Many of you provided input to the recent e-learning scoping work undertaken by Alison Wright and Marion Waite on behalf of NESC. Their final reports provide a clear overview of the 'e-learning maturity' and priorities of employer organisations within NHS South Central, and describe some of the innovative work taking place locally, both within the NHS and by higher education providers. The reports contain recommendations for NESC, which we are using to inform our soon-to-be published strategy and a work plan for 2008-09 on which we have already embarked.

Thank you on behalf of NESC for your enthusiasm and support for this strand of work. Of course, we would very much welcome any comments you have on the reports, which you’ll find at:

* E-learning Scoping Exercise for NHS South Central: results and recommendations (Part 1: Trusts and PCTs)
* Best practice guidance for blended learning approaches to CPD education for NHS staff

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**Free access to BMJ Learning modules for all staff!**

NESC has paid for all NHS South Central staff to be able to use the BMJ’s 300+ interactive learning modules. These modules are particularly targeted at GPs, GP trainees, hospital doctors, medical trainees, practice nurses and managers, but also well-liked by other clinical professionals wishing to keep up-to-date with bite sized chunks of learning. Free access is now available to anyone in NHS South Central area with an NHS Athens account. If you haven’t yet got an NHS Athens account, [register online now](http://learning.bmj.com). Then simply choose to login via Athens at [http://learning.bmj.com](http://learning.bmj.com).
South East mental health e-learning project

In a unique collaboration, seven NHS Trusts across the South East of England have developed three new e-learning programmes based on the specific needs of mental health care staff.

Of the seven Trusts in the partnership, four are in NHS South Central: Isle of Wight PCT, Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Mental Health Foundation NHS Trust, and Hampshire Partnership NHS Trust.

The e-learning programmes that have been developed are Managing Risk, Delivering the Care Programme Approach, and Delivering Equality. They are aimed at all relevant mental health staff across the Trusts—a total of 16,000 potential learners!

It is hoped that the success of the project will lead to further collaborative work amongst the organisations in the partnership, and possibly an expansion of the partnership, to realise benefits of shared best practice, reduced costs and more effective delivery of learning.

Regional e-learning content server

NESC have purchased and installed an Internet-facing server for use by any organisation in NHS South Central wishing to deploy local e-learning content through the National Learning Management System (NLMS) outside of the N3 network. The server has been configured specifically for this purpose and is forming a part of the NLMS pilot in which Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust and Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust are participating.

There are two main benefits to this. Firstly, a centralised content server will mitigate the need for organisations to enter into individual hosting contracts to store e-learning resources for remote access. And secondly, we hope it will help to support and encourage a ‘do once and share’ approach to accessing content developed at local level, giving organisations the option to share their resources across organisational boundaries throughout NHS South Central.
**NLMS pilot updates**

With the main preparation work complete, the 18 Trusts piloting the National Learning Management System (including the two in NHS South Central) have now commenced a period of rigorous end-user testing. This involves testing local administrative procedures, checking the connectivity and compliance of local course content, and ensuring sufficient users log on, test and complete the applications.

At national level, the connectivity and compliance of nationally-produced programmes is being tested. A total of 12 national courses prioritised for piloting purposes have been proven to play satisfactorily and are currently undergoing checks to ensure full interoperability with NLMS functions such as user scores and book-marking. The national content providers are agreeing a plan for all existing national content to be tested and loaded into the proposed National LMS Course Catalogue.

The first meeting of representatives from all the pilot sites took place in June and was well attended. This forum is scheduled to take place each month.

The two NHS South Central pilot sites—Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust—are being supported by Heather Penny, the National LMS Account Manager, and are progressing well.

Two South Central OLM/NLMS launch events recently took place—one targeted at Directors of HR, one for staff in learning and development roles. These were designed to clarify how OLM and NLMS fit within the overall ESR staff management solution, and to assist local planning, and were judged by participants to have been helpful and informative.

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**NLMS 3rd party integration**

It has been brought to our attention that a number of e-learning companies are stating that it will be possible for them to integrate their data tracking systems with ESR. Any third party integration with ESR at this stage will not be possible. If you have an e-learning company suggesting that this will be possible and you are basing your final decision to purchase on this feature, please contact Alison Wright before purchasing.
Understanding SCORM

28th July 2008, 12-1pm
Understanding SCORM

Want to know what SCORM is? And why you need to know about it?

Then this one-hour webinar presented by Alison Wright and Dr Savi Arora (CEO of Knowledge Hemispheres Ltd) is for you.

Suitable for anyone developing or commissioning e-learning content for use in the National LMS needing an overview of SCORM.

To book send your contact details to Alison Wright by 23rd July.

E-learning for improvement

20 August 2008, 12-1pm
E-learning for Improvement

Dr Jean Penny and Dr Heather Wharrad will be presenting the outcomes of a collaborative e-learning project between the University of Nottingham RLO-CETL team and the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement.

Dr Penny is Head of Learning at the NHS Institute for Innovation & Improvement. Dr Wharrad is Reader in Education & Health Informatics at the University of Nottingham.

