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1. **Dates for Your Diary**

UCU Early Careers Training Programme

Supporting members new to the profession is a priority for UCU and we know that staff at the start of their careers in education want access to training and development opportunities as well as the chance to meet and network with other new staff.

We're pleased to offer a Continuing Professional Development package of courses for Spring 2012 aimed at younger or new staff: 'Starting out: getting the most from your career' (March), 'Speaking up: voice care training' (April) and 'Assertiveness skills' (May). For more details and to register see here <http://www.ucu.org.uk/index.cfm?articleid=4908>

Local unionlearn Learning Rep Meetings

The following TUC-unionlearn Learning Rep meetings are available to support you locally. Please contact the relevant individual to book your place at a meeting.

Group	Date	Time	Venue	Contact	Link to further information
Derby Union Learning Rep Forum	24/02/2012	09.00 - 13.00	Derby College, Derby	Surjit Chohan, 0121 262 6384	http://www.unionlearn.org.uk/events/detail.cfm?event=3160&regional=6
South East Regional Network Meeting	28/02/2012	10.30 - 15.30	Brighton Library	Johanna Garcia - jgarcia@tuc.org.uk or 0207 467 1342	http://www.unionlearn.org.uk/events/detail.cfm?event=3119&regional=7
Oxford Local Network Meeting	29/02/2012	10.30 - 13.00	Ruskin College, Oxford	Johanna Garcia - jgarcia@tuc.org.uk or 0207 467 1342	http://www.unionlearn.org.uk/events/detail.cfm?event=3126&regional=7
Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire unionlearn Forum	06/03/2012	10.30 - 15.30	The Bedford Swan Hotel, The Embankment, Bedford	Johanna Garcia - jgarcia@tuc.org.uk or 0207 467 1342	http://www.unionlearn.org.uk/events/detail.cfm?event=3129&regional=7
Gatwick Local Network Meeting	09/03/2012	10.30 - 15.30	Crawley Library	Johanna Garcia - jgarcia@tuc.org.uk or 0207 467 1342	http://www.unionlearn.org.uk/events/detail.cfm?event=3125&regional=7
Shrewsbury Union Learning Rep Forum	12/03/2012	10.00 - 13.30	Shrewsbury College	Surjit Chohan, 0121 262 6384	http://www.unionlearn.org.uk/events/detail.cfm?event=3161&regional=6
Essex and Herts Unionlearn Forum	16/03/2012	10.30 - 16.30	Southend Library	Johanna Garcia - jgarcia@tuc.org.uk or 0207 467 1342	http://www.unionlearn.org.uk/events/detail.cfm?event=3121&regional=7
Norfolk and Suffolk unionlearn Forum	22/03/2012	10.30 - 15.30	Millennium Library Norwich	Johanna Garcia - jgarcia@tuc.org.uk or 0207 467 1342	http://www.unionlearn.org.uk/events/detail.cfm?event=3123&regional=7
East of England Regional Network Meeting	23/03/2012	10.30 - 15.30	Hughes Hall, Cambridge	Johanna Garcia - jgarcia@tuc.org.uk or 0207 467 1342	http://www.unionlearn.org.uk/events/detail.cfm?event=3120&regional=7
Sussex ULRs Local Network Meeting	26/03/2012	10.30 - 13.00	Hastings	Johanna Garcia - jgarcia@tuc.org.uk or 0207 467 1342	http://www.unionlearn.org.uk/events/detail.cfm?event=3128&regional=7

Northern TUC Bite-sized Briefings

The Northern TUC in Newcastle are putting on a series of 'Bite-sized Briefings' to support reps in the workplace – see below:

Briefing	Date	Venue	Time	Contact
Macmillan Cancer Support in the Workplace	29/02/12	Northern TUC, Newcastle	1pm – 4pm	Melanie Lowden mlowden@tuc.org.uk
Equalities – Update on the Equality Act	05/03/12	Northern TUC, Newcastle	1pm – 4pm	Charlotte Farrar cfarrar@tuc.org.uk
Alcohol Awareness	16/03/12	Northern TUC, Newcastle	1pm – 4pm	Helen Parry parry@tuc.org.uk
Maths Messenger Training	30/03/12	Northern TUC, Newcastle	1pm – 4pm	Anne Cairns acairns@tuc.org.uk

North West TUC Equality and Diversity Forum Meetings

These meetings will provide strategic support for Equality Representatives, Union Learning Representatives, any other union representative and their affiliate unions to work in partnership with organisations and other partners/stakeholders to exchange good practice and experience and give advice and support on the Equality & Diversity Agenda. See below for dates, times, venue and contact details.

