



**E-Learning Development/Support - Project Proposal Form**  
 Please use this form to apply for e-learning funding or requests for e-learning consultancy/support

<b>1</b>	<b>Name of College:</b> North East Worcestershire College (NEW College)
<b>2</b>	<b>Project Title:</b> Using social media, Web 2.0 technologies and mobile learning to support, develop and enhance teaching and learning in early years through personalized learning networks
<b>3</b>	<b>Name, e-mail and phone number of project contact:</b>  James Yorke <a href="mailto:jyorke@ne-worcs.ac.uk">jyorke@ne-worcs.ac.uk</a> 01527 570020
<b>4</b>	<b>Date Proposal Submitted:</b>  31/08/10
<b>5</b>	<b>Are you applying for consultancy/support or funding</b>  Funding
<b>6</b>	<b>Project Overview and Rationale –</b>  Learning takes place through a number of different platforms and mediums today with research pointing to an increasing number of learners choosing to be increasingly selective and pro active in their information gathering and self learning. The project aims to support learners and staff in their professional development and learning by highlighting and harnessing a number of Web 2.0 technologies including the use of social networking to drive and expand continual professional development.  The project has been guided by initial work conducted by Graham (2008) who recognises the importance of embedding digital and networking opportunities into teaching students experiences. The recognition that often children in the classroom are far more advanced both in skills and knowledge of their teachers (Carrington, 2005; Marsh, 2003, 2004; March et al., 2005) is a driving force behind this project. Fisher et al (2006, p.42) argues that 'The affordance of the technologies...encouraged them to engage with the learning community, be more reflective and helped them develop their abilities'. The 'free' learning community available to all full and part time students studying the Foundation Degree in Early Years across a range of diverse settings, this being the case the students have a unique opportunity to facilitate their own learning through the social networking tool.  By embedding creative learning opportunities in a demographically diverse partnership, all students will have the opportunity to entrench creative learning opportunities through a social network tool. Rogoff, (2003, p.11) recognises that 'humans develop through their changing participation in the socio-cultural activities of their communities, which also change'

**7 Key Objectives and Project Deliverables – what will the funding achieve**

To establish a walled garden invite only social networking presence using existing Web 2.0 technology e.g. Ning

To create and deliver a series of reusable learning objects and training sessions to all institutions involved promoting the use of the course social networking site and the effective and safe use of other web 2.0 technologies to allow CPD (e.g. Twitter, Flickr, YouTube)

By using social networking tools combines with media sharing tools this project aims to highlight and report on good practice to use these tools to link the team around the student. The online nature of the resources used should allow learners, employers and academic staff to support deliver and receive a high quality specialist teaching experience. This will draw on the experiences of all involved allowing not only the students to be learners but all involved.

The funding will be used to purchase several sets of hardware resource packs designed to allow staff and students quick access to a number of Web 2.0 tools these would include net books/ tablets or similar. The funding would also be used to purchase 12 months membership to Ning or similar, cover travel expenses moving between the institutions and fund catering and room hire during the initial networking events held between staff at the connected colleges. NEW College would match the funding by designating staff to develop and support the project.

By not using rigid logons and passwords set by using existing VLE's this project will also allow learners to stay involved within the community beyond the initial period that they may encounter it during study allowing them to feedback from.

It is envisaged that the work carried out during the 12 month project will lead to a sustainable site for Early year's students and practitioners that will continue to expand and offer CPD for all as the reusable learning objects and training are delivered to each new student cohort.

The project will be delivered against a series of milestones documented below:

<b>MILESTONE 1</b>	September will see the development of training materials and hardware resource packs with training delivered to all staff involved from the multiple agencies
<b>MILESTONE 2 -</b>	All staff involved within FE and HE partners and employers have been given resource packs and had training
<b>MILESTONE 3</b>	During October working with partnership organisations learners, lecturers and relevant agencies and employers will be inducted to the online community tools during initial student inductions this will form
<b>MILESTONE 4 -</b>	Students need to produce initial reflections of the project for research paper to be delivered in November

