



Skills for Learning Professionals

The Sector Skills Council for Lifelong Learning

Raising the participation age 'has potential economic benefits of £2.4bn per year group'

The biggest reforms to education, training and skills in a generation. Ed Balls and John Denham today published the Education and Skills Bill and outlined their plans to boost the skills and education of young people and adults. The Bill will raise the education and training leaving age to 18 by 2015 as well as strengthening the provision and support available to young people and adults to meet the ambition set out in the Leitch Review of achieving world class skills by 2020. [Read more](#) (DCSF)

Gordon Brown Speech on Job Centre Plus Reform: Skill Review, 16 hour rule reform

Excerpt from PM's CBI Speech on transformation of Job Centre Plus, joined up Government departments, his strategy for tackling skills & 'worklessness'. Up against the competition of over two billion people in China and India - with 5 million graduates a year - Britain, a small country, cannot compete on low skills but only on high skills. Our imperative - and our opportunity - is to compete in high value added services and manufacturing; and because that requires the best trained workforce in the world, our challenge is to unlock all the talents of all of the people of our country. [Read more](#) (FE News)

Skills gap puts Wales economy at risk

WALES' economy risks losing skilled jobs because of the high proportion of the population with no qualifications, business leaders warned yesterday. A higher percentage of working age adults in Wales hold no qualifications than in the rest of the UK, according to a new report described by the Assembly Government as "a disappointment". Business leaders claimed the economy is suffering and Wales risks losing jobs to better educated competitors elsewhere. [Read more](#) (iC Wales)

Train to Gain funding to double. Government now investing £11 Billion a year in education & training

The Government has outlined how a massive extension of the Train to Gain scheme will offer bespoke skills brokerage and high quality responsive training to enable all employers to identify and then meet their skills needs. The doubling of funding in the Train to Gain Service is part of a massive investment programme announced this month by Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills John Denham, which will see more than £11 billion a year invested in education, employment and training.

4th STAR Awards Celebrate 'unsung heroes of FE'

More than 100 STARS of the further education system were honoured at a glittering awards ceremony in London last night (26 November). Staff and learners from across England gathered at Old Billingsgate for the annual QIA STAR Awards where the achievements of the sector's unsung heroes were celebrated. The STAR Awards,

now in their fourth year, recognise the dedication and expertise of those people who, on a daily basis, are making a significant contribution to improving the skill level of young people and adult learners. [Read more](#) (FE News)

Empey and Poots open new Further Education Campus Library in Cookstown, Northern Ireland

Employment and Learning Minister, Sir Reg Empey, and Culture Minister, Edwin Poots, today officially opened a new joint Further Education and library building in Cookstown. The £2.4million project at Burn Road in the town replaces outdated Further Education and library facilities and forms part of the Department of Employment and Learning's commitment to providing first class facilities to students. The joint project, which was announced in July 2003, has been operational since November 2006. [Read more](#) (DELNI)

Construction experts wanted to boost shortages in Scotland

A campaign was launched this week to recruit over 200 lecturers in construction and building services, to avert skills shortages in the industry. It has been fighting a vigorous rearguard action to cope with the huge demands it faces. An estimated £21 billion worth of construction work will take place in Scotland over the next five years and that does not take account of the additional pressures from the 2014 Commonwealth Games. (TES Scotland)

CEL welcomes DIUS plans for new leadership and quality improvement organisation

The Centre for Excellence in Leadership (CEL) has welcomed an announcement by the Rt Hon John Denham MP, Secretary of State at the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, that a new organisation will take over the work of CEL and the Quality Improvement Agency (QIA). In his speech to delegates at the AoC conference, Mr Denham said that the new organisation would belong to the further education sector, and would be formed next year, after a period of consultation with sector leaders. [Read more](#) (CEL)

CURRENT CONSULTATIONS

Policy Initiative & Region	Detail	Timescales
Department for Employment and Learning Northern Ireland 'Careers education, information, advice & guidance strategy'	To make policy proposals for the future development of Careers Education, Information, Advice & Guidance (CEIAG) and to set out a strategy that will address the CEIAG needs of individuals of all ages.	Closing.14 December 2007
Department for Employment and Learning Northern Ireland 'FE Means Business'	Policy Proposals for: Curriculum Provision in Further Education Colleges to Support the Economy; Curriculum Provision in Further Education Colleges to Support Social Inclusion and Provision in Further Education Colleges for 16 to 19 Year Old Learners. Visit the DELNI website	Closing 7 January 2008

Department for Employment and Learning Northern Ireland 'Review of Higher Education in Further Education policies, including Foundation degrees'	This consultation seeks views on the Department for Employment and Learning's recommendations for the future of Higher Education in the Further Education sector, including recommendations for the development and delivery of Foundation Degrees. Visit the DELNI website	Closing 7 January 2008
--	---	------------------------

For further information or to subscribe to this publication please e-mail:
zoevipond@lluk.org

