



KENT & MEDWAY | **LIFELONG
LEARNING
NETWORK**

**Kent and Medway LLN
Dissemination Conference**

APEL Work Strand

**Friday 25 April
Pilkington Building**

The APEL Work Strand - Context

- **The Accreditation of Prior Experiential (or Certificated) Learning**
- **Common theme across the four strands of work of the LLN**
- **Work Strand launched with a conference in June 2007, jointly hosted by the LLN and the Centre for Work and Learning (CWaL)**

Working Groups

Four paradigms:

- **APE(C)L: The challenges for Work-Based Learning**
- **APE(C)L: Costing different models**
- **APE(C)L: Supporting the Learner**
- **APE(C)L: The challenges for HE/FE**

Key Themes

- **Consistency**
- **Clarity**
- **On entry / On Programme**
- **Getting the Message Across**
- **Linking APEL to Employer Training Schemes**
- **Enhanced Advice and Guidance**

Best Practice Model

- **Staff are able to assess APEL claims against a common set of criteria**
- **These criteria should be made known to the learners**
- **Cost implications for APEL would be made clear to the learner prior to applying**
- **A simple set of generic guidance, with resources would be available to staff and students to aid consistency in applications made and time for assessment**

Best Practice Model

- **Advice on APEL and the processes should be clearly available to learners who are considering applying**
- **APEL would be widely promoted as a tool for flexible learning once students are enrolled on programme as well as prior to application**
- **Applicants considering making an APE(C)L claim are allocated a trained member of staff to support them through the process**
- **IAG practitioners are supported to develop the skills to identify and support a potential APEL learner**

Interim Outcomes

- **Be realistic about what we can achieve and what we must work towards**
- **Focus on Learner Experience – work towards Institutional Change**
- **APEL as entry would be more straightforward to support with a generic resource to raise awareness**
- **APEL ‘on programme’ is a “Pandora’s Box” and requires very specific guidance**
- **Some aspects of best practice model identified require enhanced support for learners, other aspects require support for staff**

Supplementary Activities

- **Desk-based research: IAG materials on APEL currently available across the LLN**
 - Current practice across network partners
 - Examples of national good practice via JISC projects and 'high volume' delivers
- **Mystery shopper activity**
- **Staff interviews**

The Way Forward

- **The creation of a set of generic support materials, focused on APEL as entry, offering advice and guidance and raising awareness of the opportunities available. The support materials will be made available electronically to learners and institutions. The materials will be available in the form of a CD rom and also made available via the LLN website.**
- **Materials created will be able to be adopted and adapted to meet the needs of individual institutions and programme areas within them as deemed necessary.**
- **Series of linked seminars for staff to raise awareness and debate substantive issues underpinning the successful implementation of APEL in the HE agenda**
- **To continue to develop a pool of guidance practitioners with an increased understanding of the APEL process**