

**Project Name: Developing and extending APL within the University of Worcester, Institute of Health and Society and across partners in the region**

**Amendment History:**

Version No.	Date	Reason for Amendment
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**Document Distribution**

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

**Background**

The Institute of Health and Society currently has fairly robust APL systems and processes in place. However, we anticipate an increase in demand from local NHS Trusts and other partners within the region, as a result of a changing national and regional workforce agenda. Refocusing of health care provision 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS' White Paper July 2010 suggests that many professionals will need to review and refocus their skills and employment roles. Many of the partner organisations within the region have less well developed AP(E)L experience as evidenced in the recent Lifelong Learning Network APL research (Stockton, 2010). In relation to Nursing, the move to an all graduate profession will contribute to the increasing number of potential students who will require accurate advice in order to top up their qualifications both for their own career advancement and to enable them to support students in this discipline.

**Objectives of the Project**

1. To develop the expertise of additional staff within the University of Worcester Institute of Health and Society in relation to AP(E)L advice and assessment processes.
2. To improve the expertise of partner organisations through the region (Colleges and NHS Trusts) as first line advisers for their staff.
3. To provide improved and consistent information to potential students within Herefordshire and Worcestershire to enable them to utilise existing knowledge and experience in order to access further appropriate additional study and gain relevant academic credit.

## **Project Approach**

- Appoint a project manager to lead and co-ordinate the project at UW and with partner organisations
- Scope partners for expressions of interest in relation to the project
- Develop and deliver training for interested staff
- Develop materials for staff and potential students
- Support work-based staff to ensure potential students have effective access to relevant, consistent information at their place of work.

## **Scope:**

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

- Information for staff
- Information for students
- Training materials for staff

### **B Out of Scope**

- Subjects other than health or nursing
- Only include local region

## **Constraints**

- Availability of staff
- Co-ordination of partners; meetings at convenient times and locations

## **Initial Project Case**

There will be an increase in the number of students who will have a need to access information on AP(E)L as a result of the introduction of an al graduate profession for nursing and changes in health care delivery as indicated in the White Paper 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS' (DH, July 2010) . This increased demand will primarily be driven by considerable changes in the regional workforce, therefore a regional approach would be useful. The majority of students who will need to access AP(E)L will be already working and more mature, so where ever the students are based, they should be able to access accurate, consistent advice. This group do not have easy access to career advice as is available in schools and colleges. Equally this project proposal would support working with employers in the workplace and contributes to the LLN's aim to provide clear information for all interested parties in the region.

Some of the materials produced by the project team may be uploaded onto Wider Horizons, thereby offering an alternative approach to dissemination of information.

## **Benefits of the Project**

- To the students: accessible, accurate, effective advice on making use of their qualifications and experience in relation to career progression
- To the employers: opportunities for staff to utilise existing knowledge and skills and access to additional training/ education programmes to upskill or refocus their careers in the light of service needs. Staff who understand the most direct route to the desired qualification
- To the LLN: continued work in a fundamentally important area of AP(E)L

## Key Assumptions

- Staff must be available to participate.
- Partners are willing and able to work together on the project
- Potential students want to progress
- SHA will continue to support Continuing Professional Development of staff

## Timescale

Partner involvement: September/ October/ November/ December

Production of an action plan which will continue through academic year 2010/11

## Costs

Project Manager time: based on 30 days @ £185 (Band 8/ SL rate): £5550

Materials: £1,500

Travel and subsistence:£600

Total: £7,650

## How will the project be evaluated?

By providing evidence of the increasing number of students using APL/APEL entering programmes within the region.

Baseline figure available from a LLN paper tracking the progression of Level 3 Vocational learners into HE and doing a comparative analysis utilising APL database.

## How will the project be sustained?

The University will be committed to keeping any materials produced up to date. If the demand is sustained, there will be a commitment to continue to run the training programmes in-house for partner organisations.

## Implications for Equality & Diversity

Enabling wider access for potential students to be able to access Higher Education.

## 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.

Risks	Probability	Impact	Containment Plan
Project manger loss	Low	High	Appoint an interim project lead
SHA withdraw funding for CPD	Medium	High	Look for alternative funding streams
Partners do not want to engage with project	Low	Medium	Consider alternative ways of reaching potential students, eg, Wider Horizons

## **Project Team**

Judith Davies  
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Liz Davies Ward  
Liz Hamlet