| **Closing date: Friday 29 October 2010 12.00pm** | | | | | | | |
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| LSIS is pleased to invite bids from learning and skills provider organisations for funding from its Flexibility and Innovation Fund. The Fund is designed to support innovative projects with the potential to secure significant improvements in sector practice or performance.  Bids for up to £50,000 may be submitted by provider organisations working in collaboration with others to carry out innovative work that would benefit the wider sector. LSIS will particularly welcome bids from providers working through cross-sector and extra-sector consortia arrangements.  This time we’re particularly interested in **Total Place** bids. Total Place is an initiative that looks at how a whole area approach to public services can lead to better services at less cost. It seeks to identify and avoid overlap and duplication between organisations – delivering a step change in both service improvement and efficiency at the local level. Learning and skills sector providers have a key role to play in delivering local priorities since education and skills are often central planks of strategies to address social and economic priorities – whether community cohesion, rough-sleeping, unemployment or social mobility. With the current recession, it is imperative that learning and skills providers maximise their contribution to the delivery of local strategic priorities.  Guidance on eligibility, funding criteria and how to apply for funding is available on the [**Excellence Gateway**](http://www.excellencegateway.org.uk/fif). | | | | | | | |
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| 7. Dates for your diary | | |  | | | | |
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| Offender learning workshops   * 4November 2010 – Prison Service College, Newbold Revel * 10 February 2010 – venue TBC   Prepared for inspection? Leading and demonstrating capacity to improve   * 28, 29 September 2010 – Leicester * 19, 20 October 2010 – Bristol * 9, 10 November 2010 – Manchester * 7, 8 December 2010 – London   For further information and for more dates, visit [**www.lsis.org.uk/events**](www.lsis.org.uk/events). | | | | | | | |