



innovative thinking  
collaborative action

# NEWSLETTER

December 2008



Merry Christmas  
from all at CFE



CFE is an independent not for profit company, working to improve social and economic prosperity across the UK. [> MORE](#)

## PROJECT SPOTLIGHTS

### CHILD POVERTY IN THE EAST MIDLANDS

CFE is working with the Government Office for the East Midlands (GOEM), East Midlands Regional Assembly (EMRA) and Intelligence East Midlands (IEM) to identify and present evidence of effective practice and lessons learned in tackling child poverty at a regional and sub-regional level in the East Midlands.

The project has involved a depth review of available literature, delivery of a conference workshop to engage stakeholders, and the production of project case studies following qualitative interviews with stakeholders, delivery staff and end beneficiaries.

The projects selected as examples of effective practice in reducing child poverty in the East Midlands featured some consistent features including; offering flexible ways of communicating with clients, effective partnership working, a focus on empowering the individual and recruiting delivery staff with a diverse range of experience and knowledge.

More information about the project can be found [here](#) and the final research report and accompanying case study brochure will be published in the New Year.

### PEER REVIEW OF THE GREATER NOTTINGHAM EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS BOARD

CFE has this week finalised its work with the Greater Nottingham Partnership (GNP) in their peer review of the Greater Nottingham Employment and Skills Board (GN ESB). CFE developed a bespoke Peer Review process for GNP which focused around four main themes including leadership, governance, resource and performance management.

The process included a number of key stages to ensure a robust and useful peer review, starting with a self assessment, development of evaluation matrices, a peer review day and finally a peer review report and recommendations.

CFE made recommendations to the GN ESB around future objectives, networks, lines of accountability and maintaining flexibility. More information about the project and a case study about the work can be found [here](#).

Information about the services that CFE can offer in carrying out Peer Reviews of Employment and Skills Boards can be found [here](#).

## IN THIS ISSUE

Welcome to CFE's quarterly newsletter!

In this issue:

- Project Spotlight: Child Poverty in the East Midlands
- Project Spotlight: Peer Review of the Greater Nottingham Employment and Skills Board
- Policy Spotlight: Advancement
- New Projects
- Publications
- Recent Events

## NEW PROJECTS

CFE is currently working on a number of [projects](#) across our four policy areas of: business & enterprise; economic development; employment & work; and skills & innovation.

### Achieving Full Participation: lessons from history

CfBT Education Trust  
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### Child Poverty in the East Midlands: Identifying what works

Government Office East Midlands (GOEM), East Midlands Regional Assembly (EMRA), and Intelligence East Midlands (IEM)  
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### Contribution of FE Providers to Local Priorities, Partners and Places

Learning and Skills Improvement Service (LSIS)  
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## POLICY SPOTLIGHT ADVANCEMENT

The term 'advancement' was first coined by John Denham, current Skills Secretary, in a [lecture](#) to the Fabian Society in 2004. In it he stressed the importance of everyone being able to 'advance' – whether that meant getting into work or progressing in work and life.

The area has since progressed including the development of Skills Accounts and an integrated adult careers service all part of the Leitch report, [World Class Skills](#). These two interlinked areas are now a central theme of Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) policy and recognised as an important contribution to the Government's aim to increase social mobility.

On [launching](#) the Adult Advancement and Careers Service, Skills Secretary John Denham, said:

*"Everyone deserves the best chance to get on in work and in life - but that means overcoming the barriers in their way".*

At the heart of the service is advice to overcoming the barriers people face (ranging from sourcing suitable childcare to housing or transport). The focus is on supporting individuals through multi-agency approaches to ensure there is 'no wrong door' into public services.

The new adult advancement and careers service aims to offer joined up advice, provide a single access point for public funding, provide a range of tools through different channels and make wider sources of support accessible. Full details of the service can be found in the [prospectus](#). Aspects of the service are currently being tested in various settings through [Skills Accounts](#) trials in the South East and East Midlands, [Advancement Prototypes](#) in ten areas and Integrated Employment and Skills (IES) Trials in two regions. Next Year will see a hive of activity in developing the services with a national trial of Skills Accounts, evaluations and feedback of the trial services, and increased online services all heading towards the launch and full operation of a single service from September 2010.

