

Project Name: Cert HEs in Mobility, Rehabilitation and Communication

Amendment History:

Version No.	Date	Reason for Amendment
1	03/10/07	New Proposal

Project Manager

Joe Hodgson, University of Worcester

Document Distribution

Name	Location	Responsibility	Action/Information
Peter Wakefield	St Josephs		Member of project team
Debbie Lambert	LLN	Manager of the LLN	Author of the project form
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

This project involves the joint development of three Certificates in Higher Education relating to the field of visual impairment and additional disabilities. They will be jointly developed by Royal National College, Hereford, and St Josephs School for the Visually Impaired in Dublin, Ireland.

The courses will be delivered by RNC and St Joseph's School. Negotiations are presently in place to involve the RNIB Northern Ireland Bureau in these developments. The Department for education and science in Ireland have expressed an interest in developments that might have training implications for those adults who work with children with a visual impairment and additional disabilities particularly in light of the increasing number of children with a visual impairment and additional disabilities who are being included in mainstream schools. In respect of the island of Ireland, it is the intent that courses in the field of visual impairment and additional disabilities will be developed in such a way that they have currency in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The respective heads of the RNC and St Joseph's school have pledged in writing to work collaboratively to develop courses that will

have a benefit for all people with a visual impairment and additional disabilities in the UK and on the island of Ireland.

Objectives of the Project

The project has been designed to develop innovative courses in the field of visual impairment which can be taken by people interested in this specialist area. The courses will be delivered by two specialist institutions in Hereford and Dublin. A progression agreement will be included through to a DipHE and BAEd (hons). All students will count towards the LLN target.

Project Approach

The project will be led by Joe Hodgson at UW, working with members of staff from St Josephs and RNC. The project is to develop the content and delivery of the modules, and to validate the courses. The award will be made by University of Worcester in all cases.

Scope:

A Key Products from the project

- A CertHE in Orientation and Mobility
- CertHE in Rehabilitation studies
- CertHE in Communication studies for People with Visual Impairments
- Registered students to count towards the LLN targets
- A progression agreement for students completing the courses

B Out of Scope

The project funding will not cover the marketing of these courses, nor will it cover any approval costs.

Constraints

- Working in two countries will make team meetings more difficult.
- Staff will be developing these qualifications in conjunction with other teaching activities or existing job roles.
- It will be necessary to obtain APC approval for the awards.
- The success of the courses will be dependent on recruitment, the quality of students, staffing and quality of teaching and learning.

Initial Project Case

The funding will be used to enable some release of teaching duties for key members of the staff team, as well as paying the travel expenses incurred in order to have a joint working group comprising RNC and St Joseph's staff to develop the courses.

Benefits of the Project

Benefits to the student :

- Development of skills and knowledge.
- Professional development.
- Obtaining a recognised qualification.

- Improved employment opportunities.
- Development of courses which will be recognised by employers.
- Development of specialist courses which will provide practical assistance to parents of people with visual impairments.
- Opportunities for progression to other awards.

Benefits to the LLN :

- Contribution towards achievement of the targets for development of additional courses in health and social care.
- Recruitment of students for the ASN target.
- Development of a progression agreement.
- Shared practice between professionals in different national contexts.

Key Assumptions

- The availability of key members of the project team
- The approval of the courses by UW APC

Costs of the project

Contribution of up to £5000 for expenses relating to the working group and some release of staff teaching

How will the project be evaluated?

- Monitoring of the numbers of students on and completing the courses
- Advancing via the progression agreement to further study opportunities.

How will the project be sustained?

The institutions concerned will continue to deliver these courses once developed and will build on this first joint venture. Ultimately, the validation of the courses in Ireland might be transferred to an Irish University, but this would not be in the first five years.

Initial Risk Log

Risks	Probability	Impact	Containment Plan
Key project members unavailable due to other commitments	L	H	Discussion with institutions regarding the release of other staff
Members of the team are unable to travel to meet each other	L	M	Use of technologies such as video conferencing
Students not recruited in January 2009	M	H	Start the Certificates in January

Contribution to the aims of the LLN

This project fits into the Health and Social Care theme. It will contribute towards the target for new courses and towards the overall ASN total. The courses will be vocational in orientation and work-related.

Project Team

Joe Hodgson (UW)

Peter Wakefield (St Josephs)

Anne Rolfe (RNC)