

## 7. Adult and Continuing Education Sector

### **Developments in the Adult and Continuing Education Sector in 2006-2007**

This sector has been the slowest to begin addressing ESDGC. However a significant development for ESDGC has been the inclusion of ESDGC within the sector skills work Lifelong Learning UK (LLL UK). Meetings with various groups from the sector have shown that there is a positive reception and an interest in developing sector specific work and it is envisaged that once the work for common understanding develops then the pace will quicken in this sector as well.

### **Common Understanding development (Action 7.5.1)**

Budget has been allocated to identify twenty key stakeholders and practitioners in the field and organise a two-day residential event to bring together the identified individuals to look at the "Common Understanding" for the sector. The group will consider how to integrate it into the adult and community learning (ACL) field linking it with current ACL policy and the learning ethos of the sector.

### **Lifelong Learning UK developments (Action 7.2.1)**

The new overarching professional standards for teachers, tutors and trainers in the lifelong learning sector in Wales have been produced and ESDGC is integrated throughout. Work is now progressing on the Teacher qualification framework and the sector skills agreement. ESDGC will be represented in each of these aspects.

### **Qualifications and accreditation**

There are a several specific action points relating to accreditation, training and embedding ESDGC in post 16 learning within the ESDGC action plan.

- 7.2.5: work with OCN and other awarding bodies to incorporate elements of ESDGC into modules and units aimed at adult courses;
- 7.2.1: ESDGC to be included in FE PGCE course and other certificates and training for Adult education tutors;



- 5.2.4 and 3.2.2: Interagency discussions are held to investigate how ESDGC could be embedded more effectively into all post-16 qualifications;
- 4.2.5: Investigate accreditation for ESDGC training;
- 4.1.4: Introduce ESDGC into the youth worker courses at HE/FE level to ensure that this is seen as a priority area for newly qualifying youth workers.

Several meetings have been held with LLL UK, OCN Wales, City and Guilds and CQFW to look at aspects of taking these forward. Following these discussions it has been decided that a project will be developed to look at the action points across all sectors. The project will scope out possibilities and develop a holistic series of learning units across the breadth of ESDGC. These units will need to work across the context of 14-19 learning and post 19 learning, at a range of levels, including initial Entry Level - Level three. These will provide a transferable credit scenario to support and embed ESDGC in post 16 learning and will inform developments in training for teachers, lecturers and youth workers plus personal and professional development for individuals.

An initial meeting has taken place to scope this project and further work is planned to take this forward.

For the purposes of this chapter, this sector includes community education, adult education, basic skills English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and staff development.

## **Setting the Scene**

Within this sector, ESDGC provision is piecemeal. Some organisations and a few individual tutors are doing more than others but there is no policy in place to direct progress or provide a holistic picture of what is involved within ESDGC. There are however examples of good practice within the sector demonstrating working in partnership, addressing staff development, effective networks and some individual 'beacon' projects. An additional feature within this sector is that there are similarities between ESDGC principles