Welcome to the first newsletter of the West Midlands Centre for Excellence in Teacher Training (WMCETT). The Centre was launched in July 2007 following our successful submission to the Quality Improvement Agency (QIA) for three years of funding to create a dynamic and innovative Initial Teacher Training (ITT) and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) partnership. We have brought together a diverse range of ITT and other training providers, groups and organisations in the Lifelong Learning sector. WMCETT operates across Coventry, Warwickshire, Worcestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire and South Birmingham, and is hosted by the Centre for Lifelong Learning at the University of Warwick.

WMCETT has four priority areas:

- To develop a range of ITT PCET strategies and resources to improve the quality of provision
- To develop a series of coherent and robust ITT pathways for the Work Based Learning Sector
- To extend professional development qualifications and pathways for staff in the Adult, Voluntary and Community Sector (AVC) and the Adult and Community Learning Sector (ACL)
- To support the development of the skills agendas in the region

Our organisational philosophy is designed to be inclusive and transparent. WMCETT operates as a partnership of more than 40 members, including large and small, public and private, voluntary and statutory groups and organisations in urban and rural settings. Our website contains information about our committee and management structure and information about all of our projects and activities.

WMCETT’s key aim is to improve quality by establishing a culture of co-operation and mutual benefit within the partnership. I look forward to us all working together with a spirit of friendship, trust, value and equality of opportunity.

Best wishes

Fergus McKay
Director
Introducing the team

WMCETT has a small core team based at the University of Warwick, alongside a group of Priority Area Co-ordinators, who each provide management in one of the four priority areas.

Warwick based team

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Full contact details for all the above can be found on the WMCETT website. If you have a particular interest in any of the priority areas, please get in touch.

Opportunities for funding

WMCETT will be commissioning various projects over the three years to support our aim to improve the quality of provision for ITT and CPD in the region. These funded activities will be open to tender from all partners and will be advertised on our website.

Action Research

WMCETT will provide funds up to £500 to support small-scale action research ventures. The projects must be sector and subject related and must be completed by the end of March 2008.

Mentoring

This month we will be launching an important mentoring project that has been designed to support the development of mentoring support in the Lifelong Learning sector. All partner organisations will be invited to participate.

To learn more about our current and future activities, please visit our website: www.warwick.ac.uk/go/wmcett