



Skills for Learning Professionals

Latest news and Leitch reviews dominate LLUK's first national conference

As Lifelong Learning UK (LLUK)'s Chair, Professor Sir David Melville, pointed out, "We have been waiting with bated breath for the second installment of Lord Leitch's review, and we have not been disappointed. What Leitch had to say ... will have a profound effect on the sector skills councils in general, LLUK in particular and on the volume and demands placed upon our lifelong learning workforce." David Melville's presentation is available in the list of attached documents.

This was the first public opportunity for many senior figures from lifelong learning to air their views on the Leitch Review. Outlining the new learning landscape to delegates at LLUK's first national conference, Minister Alan Johnson had no doubts about LLUK's role: "As Leitch points out, 70% of the 2020 workforce have already completed their compulsory education. So our lifelong learning workforce must be firing on all cylinders and this is where LLUK plays a vital role" he said. "We won't create world class skills in Britain without world class trainers. This shines a spotlight on LLUK. By setting the standards for those who train the trainers; you play an essential role in unleashing the talents of every person, company and sector in our economy." Alan Johnson's speech is available in the list of attached documents.

Sector Skills Development Agency Chief Executive Mark Fisher also hinted that time was running out for employers to get involved, quoting newly-appointed "skills czar" Sir Digby Jones as saying: "Frankly, employers have got two or three years to up their game on skills." Mark Fisher's presentation is available in the list of attached documents.

Welsh Assembly Government Minister for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills Jane Davidson AM stressed the centrality of lifelong learning to the work of her department. "Lord Leitch is absolutely right. We must raise our game on skills," she said, in a powerful address, which offered some clues to the research behind the Leitch Review. "Lord Leitch told Digby Jones to come to Wales," she revealed, explaining Sandy Leitch's interest in Wales's employer pledge, which has just signed up its 200th name. Jane Davidson's speech is available in the list of attached documents.

But for those with a less Leitch-centric view, a wide range of seminars catered for all tastes. LLUK Chief Executive David Hunter explained that feedback from the seminars would inform the development of LLUK's Sector Skills Agreement. David Hunter's presentation is available in the list of attached documents.

Seminars covered a range of topics. Please click on the document in the list of attached documents to access a summary of each seminar.

- Different approaches to quality improvement
- Developing the workforce for literacy, numeracy and ESOL
- Diversifying the lifelong learning workforce
- Leadership and management development for the lifelong learning sector
- Excellence in teacher training
- Skills for Life: a workforce for the future
- Showcasing changes to Initial Teacher Training (ITT) in England
- The importance of learning in community development
- Leading libraries and archives.