



Learning Coaches

Network News

Issue 12, September 2007

I hope you have all had an enjoyable summer break despite the weather!

This term we will be running some additional courses (see below for details) and are continuing with our evaluation of the programme. Kevern will be contacting the 14-19 network representatives in North Wales to ask their opinions and I will be getting in touch with those in the south. We are also interested in hearing from anyone else who has any comments about the course.

Alyson Acreman
Learning Coaches Manager

Summer School 2007 is a success

Learning coaches from all areas of Wales attended Summer School at the University of Glamorgan in July and August. Some were catching up on modules they had missed earlier in the year and others were taking advantage of a last-minute offer by the Welsh Assembly Government to start the course from scratch, completing all five modules during the fortnight.

Feedback from the course was very positive. Comments included:

"On the whole a thoroughly enjoyable experience – I was kept well informed and catered for."

"The course was well organised. Staff and deliverers of modules were approachable and helpful."

"Attending the course has enhanced my knowledge and hopefully this will impact on my role as a learning coach."

"I really enjoyed the course."

Important date for your diary

Keep Wednesday 21 November free – that's the date of the celebratory event for all those who have completed the course. It will take place during the day at the Pavilion in Llandrindod Wells. Details will follow soon.

Contact us

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Autumn 2007 'catch-up' courses: provisional dates and venues

A limited number of training days are being run during the autumn term for those who have not yet attended all the modules. The venues have been chosen to reflect the number of continuing students in each area.

These are the last courses that we can currently promise to deliver, so if you want to catch up on a missed day or

module, you should make every effort to attend.

For most modules, Days 1 and 2 will run consecutively; for each venue the first date shown is Day 1 and the second date is Day 2. Workshops to support assessment will also be available. We will keep you informed of dates and times.

The Mentoring Process

West and South Wales
North Wales

Carmarthen, 24 and 25 September
Bangor, 21 September and 5 October

Coaching for Learning

West and South Wales
North Wales

Carmarthen, 3 and 4 October
Bangor, 11 and 12 October

Study Strategies

West Wales
South Wales

Narberth, 15 and 19 October
Pontypridd, 16 and 22 October

Legislation

West Wales
South Wales

Narberth, 5 and 6 November
Pontypridd, 8 and 9 November

Referral Methods and Systems

West Wales
South Wales

Narberth, 12 and 13 November
Pontypridd, 14 and 15 November

Meet the learning coaches

If you would like to be interviewed for a future issue, we'd love to hear from you – contact Marian on the email address or phone number overleaf.



Angela Mills,
Learning Coach,
Pembroke School

Who are your typical clients? Young people aged 15–16 in mainstream education who are underachieving.

What do you do all day? I coach young people so that they can achieve their potential.

What's the best bit of your job? Having the opportunity to mentor and coach young people at a crucial time in their lives, with excellent support from the other two learning coaches and senior staff at school.

Are there any downsides? There's not enough time to coach all of the young people who require it.

What are your work history highlights? I enjoyed primary school teaching for many years. This year in my present role I was pleased when young people voluntarily came to me for help with revision during study leave.

What is your dream job? Learning coach!

What do you like to do in your leisure time? I've been studying with The Open University as well as doing the Learning Coaches training, but now that that is coming to an end I need to get fit! I enjoy walking, Pilates and spending time with my granddaughter.

Which modules have you done so far? All five – today is my last day and the opportunity to 'catch up' at Summer School has been good.

What do you hope to get out of the course? Understanding of the role of the learning coach and how to translate

this into practice. Also I hope to achieve Accredited Learning Coach status.

What have you got out of the course so far? Lots of practical ideas that I can use in my work with young people. Also, I have extended my knowledge base and have thoroughly enjoyed meeting and training with a great group of learning coaches in Pembrokeshire.

How has the course improved your work with young people? It has given me a greater awareness of the many different ways in which young people learn, as well as time to focus on barriers to learning and strategies to overcome them with young people.



Lois Morgan,
Trainee teacher
of English, Barry
Comprehensive

Who are your typical clients? Boys aged 11–16.

What do you do all day? In the past two years I have worked as a behaviour support officer and LSA/cover support officer at Barry Comprehensive, and from September I will be starting training as a teacher there on the Graduate Teacher Programme (GTP).

What's the best bit of your job? Working with young people, building effective relationships with them and watching them develop and become a success.

Are there any downsides? It can be hard to deal with the sad situations some young people have been in.

What are your work history highlights? The way I have developed and all the skills I have gained thanks to the great support from the school I work in. Being accepted to do my GTP at Barry Comprehensive.

What is your dream job? Teaching – I'm doing it! And in the distant future being a mum!

What do you like to do in your leisure time? Swimming, keep fit, holidays, going out, reading.

Which modules have you done so far? Modules 3, 4 and 5. I'm picking up Modules 1 and 2 at Summer School.

What do you hope to get out of the course? New skills, new ideas and knowledge. Meeting a variety of new people.

What have you got out of the course so far? Meeting lots of different and interesting people. Finding out how learners learn and the different ways we can help them.

How has the course improved your work with young people? I have learnt how to identify the different learning styles and the different ways to facilitate learners' individual needs. This has helped to emphasise the point that all learners are different and they should not all be treated the same – variety is the spice of life after all!

Keep in touch with other learning coaches

Whether you've finished the course or you still have modules to complete, it would like to keep in touch with fellow learning coaches across Wales, why not register to access the Members section of the website? It contains forums where you can discuss the course or life as a learning coach plus a practice forum where you can post test messages. You will also have access to PDFs of all the module readers for a limited time after you finish the course.

To register, contact Marian at [mlong@glam.ac.uk](mailto:malong@glam.ac.uk), providing an email address that you don't share with anyone else.

All Learning Coaches materials are available in English or Welsh. If you would like any materials in Welsh, please contact the Learning Coaches Administrator.

