

# **ACLS Tutor Conference 2007**

## **Moving Towards Excellence**

The ACLS Tutor Conferences took place on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September and Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2007 at Boughton Pumping Station near Ollerton. The conference title, “Moving Towards Excellence”, was chosen to reflect the success of the Service’s re-inspection but to emphasis that there is still room for improvement. 108 tutors attended the conferences over the 2 days, many new to delivering courses for ACLS.

The day started with an ACLS style course induction with tutors completing an enrolment form, a register being taken and health and safety issues and ground rules clarified. Tutors were informed of the learning aims for the day and an initial assessment undertaken using the short course ILP.



The remainder of the morning was spent in workshop sessions. These were offered in direct response to feedback from last year’s conference where tutors said they would prefer to spend more time in workshops rather than in presentations to the whole group. Tutors had six workshops to choose from. These were:

- Making PCs accessible to all
- Kinaesthetic games and activities for mathematics
- Introduction to RARPA
- The Learning Pole – Structuring Learning
- Paper-free approaches to RARPA
- Active introductions and summaries

At midday tutors took part in a “Marketplace” session. Over 20 tutors had “stalls” where they shared ideas, resources or activities with other tutors. There were also representatives from BEGIN and nextsteps providing tutors with information about

their organisations. ACLS staff were on hand to help tutors if they had any specific queries about ACLS issues.



This was the first time that this particular type of session had been included in an ACLS conference. Feedback from tutors indicated that they found it a very useful session with many saying they were taking ideas away to use in their own teaching. After a well earned lunch the afternoon session started with tutors splitting up in to curriculum groups. Discussion took place around weaknesses identified during the re-inspection and whether there were still personal, provider and ACLS actions required to address those weaknesses. After the curriculum groups, tutors went to their final workshop session.



The closing session included feedback and questions from the curriculum groups, an update on the Lifelong Learning UK standards and registration with the Institute for Learning. The results of the photo competitions were announced. These were won by Kate Stubbings on Saturday and Rebecca Newell on Wednesday. Finally tutors revisited their ILPs to record the progress they felt they had made during the day and completed their Learner Evaluation Forms. Results from the LEF indicate that:

- **96% said the variety of activities was excellent or good**
- **99% said the handouts and materials were excellent or good**
- **62% of tutors felt the conference greatly met their expectations with the remaining 38% saying it had moderately met their expectations**
- **92% felt the venue was excellent or good**

**Comments included:**

- **“Got lots of ideas”**
- **“Enjoyed the whole day and gained lots of useful knowledge”**
- **“Thoroughly enjoyed the workshops and found the “market stalls” really interesting”**

**There were also a few comments made where we can look at improving things at future events.**

- **“Curriculum Group Session-too general”**
- **“Although very interesting I feel I have already attended in house training for learning activities”**

**However, overall there is no doubt that the conferences were a great success and tutors got a lot from attending.**