	<p><b>MILESTONES 5 – 10 – Monthly</b></p>	<p>During the initial year long period that funding is being sought for students will work on a selection of tasks from those identified below, these will be monthly with learner and participant feedback at each monthly milestone to guide development and delivery:</p> <p>Students in a variety a settings will record their environment and upload onto NING/VLE and share their views on various topics such as;</p> <p>Enabling learning environments – students to reflect upon the ways in which learning can be enhanced by a creative learning environment. This may be both the indoor environment, and the outdoor environment. Students should be able to discuss the ways in which the environment may be enhanced to meet a range of diverse learning needs</p> <p>E Networking - During the Student Conference Days students will be required in morning sessions to ‘chat’ using Twitter and be able to develop networking opportunities face to face in the afternoon. Students should be able to identify how this peer support will aid their studies across their Early Years course.</p>										
	<p><b>MILESTONE 11</b></p>	<p>Reflection and evaluation of project using a mix of participant interviews, online surveys and evaluation of community progress (size of group, content, usage)</p>										
<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>Expected timescale for completion of project:</b></p>											
	<p>12 months</p>											
<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>Team Members, roles and responsibilities</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="304 1375 1337 1621"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="304 1375 820 1413">Name</th> <th data-bbox="820 1375 1337 1413">Responsibility</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="304 1413 820 1451">James Yorke</td> <td data-bbox="820 1413 1337 1451">Project Manager</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="304 1451 820 1489">James Weaver</td> <td data-bbox="820 1451 1337 1489">Content designer &amp; Support</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="304 1489 820 1552">Carole Pannell</td> <td data-bbox="820 1489 1337 1552">Course Tutor, Foundation Degree in Early Years</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="304 1552 820 1621">Karen Ward</td> <td data-bbox="820 1552 1337 1621">Course Tutor, Foundation Degree in Early Years</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Name	Responsibility	James Yorke	Project Manager	James Weaver	Content designer & Support	Carole Pannell	Course Tutor, Foundation Degree in Early Years	Karen Ward	Course Tutor, Foundation Degree in Early Years
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<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>Budget. How much are you bidding for and how will the money be spent? Please be as comprehensive as possible</b></p> <p>We are requesting funding of £4000.00.  The funding will be used to purchase several sets of hardware resource packs designed to allow staff and students quick access to a number of Web 2.0 tools these would include net books/ tablets or similar. The funding would also be used to purchase 12 months membership to Ning or similar, cover travel expenses moving between the institutions and fund catering and room hire during the initial networking events held between staff at the connected colleges. NEW College would match the funding by designating staff to develop and support the project.</p>											

11	<p><b>Which students/courses are involved –</b></p> <p>Initially this project will involve students on the Foundation Degree in Early Years</p>
12	<p><b>Are other colleges in the network involved in the project in any way -</b></p> <p>Other colleges involved will be those listed below though this project will be run entirely by North East Worcestershire College:</p> <p>Ludlow College  Worcester Technology College  Bourneville College  Hereford LEA  Birmingham Metropolitan College  Worcester University  South Worcestershire College</p>
13	<p><b>Explain how the outcomes of the project will meet the LLN guidelines</b></p> <p><b>Improved access:</b> By utilising software resources that are either open source or freely available the project will aim to allow everyone to participate and access the resources and community.</p> <p>The use of web 2.0 technologies allows us to focus on identifying technology that is accessible to all and deliver feedback on strengths and weakness of hard and software through our research.</p> <p>It is hoped that by using a variety of technologies and resources we will also be offering learners and participants a number of varied ways to succeed, create and communicate regardless of age gender or background.</p> <p><b>Encourage effective learning:</b> motivation and achievement can be positively affected by allowing students to communicate with other learners and professionals and make use of the new and emerging technologies that are accessible to all.</p> <p><b>Raise awareness of e-learning innovation; encourage sharing of good practice, Partnerships and reciprocal arrangements and the sharing of content:</b> This project aims to ensure that through the creation of a community of practice that is accessible to all within the courses run across the 7 organisations we are ensuring that we are able to offer each learner with just what they need and that we are making use of sector expertise in an innovative manner.</p> <p>It is hoped that the research will aid the development of all organisations involved and not just that of the learners.</p> <p>The use and subsequent training of all involved in the use of technology effectively to support teaching and eLearning is another key element of this bid which will allow staff to cascade their knowledge gained to others and transfer this into their everyday teaching and work life.</p>

<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>What are the main risk factors and how will you plan for these:</b></p> <p><b>Poor student / staff uptake</b></p> <p>There is the potential that the technology may become under used if the technology is too complicated to the user or there is little opportunity to communicate with other countries or areas of expertise. The inclusion of a technical staff member within the project should allow for full technical support allowing the technology to be easily used.</p>
<p><b>15</b></p>	<p><b>How will you disseminate the findings:</b></p> <p>The Project has provision for the dissemination of project results to all interested parties within the network.</p> <p>The project will form the basis of a paper that is due to be published in The Reflective Practitioner (Taylor and Francis), its audience is mainly practicing professional across a range of disciplines and academics. It is also hoped that should the bid for funding be successful we will share our work on using handheld technology to support the community development at the Handheld Learning Festival and Conference in January 2011.</p> <p>Additional dissemination will be through The Foundation Degree Annual Conference at University of Worcester, (November 2011) leading into another area of research of peer learning, also to be published in the Reflective Practitioner. Staff development days in each partnership college will also have the necessary information to cascade the research and their role within the research to other college staff across the partnership. A proposal will be sent to the Institute for Learning, as well as sharing our work via the Excellence Gateway.</p>
<p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>General comments and any further information you think might support your bid:</b></p>