



Amicus-AEEU

National Strategy for Lifelong
Learning, Summary Document

August 2002

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National Strategy Summary Document

Outlined below is a summary of the Amicus-AEEU bid to the DfES Union Learning Fund. The bid will provide the cornerstone of the Lifelong Learning Strategy for Amicus-AEEU over the next two years. Its aims are to establish a centrally structured programme for the development of this agenda within our organisation and provide platform of development for our activists, members, members families, local communities and of course the employees of Amicus-AEEU.

At this point in time we are confident the bid will be successful and over the next two years the project will consolidate and bring coherence to a wide range of learning activities and initiatives. It will: -

- Make the most effective use of available resources and ensure that Amicus-AEEU and DfES obtain value for money
- Continue to lever in other funds where appropriate
- Promote best practice in Lifelong Learning across all Amicus-AEEU regions
- Ensure the Amicus-AEEU Lifelong Learning strategy is recognised as the best amongst all trade unions
- Continue to provide a comprehensive programme of high quality education accessible to all members at a variety of levels which ensures continuity and progression

- Develop sustainable partnerships with employers and providers which will create an infrastructure to stimulate and support Lifelong Learning in the work place
- Increase the capacity for learning within the Amicus-AEEU structure and its membership

How?

We have identified several key areas of work from our past experiences within the ULF agenda, those key areas for development are listed below: -

- Increasing the network of Learner Representatives and Learner Champions (This will be boosted when statutory rights for LR are included in legislation with a target of over 20,000 nationally.)
- Learning Centres within the regions/community/work places (linked to Learn Direct)
- E-learning - Online learning/Anytime, Anywhere Learning (linked to Learn Direct)
- Essential Skills -The Moser report calculations suggest over 80,000 of our members would benefit from some support
- Sustainability and progression - Relationships and networks of support to ensure continuity, progression and sustainability
- Membership for life - Retired and unemployed members, social coherence, inclusion and Careers Guidance
- Working with Skills Sector Agencies

The Objectives

Whilst it is premature to have detailed targets, the following are suggested as benchmarks to stimulate discussion. If developed, agreed, supported and implemented we believe the strategy is capable of delivering:

- A structured network of support for up to 20,000 learners in the Amicus-AEEU membership
- 1000 trained Learner Representatives and an accurate working data base
- 50 Learner Champions
- 1000 learners with Basic Skills needs to receive support
- 20 qualified Basic Skills tutors from Amicus-AEEU members/officers
- 12 Amicus AEEU branded Learning Centres in work places or the community, linked to the Learn Direct Trade Union Centre Hub
- The National College as the hub and an e learning platform capable of supporting the delivery of some of our core provision on line through our Regional Offices
- 20 qualified online (LETTOL) tutors from Amicus-AEEU Officers/members
- 20 TDLB assessors, 20 CI PD graduates and 100 NEBS graduates
- A programme of accredited training for all activists and voluntary officers which offers recognised qualifications and progression opportunities from foundation to degree level

The Method

We recognise that these will be challenging targets and to deliver them we will create through our network of regional officers, a network of Lifelong Learning stimulators/co-ordinators and support staff. These employees will work with local regional officers, branch officers, and members. Learner Reps, providers and local funding agencies to engage, inspire, ensure access, support, stimulate progression and ensure sustainability for learners from non-traditional backgrounds.

Each Lifelong Learning team will develop a 5-year business strategy, which will ensure self-sustainability for the activities within 3/5 years. Funding would then be provided from a variety of sources including Amicus-AEEU, employers, providers, local Learning and Skills Councils, Learn Direct etc. The overall Lifelong Learning strategy will be co-ordinated and monitored by the National Education Officers with the support of a national steering group. The steering group will have representation from all the partners; in addition there will be regional steering groups between project partners, workers and other associated bodies. The Education Department will ensure the effective delivery of each partners contribution, and consequently the achievement of the project aims and outcomes.

The project will appoint three National Co-ordinators who will manage the projects seven major strands. These strands will be subsequently broken into three groups and co-ordinated accordingly. Although the strands will be

managed separately they will interlink and crossfertilise throughout the project length and reports to the national steering group will be provided on a regular basis to inform all partners of the project progress. The project will also appoint six Regional Co-ordinators who will be based in the Amicus-AEEU Regional Offices. Their job will be to work with each National Co-ordinator and regional team member to develop all the major strands of the project. This will mean working closely with local employers, project partners and local trade union and government departments. The Co-ordinators will provide regular reports to the National Co-ordinators and the regional steering groups to provide information on the progress of the project.

The Conclusion

I believe this innovative, exciting large-scale project aims to embed a culture of Lifelong Learning within the regional structure of Amicus-AEEU. It is predicated on the vision outlined by the performance and innovation unit that by 2010 the UK will be a society where government, employers and individuals actively engage in skill development to deliver sustainable economic success for all. It improves access to learning particularly for non-traditional and new learners and will have particular impact on small and medium enterprises. It enhances existing relationships with employers and providers, strengthens the partnership with the relevant Sector Skills Councils and most importantly raises the expectations of over 1 million members in a cost-effective way.

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If you require any further information on the Amicus-AEEU National Strategy please contact: -

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