

West Yorkshire e-Learning Strategy

Individual's version.

*Prepared by The MRS Consultancy Ltd on behalf of The LSC West Yorkshire
March 2004*

Content		Page
Section 1	Introduction	1
Section 2	Why e-Learning	1
Section 3	What is the LSC West Yorkshire planning to do?	2
Appendix	Implementation Plan 2004 - 2005	5

1. Introduction

The West Yorkshire e-Learning Strategy was produced on behalf of the Learning and Skills Council West Yorkshire (LSCWY).

What is e-Learning?

e-Learning is simply training (learning). It is called e-Learning because of the nature in which it is delivered. It can be accessed from computers and increasingly through mobile phones or interactive television. Just because it is “e”, it does not mean working alone, without help. There are people who can support you, often trainers or tutors. They can help either face-to-face or via communication technologies as indicated above.

2. Why e-Learning ... the Strategic Context.

The LSC recognises how e-Learning can help individuals in West Yorkshire.

- e-Learning is particularly suited to provide tailor-made learning packages that meet your particular needs. Its flexibility of delivery and timing enables you to learn “at your own pace, in your own time and from a location

that suits you best". Individuals may have many demands on their time and resources. e-Learning can open doors for you and improve the quality of your life while still enabling you to continue working, looking after your family etc.

(LSC Objective 1 – To extend participation in education, learning and training)

- Young people sometimes under achieve for a variety of reasons. e-Learning offers new and stimulating ways to learn that are well suited to individuals of today's world of mobile phones and interactive TV.

(LSC Objective 3 – To raise the achievement of Young People)

- e-Learning enables adults to develop their literacy and numeracy skills in a personalised way without having to display any lack of skill to others in a classroom situation.

(LSC Objective 4 – To raise achievement of adults)

- The LSC will ensure that their training providers monitor and report back to them on how satisfied you are with the e-Learning you experience through feedback from yourselves.

(LSC Objective 5 – To raise the quality of education & training and user satisfaction)

3. What is the LSC planning to do?

3.1 Strategic developments

- A dynamic e-Learning strategy steering group made up of both the supply (the LSCs, training providers, e-Learning providers) and demand side (businesses, consumers such as **yourselves**) will be put in place. The strategy group's primary role will be to accelerate the growth of e-Learning in the sub-region.

3.2 To increase achievements of individuals

- The development of centres with computers and other facilities in communities will be encouraged. To support the centres' activities, there will be a focus on developing e-Learning materials that are needed by and in the languages of people in the locality. People from

communities themselves will be helped to support others in their local environment. (Community Mentor Network)

- Providers of traditional training programmes will be supported to ensure that e-Learning opportunities are available to individuals in minority and critical skill areas.
- Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Skills will be supported as an entitlement of **everyone** in West Yorkshire to ensure that no-one is at a disadvantage by not having the appropriate skills for today's world.
- Some Community venues will be identified in key areas and where the ICT facilities (e.g. broadband links) are inadequate. The objective will be to improve these.
- Training providers in West Yorkshire will be expected to ensure that a significant percentage of their courses offer you the option to take up the benefits offered by e-Learning.

3.3. To encourage the development of quality content

A repository / sub-regional portal of learning content

A special "electronic library" of learning content will be created for the sub-region that enables resources to be shared, and training tailored and developed to suit individual's differing requirements. This will initially focus on providing content to meet the needs of the individuals in the workforce.

To enable an individual's unique needs to be covered, the material will, where possible, be developed in small reusable chunks ("learning objects"). These chunks can then be put together to create your very own learning programme.

All materials placed in the “library” will be expected to meet certain international quality criteria and will be vetted. They will conform to common specifications and international / national standards.

e-Learning vouchers or credits

A system of e-Learning vouchers or credits will be considered for use by community organisations and SMEs to promote the adoption of e-Learning.

3.4 Supporting you when you learn

To ensure that you are supported appropriately and effectively, the LSC will continue make funds available for developing learner support by people such as tutors, trainers, facilitators, technicians.

The use of the British Learning Association’s Quality Mark for learner support will be encouraged so that you will know what you should expect from people who are helping you to learn.

To make it easier for you to record all that you can do and have learnt, West Yorkshire will work towards putting in place facilities for you to develop your own e-portfolio.

3. Implementation Plan 2004 – 2005

AIM	OBJECTIVE	SMART TARGET
To put in place Strategic Partnerships to accelerate the growth of e-Learning in West Yorkshire		
	An e-Learning strategy group to be in place for the sub-region (e-Learning strategy forum)	Operational by May 2004 Quarterly meetings
	To ensure key players have access to up-to date information on quality in e-Learning	Virtual Centre of Excellence to be established April 2004 and then incorporated into the West Yorkshire e-Learning portal
Increase the engagement and achievement of individuals		
	To communicate the benefits of e-Learning	Marketing plan in place by June 2004 Dissemination activities to take place in September 2004 and January 2005
	<p>Increase participation through innovative delivery methods with a focus on community outlets</p> <p>Work with organisations at provider and client level to develop appropriate learning materials, addressing issues of appropriate content and language</p> <p>Identification of minority and shortage skill areas in mainstream programmes which require development of resources</p>	<p>Development of community mentor network (+++)</p> <p>Identification of needs not being met in communities (+++)</p> <p>Development of resources (+++)</p> <p>Structure in place to identify partner roles and mechanisms for this activity To take place September 2004</p> <p>Report back on identification activities to inform next commissioning round. To take place January 2005</p>
	ICT skill entitlement for all	Promotion of National Skills for Life Standards once confirmed

	Improving the infrastructure to particular community venues	Identification of e-Learning infrastructure requirements for named venues in order to deliver innovative engagement and delivery methods. Provision of requirements.
	Ensure all providers integrate e-Learning into mainstream programmes. A Significant % of provider programmes to demonstrate a blended learning approach.	A mapping exercise in which providers will forward information to the LSC the % of programmes which demonstrate a blended learning approach. Definitions and scope determined by July 2004 Information to LSC by September 2004. Information collated by LSC December 2004
Encourage the development of quality content		
	Put in place access to quality learning resources	Develop a West Yorkshire e-Learning portal
To ensure appropriate and effective Learner Support		
	Support development of staff resources both technical and pedagogic	Identify roles and functions for learner support personnel and associated skill sets by September 2004 With a view to supporting further development, skill gap audits to be carried out in LSC funded centres. March 2004 Case Studies illustrating good practice to be collected from the sub-region and promoted to e-Learning providers in public and private sector

Key: +++ = Specific target to be identified after contract agreed as part of the ESF Objective

3 Commissioning process