

The future starts here? A view of LLNs from inside one university

John Coyne
Vice-Chancellor
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Agenda

- Introduction to the University of Derby
 - Mission and fit with LLN
- A little about the current landscape
- Some highlights and deliverables from our LLN
- Some thoughts on the evolving landscape
- Where next for LLNs?

What is the University of Derby about?

Simple mission statement:

“The learner’s first choice for quality and opportunity”

Learner – Choice – Quality – Opportunity

Opportunity, accessibility, and removing the fear!

So where does this fit with the LLN?

Some aspects of the current landscape

- Widening participation
- Extending opportunity
- Non traditional and first in family university entrants
- Complex pressure on contemporary students
- Careers that are no longer unitary and linear
- Twin careers and work study logistics
- The socio-economic geography of local HE/FE provision

Into what kind of economy will we be moving..

- Post Leitch Skills agenda
- NINJ – new industries new jobs
- Public sector heavily constrained – spending cuts and tax hikes
- More competitive globally
- Issues of sustainability more prominent
- Greater uncertainty economically
- New/refreshed skills even more vital to individuals

Leap Ahead – ‘our’ LLN

- Learners
- Employers
- Providers

- Professionalism
- Partnership
- Progression

Some headline achievements

- Progression champions – 16 actively engaged
- Higher level skills advisers/brokers
- 1200 businesses engaged – at a time of recession!
- New focused flexible curriculum developed
 - At Derby this was in events, heritage and tourism, spa management and hospitality
- Potentially 2800 places created
- Open source shared 5 credit modules created for 'constructionsite'

What next for HE

- Pressure and expectations will rise but resources will not
- The consequences of the economic recession will be profound
 - On individuals
 - On institutions
 - On society – social cohesion
- The range of issues to be dealt with will extend

What next continued....

- The HE sector will become more fragmented
- Differentiation by mission will be more evident
- There may be new/different players providing 'higher' education
- Individuals will have even more choice – real or illusory
- So what may it mean for LLNs?

Some points to ponder

- Time frames – educational opportunity is a long term issue not a short term fashion
- Partnership is always harder to build and sustain than command
- Inputs can be measured quickly outputs in the toughest arenas can take years
- Measurability does not mean importance!
- How do we sustainably build upon the achievements of LLNs?