

## Executive Summary

The Committee is asked to note the information from the Department of Health on Common Learning Leading Edge Sites in England. As with the DoH Modernising Education and Training Programme, there may be no immediate implications for course or institutional approval. A successful outcome of this project will inform the future design of education and training provision.

Press release: reference 2002/0078



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**Thursday 14th February 2002**

## **NEXT STEPS IN JOINT TRAINING FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS**

New "common learning" programmes for undergraduate health professionals will be developed over the next two years, Health Minister, John Hutton, announced today.

Four universities - Newcastle; Kings College, London; Sheffield Hallam; Southampton - have won more than £2.5 million of funding to develop multi-professional education, where health professionals share skills and knowledge on core subjects. These programmes will span medical, nursing and at least two allied health professional undergraduate provision, and will look at innovative use of methods such as problem based learning, shared student experiences and common practice skills.

The finalised common learning programmes, will show how to:

- develop common learning programmes and core curricula for all professionals and staff in communications and NHS principles
- change workforce practices and develop new ways of working
- break down professional and organisational barriers to learning and working together through closer integration of health professional programmes.

A steering group for the programme, including representatives from each of the four universities, will be set up to oversee progress and delivery. It will also make sure that the four sites collaborate to develop a strategy to disseminate information to Higher Education Institutes at interim and final stages.

John Hutton said:

"We said in the NHS Plan that radical reform is required in NHS education and training to reshape care around the patient. Joint training across professions is key to this process.

"This is an important step towards reaching our target that all health professionals should expect their education and training to include common learning with other professions.

"It will have positive and far reaching effects on the NHS with nurses, midwives, dentists health visitors, and doctors equipped with new skills, roles and ways of flexible and responsive working.

### **NOTES TO EDITORS**

1. For further information on each site, please contact:

Professor Rhiannon Billingsley, Sheffield Hallam University - Tel 0114 2252508  
Professor Reg Jordan, University of Newcastle upon Tyne - Tel 0191 2227022  
Dr Debra Humphris, University of Southampton - Tel 023 80794942  
Professor Ian Norman, King's College London - Tel 020 78483020

2. The Common Learning strand of Modernising Education was set out in the NHS Plan, and in "Investment and Reform for NHS Staff" published, February 2001, and "Working Together, Learning Together" published, November 2001.
3. Workforce development confederations bring together local health and social care organisations to plan and develop the workforce within their localities.

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29 January 2002

Dear Colleague

### **COMMON LEARNING LEADING EDGE SITES**

I am pleased to be able to inform you of the progress made in selecting and funding a number of partnership sites to take forward the common learning agenda.

Twenty four proposals were received from Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in partnership with their respective Workforce Development Confederation(s) (WDCs).

Two selection panels including service, educational and professional interests were convened to select the final sites. Eight sites were interviewed, from which four were selected to take forward and lead the common learning agenda.

The four sites are:

- Kings College, London, Greenwich and South Bank
- Newcastle, Northumbria and Teeside
- Sheffield Hallam and Sheffield
- Southampton and Hampshire

Arrangements are currently being put in place to develop a communications network and common learning web site, which will be accessible to all HEIs and WDCs, to ensure that the learning from these pilot sites is rolled out as soon as possible.

A steering group will be set up to take an overview on the progress and delivery of the overall programme. It will also ensure that the four sites, in collaboration, develop a strategy for disseminating information on their progress and the emerging benefits.

From the office of Professor Maggie Pearson  
Deputy Director of Human Resources



Should you wish to discuss the development of common learning please feel free to contact either myself or Colin Day on 0113 2546723.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maggie Pearson'.

**PROFESSOR MAGGIE PEARSON  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES**

**Distribution:**

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