

Activity Round-up

Welcome to the second Higher Futures Activity Round-up, a briefing newsletter designed to highlight some of the most interesting and innovative activities taking place across the partnership. It's not possible to capture everything here, but if you think an important activity is missing, let us know and we'll try to include it next time. The information in this Round-up is taken from partner activity reports submitted to Higher Futures. This second edition covers the period from March to June 2008.

Curriculum development

- **Dearne Valley College** has been engaging employers to contribute to the development of a new 'work-based' unit in sport at Foundation Degree level.
- **Rotherham College of Arts and Technology** and **Sheffield Hallam University** have successfully validated the new Foundation Degree in Control Technology.
- **Sheffield Hallam University** has developed routes to the Foundation Degree in Early Years at **Chesterfield College** and **Dearne Valley College** as a pathway for professional development.
- **The University of Sheffield** has completed work on the modules needed to create a top-up year from the Working with Communities Foundation Degree to undergraduate degrees in the sustainable communities sector.

Supporting progression

- **The Sheffield College** has been working with Sheffield Teaching Hospitals to develop a progression agreement for Operating Department Practice, nursing courses and other related degrees at **Sheffield Hallam University**. This opens up the possibility of a further 11 progression agreements and provides the basis for others from FE to HE.
- The engineering sector development team, including **Rotherham College of Arts and Technology**, **Sheffield Hallam University** and **the University of Sheffield**, began work on a major project to enhance the teaching and learning of maths on BTEC Level 3 engineering programmes. This is an ongoing project, initiated with the appointment of the University of Sheffield's Maths Development Officer. Look out for further developments in forthcoming Higher Futures publications.
- **Sheffield Hallam University** launched a new pilot bridging model 'Bridging Sustainable Communities', targeting women returners and developed in conjunction with WITBE (Women into the Built Environment).

Sharing best practice

- Both **North Nottinghamshire College** and **Chesterfield College** are working jointly with CHEA (Collaborative Higher Education Alliance) to promote progression for students in the health and social care group.
- **Barnsley College** has been working closely with their Aimhigher contacts and other college departments to discuss joint activity and to ensure continuity and synergy.

Putting learners first

- **Dearne Valley College** has launched a pilot project on preparation for higher education, as part of a group tutorial programme with Year 1 Level 3 Care students.
- **Chesterfield College** ran a half-day Higher Futures taster experience for sixth form students and delivered introductory higher education sessions to targeted first year vocational groups.
- **Dearne Valley College** invited **Sheffield Hallam University's** IAG and Transition Officer to talk to Higher Futures students about support at university, and invited the early years sector team to talk to their early years students.
- **Thomas Rotherham College** have begun to provide an extra hour of support per week for Higher Futures students undertaking work placements.
- Student information events and fairs have been held by several partner institutions including **Dearne Valley College** and **Chesterfield College**. **Barnsley College** and **North Nottinghamshire College** both held 'Mini HE' fairs.
- **Northern College** held a 'How to succeed in HE' event for adult learners.
- **Barnsley College** held an evening progression event for NVQ learners and Apprentices.
- **Dearne Valley College** held a sport sector event during national Apprenticeships week.
- **The University of Sheffield** and **Sheffield Hallam University** both launched mentoring initiatives to support the transition of vocational learners to HE study.
- **Chesterfield College** has introduced a 'Return to learning' module, developed for new Year 1 Access students, which carries one credit accreditation at Level 3.

Spreading the word

- **Longley Park Sixth Form College** held a successful launch event in March, attended by 46 learners from the Higher Futures cohort.
- **Sheffield Hallam University** and **the University of Sheffield** have been undertaking joint publicity activity for the new sustainable communities Foundation Degrees.
- **Barnsley College** targeted parent evenings and events run by major local employers to introduce and promote Higher Futures to a wider audience.