

## **Project Name: FD Counselling with Top-Up to BA/BSc Counselling**

### **Amendment History:**

Version No.	Date	Reason for Amendment
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### **Name of Project Manager & Contact Details**

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### **Document Distribution**

<i><b>Name</b></i>	<i><b>Location</b></i>	<i><b>Responsibility</b></i>	<i><b>Action/Information</b></i>
Debbie Lambert	LLN	Manager of the LLN	For information
Geoffrey Elliott	UW	Members of the Steering Group	To approve the proposal
Chris Morecroft	WCT		
Ian Peake	HCT		
Mike Rookes	OU		
Gail Rothnie	UoB		
Donna Obrey	LLN	Project Officer for the LLN	To track and monitor project

### **Background**

Herefordshire College of Technology (HCT) has had a successful suite of counselling programmes from a level 2 Introduction to Counselling to the HND in Counselling. Learners have progressed through the levels and progressed into employment in the county. Edexcel have withdrawn their HND and this proposal is written to enable students currently studying at levels 3 and 4 on BTEC Diplomas to progress to a Foundation Degree.

The College has already held a successful stakeholders event with forty five employers and alumni attending. The University of Worcester (UW) gave a presentation of the role of Foundation Degrees, and gave examples of what a FD in Counselling might look like. This was followed by a presentation by The British Association of Counselling and Psychotherapists (BACP) who spoke about the changes in regulation for counselling and the likely training requirements for future practitioners. The Health Professionals Council (HCP) will be the regulatory body which will impact on the professional status of counsellors. Feedback from the workshops that followed indicated those present were in favour of the development of a Foundation Degree and a subsequent top up to full honours.

It is intended that the FD Counselling will be delivered at Herefordshire College of Technology and the Top-up will be delivered at the University of Worcester.

### **Objectives of the Project**

- To develop a counselling curriculum within a Foundation Degree framework
- To develop a Counselling Top-Up Award to BA or BSC Counselling
- To develop a curriculum that incorporates Work Based Learning

- To develop a curriculum that builds on strengths identified in the Integrated Quality Enhancement Review (IQER) at HCT in the development of a virtual learning environment (VLE) that meets the needs of the rural community
- To develop a curriculum which meets the needs of local employers
- To provide progression for current counselling students from the BTEC Diploma in Therapeutic Counselling
- To engage with professional bodies to ensure that a FD in Counselling enables learners to register with BACP

## **Project Approach**

The initial phase involved the holding of a stakeholder event to establish local need and demand. Having established this it is proposed to develop a steering group consisting of employers, staff from UW and HCT and a student representative. The steering group will provide the broad outline and content of the FD and the Top Up and monitor the development.

A project manager with the specific expertise will be appointed to oversee the writing of the modules with support from University of Worcester. Modules will be written by tutors with specific subject expertise. Where possible the project will adopt existing modules that sit within the FD framework e.g. research methodology.

The project will work alongside the BACP to ensure that the FD and Top Up are fit for purpose and meet regulatory requirements

## **Scope:**

### **A Key Products from the project**

- A Foundation Degree that meets the needs of a local community
- A Top Up that enables progression to a full honours degree
- Progression opportunities for current students
- APEL opportunities for past counselling students
- A FD that enables registration with HPC
- A FD that integrates a VLE to enhance the delivery of theory, aid assessment practice and feedback
- To maintain the model of good practice of other LLN projects in partnership working
- To increase the number of students registered to UW programmes (to support the LLN ASN bid)
- Signed progression agreement between HCT and UW

### **B Out of Scope**

- This project does not include the marketing of the programme

## **Constraints**

- Course team to be aware of key dates in the validation schedule
- The BACP Core Curriculum needs to be incorporated into the content of the FD
- The HPC requirements are not yet fully known

## **Initial Project Case**

There is a need for this level and type of programme in Hereford as identified by the stakeholder event. The potential number of learners has already been identified. There is also evidence from the statement made by BACP that counselling will become a graduate profession. The Foundation Degree and Top Up will therefore ensure learners in Herefordshire are able to gain professional standing as soon as regulation is implemented.

## **Benefits of the Project**

### Benefits to Students

- Flexible learning opportunities to ensure appropriate access to those in full or part time employment.
- The development of a range of high-level skills to enhance individual and organisational performance.
- To meet regulatory requirements for the profession.

### Benefits to the organisation :

- Trained professional counsellors that meet regulatory requirements.
- A skilled workforce in Herefordshire that can provide services to a wide range of sectors e.g. healthcare, private employers, social care and education.

### Benefits to the LLN :

- The adoption of a model of collaboration (between employers, Professional Bodies and FE/HE partners) will enable future funding opportunities to be accessed more easily.
- Provides a flexible delivery model with the integration of the use of the VLE

## **Key Assumptions**

- The availability of the Core Team
- The participation of Professional Bodies and employers
- The availability of specialist staff for writing specific modules

## **Timescale**

- FD and Top Up to be written and validated for commencement September 2009

## **Costs**

Project Manager – 40 hours @ £35 = £1400

Module Authors – Up to 24 modules @ 10 hours per module @ = £8,400\*

Travel Costs - £200

Participation by Professional Bodies - £500

Administration Costs - £200

Total            £10,700

\*There are a number of modules currently available within the FD Framework which can be imported into the FD Counselling and Counselling Top-up.

**The project team are requesting the sum of 'up-to' £7,000 as a contribution toward the total cost.**

#### **How will the project be evaluated?**

- Monitoring of module by steering group according to timescales set by validation date (yet to be established)
- Recruitment, retention and achievement rates on FD and Top Up
- Module Feedback from students

#### **How will the project be sustained?**

The project will be sustained through the continual quality assurance monitoring to ensure it continues to meet the needs of stakeholders. HCT and UW will continue to work in partnership to promote the FD and Top Up to prospective students.

#### **Initial Risk Log**

The following table summarises the risks that have been identified that may prevent the project being completed to the required quality, budget and timescale. The probability and impact of each risk has been graded as low, medium or high to indicate the relative importance attached to each element of risk.

<b>Risks</b>	<b>Probability</b>	<b>Impact</b>	<b>Containment Plan</b>
Key Project members eg Carol Morgan (Project Manager) Unavailable	L	H	Use of alternative specialist from HCT and UW
HPC delay publish regulatory requirements	L	L	Sufficient information already in the public domain to ensure FD and Top Up will meet requirements

#### **Project Team**

Ruth Johnston (HCT)  
Carol Morgan (HCT)  
Fiona Price (HCT)  
Dominic Upton (UW)