[Mark Ravenhall](#), CFE's Director of Employment and Work was on the panel at the [launch](#) of the service in October and now sits on the DIUS National Stakeholder Group for development of the adult advancement and careers service and Skills Accounts; said:

*"The launch of the Adult Advancement and Careers Service is a great step towards the type of help all of us need to access learning and work but with the recognition that some of us face greater barriers than others. I am pleased to be involved in the development of the service and hope that it is based on sound communications and lessons learnt from past experience and the ten prototype services. CFE's research in the area shows that the multiple barriers that those furthest from the labour market face, require highly localised multi agency interventions."*

CFE's work in this area includes:

- Exploring the potential of libraries in delivering Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) services in the [North East](#) and [nationally](#)
- [Review of a localised multi agency approach to employment and skills in Leicester](#)
- [Support to the Slough Advancement Network Prototype](#)
- [Evaluation of Norfolk Guidance Service's Healthy Futures Project](#)
- [Management of the LSC's Skills Coaching trials](#)

Policy announcements, developments and commentary in the area of advancement and information, advice and guidance can be found on the CFE website under [News and Comment](#).

### **Developing an Information and Advice Action Plan for public libraries in England**

Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA)  
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### **Support to the Slough Advancement Network Prototype**

Slough Advancement Network  
[> MORE](#)

### **Healthy Futures Evaluation**

Norfolk Guidance Service  
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### **Linking London Lifelong Learning Network Evaluation**

Linking London Lifelong Learning Network  
[> MORE](#)

### **National Skills Academies: Increased programme support**

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC)  
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### **South London Lifelong Learning Network Evaluation**

South London Lifelong Learning Network  
[> MORE](#)

### **Support to the National Apprenticeship Service**

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC)  
[> MORE](#)

### **Volunteering in the Cultural Sector in the East Midlands**

Museums, Libraries & Archives East Midlands, Renaissance East Midlands, Arts Council England East Midlands and English Heritage  
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## PUBLICATIONS

CFE has recently published a number of reports:

### **Raising the Bar: Driving local authority and private sector engagement**

CFE and the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) have undertaken a collaborative project exploring the relationship between local authorities and the private sector in local economic development.

[> MORE](#)

### **Local access to careers information, advice and guidance for employability: Provision through public libraries in the North East of England**

CFE was commissioned by Museums, Libraries and Archives North East to explore the potential of libraries in engaging and delivering IAG services to employability target groups.

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### **Skills utilisation literature review**

The Scottish Government commissioned CFE to carry out a literature review of skills utilisation. The aim of the review was to provide a clear picture of the current evidence, identify current knowledge gaps and make recommendations for further exploration.

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CFE has also contributed to a number of key debates through the production of articles and comment pieces, these include:

### **How will 'Time to Train' work in practice?**

CFE's Mark Ravenhall writes in 'Workplace Learning and Skills Bulletin' about what will need to be done in order for the Time to Train proposals to work.

[> MORE](#)

### **Why are soft skills so hard to promote?**

Writing in Adults Learning Journal, CFE's Abigail Diamond looks at the best way to cultivate crucial 'softer skills.'

[> MORE](#)

### **What are the implications for skills policy now the NICE decade is over?**

Michael Davis, CFE's Managing Director looks at what the current economic climate means for skills policy and further education.

[> MORE](#)

### **In whose name?**

Accountability and responsiveness will be even more important for FE colleges considering complex funding, stakeholder and strategy issues, writes CFE's Michael Davis in Policy Review.

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## THE SMALL PRINT

You have received this newsletter because you are on our distribution list. This may be because you have signed up for one of our events or requested more information on our work.

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## RECENT EVENTS

CFE has been involved in a number of conferences and workshops over the last few months.

Highlights include:

[Offering job specific training – provision employers want](#) seminar at the 'Upskilling the Workforce' Conference.

[Understanding the demand for higher level skills from employers](#) workshop at the UVAC Annual Conference – 'Higher Education – Skills in the Workplace.'

[Skills Coaching Trials and what we can learn for the future of careers guidance](#) workshop at the Institute of Career Guidance (ICG) Annual Conference

[Child Poverty in the East Midlands – identifying what works](#) 'intelligent conversation' at the regional child poverty conference 'The future is ours!'

[The Research Blind Spot? Learning from guidance clients' needs, experiences and outcomes](#) workshop at the NAEGA Annual Conference

Sponsorship of the [Lord Stafford Awards](#) recognising successful business and university collaboration in the East Midlands.

A full list of all events which CFE are contributing to can be found [here](#).

## CFE WEBSITE

Take a look at the [CFE website](#) for more information about our work, our people and case studies from past projects and a regularly updated news area.