The project has developed a series of reusable learning objects (RLOs) looking at improvement knowledge and improvement culture.

This webinar will be of interest to HR directors, learning & development leads, service improvement leads and e-learning leads.

To book, please send your contact details to Alison Wright by 31st July.
Call for volunteers!

The NLH eLearning Object Repository is currently being configured.

Anyone will be able to browse the contents of the repository, but a key user group will be staff who develop and/or deliver e-learning locally. During summer 2008, NLH will be testing access for people wishing to contribute and/or download content.

If you are interested in these functions and willing to help test them, NLH would be delighted to hear from you!

Anyone interested in taking part please contact Alison Wright for in the first instance.

DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY!

NESC have secured funding to subsidise staff wishing to undertake the TAP Certificate in Blended Learning

NESC will pay for 75% of the cost of the course fee. The course will cost you £188 plus expenses.

To date, 42 people have taken advantage of this funding. There are still a few places available, so please do contact Alison Wright at the earliest opportunity if you are interested.

Certificate in Blended Learning

This course is a useful foundation for staff investigating the use of e-learning in their learning programmes. It aims to help staff understand when it is appropriate to use e-learning, and how best to utilise it, as well as develop practical skills.
E-learning in Health UK Strategy Board

This group is chaired by Nic Greenfield, Director of Workforce at the Department of Health. The group’s overarching aim is “to promote the appropriate use of e-learning in healthcare across the UK to support better patient care”. The group has developed terms of reference and has now met twice.

The National E-Learning Management Board

This group is chaired by Adam Wardle, Deputy Director of Workforce at Yorkshire & Humberside Strategic Health Authority. It brings together the senior managers of national e-learning content providers, including e-Learning for Health, the NHS Core Learning Unit, Connecting for Health, and the National Library for Health. The role of the group is to develop detailed business plans and objectives to deliver the national e-learning strategy. The group has met once so far and aims to meet once a month.

SHA E-Learning Leads Group

This group comprises the e-learning leads from each of the 10 SHAs in England, and includes staff working at both SHA and local level. The group works collaboratively to support the implementation and influence the development of national e-learning programmes, share information and good practice. Members have started some pan-SHA initiatives and developed some e-learning commissioning guidelines. Representatives from the national content providers attend each meeting. The chair of the group (currently Jonathan Brown from Yorkshire & Humberside SHA) sits on the National E-Learning Management Board.
**E-learning for Healthcare**

**Duplication issues**
It has been agreed nationally that, henceforth, e-Learning for Healthcare will focus on e-learning for clinical professionals and the Core Learning Unit will focus on generic and ‘wider workforce’ topics. This strategy should prevent duplication in future. E-LfH will, however, deliver the programmes currently in development, even where there is duplication. NESC will keep you informed of the new programmes that are released.

**e-GP: e-learning for General Practice**
The Royal College of General Practitioners is working in collaboration with e-Learning for Healthcare to develop e-GP: e-Learning for General Practice, an innovative educational resource to support GP Specialty Training and to assist all GPs with Continuing Professional Development. For more information about this project, visit [http://www.e-lfh.org.uk/Projects/General-Practitioners.aspx](http://www.e-lfh.org.uk/Projects/General-Practitioners.aspx)

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**Core Learning Unit**

The CLU has a new website address for their programmes [http://www.corelearningunit.nhs.uk](http://www.corelearningunit.nhs.uk) The Intuition platform is now the recommended website to access the CLU courses, and we would advise that you cease to use the Serco platform.

The CLU have been advised by the Department of Health that all the programmes they develop must be suitable for social care as well as health care audiences. The next challenge will be providing access for these groups!

The CLU has developed an attractive range of new leaflets to promote their programmes. These are available on request from the Core Learning Unit. Please email clpu@yorksandhumber.nhs.uk or ring 0845 3306 507.

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**Each SHA sponsors a CLU programme**

The CLU has invited each SHA to sponsor one of the CLU programmes. NHS South Central has chosen 'Food, Nutrition and Hydration in Health and Social Care’ due to its central importance to basic patient safety and care. This involves jointly launching the process with the NHS Core Learning Unit, promoting the programme within service and ensuring specialist input to the Expert Reference Group which leads on ongoing quality assurance of the programme.
If you have any queries relating to items in this briefing, please contact:

Helen Bingham
helen.bingham@nesc.nhs.uk

or

Alison Wright
alison.wright@nesc.nhs.uk

or

Visit our webpage

Stay in touch!

NESC provide a range of ways to keep you in touch with the latest e-learning news and events as we receive them.

NESC website

NESC e-learning blog

Event podcasts are available from Alison’s blog, via iTunes and via the NESC website.

Mailing list For anyone in the NHS South Central area with a role or interest in e-learning. The aim of the list is to share best practice, problems, information and ideas, and hopefully help participants to identify buddies and partnerships. It is open to NHS, education and social care staff. Please e-mail Alison Wright if you would like to subscribe to the list.