



# Learning Coaches Network News

ISSUE 2 SEPTEMBER 2006

## Welcome to the second edition of the newsletter for learning coaches.

I am happy to announce that Nesta Darch has joined the Learning Coaches team as Project Administrator. Nesta is on secondment from another department within the University of Glamorgan. She brings with her a wealth of experience in general administration and specifically student registry.

Alyson Acreman  
Learning Coaches Manager

## Contact us

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## Book now for courses before Christmas

Nesta is currently taking bookings for venues throughout Wales. Please contact her as soon as possible if you wish to reserve a place.

### Course dates (Days 1 and 2)

#### Module 1 – The Mentoring Process

##### Aberystwyth

28 September and 2 November

##### Bangor

English  
25 September and 11 October

English or Welsh

28 September and 19 October

##### Bridgend

19 September and 19 October

##### Haverfordwest

27 September and 1 November

##### Llandrindod Wells

18 September and 16 October

##### Llanelli

2 October and 27 October

##### Wrexham

6 October and 26 October

#### Module 2 – Coaching for Learning

##### Barry

12 September and 11 October

##### Caerleon

14 September and 12 October

##### University of Glamorgan

11 September and 9 October

## Module 1 gets off to a good start

Both days of Module 1 *The Mentoring Process* have now taken place at three venues in south east Wales and the course evaluations have been very positive. The overall satisfaction rates for content and delivery at the three venues were 81% at the Parkway Hotel, Cwmbran, 80% at the Village Hotel, Cardiff and 88% the University of Glamorgan.

Some comments from participants:

*Enlightening and thought provoking*

*I enjoyed the practical activities of the course*

*Thoroughly enjoyed the day; I am looking forward to the next session and the 'journey' as a whole*

*I have enjoyed the small group sessions, as discussions and activities enhance my learning*

*I need clarification of how I can use the learning coach role in my current job...Really enjoyed today's session, the programme of work is beginning to become clearer...*

Copies of Alan Evans's overhead transparencies are available. Please contact Nesta if you would like her to email you a set.

## Meet the module leaders

We will be including profiles of the module leaders in the next few newsletters, and as we develop the project we will feature some of our learning coaches and project staff. This month we speak to **Jacqui Turnbull**, Module Leader for Module 2, *Coaching for Learning*.

### What's your job title?

Education and Training Consultant

### What are your work history highlights?

Being appointed by the Welsh Assembly Government to the General Teaching Council for Wales, then being elected Deputy Chair by Council members.

### So what do you do all day?

I do something different every day, and in the process I hope I inform, inspire, enthuse and motivate people involved in education.

### What's the best bit of your job?

Definitely doing a lot of different things.

### Are there any downsides?

Sometimes when I'm writing all day I feel the need for some human conversation. Because of this, it's far too easy to be distracted from the work in hand to take a telephone call or answer an email!

### What is your dream job?

I would have the time and space to complete all the writing projects I've started and develop my skills. I can see myself sitting in a study much larger than the one I use now – big enough to accommodate all my books on shelves rather than overflowing into stacks on the floor – and looking up from my computer to see an impressive view of rolling countryside through the large picture window.

### What book are you currently reading?

I always have more than one book on the go so I can suit my mood (there's my liking for variety again!). At the moment I can swap between *Last Tango in Aberystwyth* by Malcolm Pryce, *The Success Principles* by Jack Canfield, and *Style: Ten Lessons in Clarity and Grace* by Joseph Williams.

### What do you get up to at the weekend?

I catch up with my family. Friday evening will be a meal somewhere cheap and cheerful with my husband and son. During the rest of the weekend hopefully I'll spend some time with my grandchildren, and I may go to a play or concert with my daughter.

## Modules 1 and 2 – an overview

### Module 1 – The Mentoring Process

The training for Module 1, *The Mentoring Process*, takes place over two days approximately a month apart. You will receive a resource book to study before the training sessions. This provides background information on the mentoring process, the skills and behaviours of mentoring, the context for learning coaches, and protocols and procedures.

#### Preparation

You should study parts 1 and 2 of the resource book before attending the first training day. Part 3 should be studied before the second training day, and you should also reflect on the work you have undertaken since the first day of training.

#### Day 1

The programme includes both plenary and participatory working group sessions. It provides a background to the accredited training programme and also covers skills required for the mentoring process, as well as providing an understanding of learning styles and action planning.

#### Programme

- Welcome: an introduction to the accredited training programme for the learning coach
- The mentoring module
- Ground rules
- What is mentoring?
- Mentoring and coaching: differences and similarities
- Building rapport and giving and receiving feedback
- Learning styles: VAK and Honey and Mumford
- Action planning: SMART targets/setting objectives
- Case studies
- Communication: active listening, written communication and questioning skill
- Communication: barriers to listening, active listening and effective questioning

#### Day 2

As with Day 1, the programme for Day 2 includes both plenary and working group sessions. These will provide opportunities for you to undertake exercises to help develop your knowledge, skills and understanding of key aspects of the role of the learning coach. The day includes sessions on supporting and challenging learners, personal development planning, evaluation methodologies and the preparation of reflective journals.

#### Programme

- Welcome and overview of the day
- Support and challenge
- Activity on support and challenge
- Pupil data and learning needs analysis
- Strategy for conducting a learning needs analysis
- Personal development planning
- Activity on personal development planning
- Evaluation methodologies
- Evaluation of module learning outcomes
- Reflection and reflective journals
- Activities on reflection and reflective journals
- Next steps

### Module 2 – Coaching for Learning

The knowledge, skills and attitudes of *Coaching for Learning* build on the foundation created by establishing a mentoring relationship, as studied in Module 1. Overall, there is an emphasis on understanding learning and encouraging young people to become better learners.

#### Content

The module will introduce different definitions of learning, and raise awareness of how advances in neuroscience have increased understanding of how learning occurs. It will touch on different ideas about intelligence and theories of learning. There will be an emphasis on the importance of self-esteem in learning, and how barriers to learning can be recognised and overcome. The process and activities of *Coaching for Learning* will be presented within a framework of 'high challenge, high support'.

#### Delivery

The module handbook will provide the theoretical basis for the module. During the two training days you will develop an understanding of your own learning styles and gain ideas on how to stimulate learning within a multi-sensory learning environment.

#### Assessment

70% of the module assessment will be by means of a portfolio of evidence comprising:

- A case studies exercise
- A reflective proforma
- Examples of work with young people that meet the learning outcomes

The remaining 30% will be derived from a presentation that will assess how you apply your knowledge of learning styles.

## Recognition of Prior Learning

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is probably the most hotly debated topic of the project. After much consultation we have agreed that RPL will be included in the pilot as quickly as possible in all areas of Wales.

All Learning Coaches materials are available in English or Welsh.

If you would like any materials in Welsh, please contact Nesta Darch on 01443 482137 or email [ndarch@glam.ac.uk](mailto:ndarch@glam.ac.uk).

