

## **CWU North West Regional Learning & Education Committee Regional Learning Strategy**

### **Our Aims**

1. To facilitate and organise training and education courses for our activists (in conjunction with the CWU Education & Training Dept and NW Regional Committee).
2. To encourage new activists into the union role.
3. To continue to develop learning as a core part of the union's work, and maximise its benefits to recruitment, organising and the strength of the union and our members.
4. To encourage and facilitate learning amongst our members, their friends, families and colleagues and the wider community via our Learning Centres.
5. To ensure that the learning is of a standard to benefit our members and that it is delivered in the most convenient and cost effective way possible.
6. To provide support and information to the Regional ULR Forum, our fellow ULRs and their Branches, to promote the role of the ULR within the union and the wider community and encourage involvement as ULRs from all sections of the union.

### **Our Strategy**

1. **Branches**
  - a. The committee will liaise with Branches and the CWU Education and Training Department to co-ordinate local activists' training needs and to promote courses on the national training programme and any vacancies on those courses.
  - b. The committee will circulate the national training & education programme each year and supplement this with a proposed regional training programme.
  - c. The committee, in conjunction with the Regional Secretary and the E&T Dept, will look at providing regional training courses where practical and cost effective, e.g. subject to minimum numbers on courses.
  - d. The committee, in conjunction with the Regional Secretary, will liaise with branch officers to enable & encourage their support of the Branch ULR structure.
  - e. The committee will circulate information to Branches and keep them up to date on the latest learning information via the National and Regional websites, meetings, newsletters and any other relevant events.
  - f. The committee will share best practice via success stories.
2. **Providers**
  - a. The Regional Project Worker, Officers of the Regional Learning & Education Committee & Lead ULRs/ Co-ordinators will share information on the courses running in our learning centres and costs incurred, if any, so that branches are fully informed of our progress. We will aim to use the collective bargaining power of the CWU to negotiate the best terms possible.
  - b. The committee will work with the Regional ULR Forum, Learning Centres and Lead ULRs / Co-ordinators to be innovative with potential course providers, some of whom may come from our members and activists. E.g. Leisure Centres, hobbies' enthusiasts, professionally qualified individuals, community groups.
3. **Other Bodies**

The Secretary and Chair, Regional Secretary and RPW will develop links with unionlearn, the regional LSCs, RDAs, local Sector Skills Councils, other trade unions, community and voluntary groups, Trades Councils and other bodies which may assist us in achieving our aims.
4. **Communications**
  - a. The committee will set up a network via email, mail and telephone to ensure that the latest information is available on priority issues as well as courses, Lead ULR and Learning Centre contact details etc.
  - b. The appropriate representative from each branch will provide either the Regional Project Worker or Regional Learning Secretary with stories, reports and photos for newsletters and websites.

**5. Regional Committee Meetings**

The committee will organise regular quarterly meetings which will include reports, guest speakers, training sessions where appropriate etc.

**6. CWU Education and Training Department**

The committee will work with the National Education and Training Department to promote the aims of the union with regard to education and learning.

**Strategy Timetable**

| What do you want to achieve?           | When will you achieve this by?                            | How will you achieve this?   |
|--|---|--|
| 1. Regional Learning Strategy          | April 2007  | Draft Strategy approved by RL&E C and Present to RC May meeting for ratification   |
| 2. Schedule RLC for year ahead         | Jan 2007  | Meetings scheduled and booked until Jan 2008   |
| 3. E & T Programme for Activists       | Jan 2007  | Draft Flow chart presented to and approved by RL&E C<br>Present to RC May meeting for ratification   |
| 4. E & T Programme Union Learning Reps | Jan 2007  | Draft flow chart presented to and approved by RL&E C   |
| 5. Communications                      | April 2007<br><br>June 2007<br>June 2007<br><br>June 2007 | Discuss electing or co-opting someone on to the committee to deal with communications.<br><br>Discuss regional learning coms strategy<br>Commence implementing strategy.<br><br>Organise Training for Regional Learning Coms Officer |
| 6. Branches                            | April -Sept 2007  | Work with branches to set up skills audit of members, i.e. formal qualifications, personal skills & special interests  |
| 7. Unionlearn                          | Jan 2007 ongoing<br>May 2007                              | RPW to sit on unionlearn regional steering group. (Done)<br>RLC invite unionlearn rep to RLC   |
| 8. Community Learning                  | April 2007<br><br>May 2007<br><br>May 2007                | Discuss regional community learning strategy.<br>Commence implementing strategy<br><br>Organise Training for ULRs in Community Learning  |
| 9. E-learning                          | July 2007   | Officers of RL&E C to work with ULR forum to develop an E-learning strategy for the region and look at responsibilities.   |
| 10. Partners                           | July – Dec 2007   | Build on work already in progress to work with other unions & Community groups to widen options for all members  |