Date	Venue	Time	Contact
03/04/12	North West TUC, Salford	10.30 – 3.30	Vchander@TUC.ORG.UK
12/06/12	North West TUC, Salford	10.30 – 3.30	Vchander@TUC.ORG.UK
07/08/12	North West TUC, Salford	10.30 – 3.30	Vchander@TUC.ORG.UK
02/10/12	North West TUC, Salford	10.30 – 3.30	Vchander@TUC.ORG.UK
04/12/12	North West TUC, Salford	10.30 – 3.30	Vchander@TUC.ORG.UK

Health, Work and Well Being, unionlearn SERTUC conference – Thursday 1 March 2012, 10.00am – 2.00pm, Working Men's College, 44 Crowndale Road, London

Aimed at union learning reps and trade union officers, this conference will:

- introduce the new health, work and well being toolkit;
- help you understand the issues around health and well-being at work;
- show you what trade unions can do in the workplace;
- show you how you can develop new approaches to health and work with employers.

Register for the conference here:

<http://www.unionlearn.org.uk/events/detail.cfm?event=3154>

South West unionlearn Conference 2012, Thursday 29 March 2012, 10.00 – 3.30

The conference will feature union case studies on Skills & Redundancy and Union Learning Rep Networks from BSU & PCS as well as guest speakers. For more information go to:

<http://www.unionlearn.org.uk/about/learn-4448-f0.cfm>

Next UCU Learning Rep Training Dates

UCU's 3-day Learning Rep induction course will look at your role as a Learning Rep, your legal rights, current issues and UCU union policies and agreements on learning and skills. You will also have the opportunity to discuss what you will need to do within your workplace and the support you will need to carry out your role. At the end of your course will you have:

- discussed why issues relating to learning, training and professional development are trade union issues;
- identified the role of the learning rep in your workplace and within UCU;
- demonstrated an understanding of your legal rights;
- be more informed about learning & skills issues in the post compulsory education sector;
- prioritised the key issues for you as a UCU learning rep and developed a plan to address these issues.

The next available dates are:

Region/ nation	Location	Course Date	Year
Wales	Cardiff	19 th & 20 th April and 11 th June	2012
London/ SE/ Eastern	London	14 th & 15 th May and 12 th June	2012

To register go to: <http://www.ucu.org.uk/index.cfm?articleid=3212>

2. Latest on the Institute for Learning

The firm stand taken by members has led to a significant step forward in our IfL campaign. UCU has welcomed the government's decision to hold an independent review of professional development for college lecturers that will involve looking at the role and effectiveness of the Institute for Learning (IfL). The independent review has now opened.

It appears that employers have generally been following the advice from the Minister and the AoC and are taking no action against employees who have not paid membership fees.

We are expecting further clarification from BIS very shortly in regard to the £400 grant towards initial teacher training. This will set up a mechanism whereby staff who have not paid up membership can be verified by their employer and will be able to access the grant.

UCU advice remains to continue to not pay your registration fee and to send your letter of objection.

Further information about the dispute with IfL including UCU's submission to the independent review can be found here: <http://www.ucu.org.uk/iflfee> or contact Dan Taubman at dtaubman@ucu.org.uk with any queries.

3. Learning at Work Day, Thursday 17 May 2012

Learning at Work Day is an annual awareness campaign organised by the Campaign for Learning (CfL) which promotes and supports workplace learning events across the country with the aim of drawing attention to the importance of workplace learning and skills. It encourages people to offer learning to all employees especially to those that may not participate in current learning opportunities. This year's theme is Learning for Growth, highlighting how learning and development supports individuals and organisations to proactively deal with change, plan for the future and develop new ways of working and living to reach their goals. LAW Day is a good platform for promoting and stimulating workplace learning and skills. The LAW Day team provides advice and guidance for organisations wishing to run a Learning at Work Day and the resources online are free.

To find out more go to: <http://www.campaign-for-learning.org.uk/cfl/WorkplaceLearning/lawday/overview/index.asp>

4. The Learning and Skills Improvement Service - New Excellence Gateway

The Learning and Skills Improvement Service, the improvement body for the further education and skills sector, have launched a new Excellence Gateway with a site which is faster, simpler and more effective with redesigned navigation and improved search technology. The new site can be found at: <http://www.excellencegateway.org.uk/> and includes the following highlights:

- resources and advice to enhance learning support;
- information on LSIS provision for leadership and management development;
- OFSTED good practice case studies and
- how to support underperforming providers improve the quality of provision.

There's also a user survey where you can give feedback on what you think of the new site.

5. Learning at Glasgow Caledonian University

At Glasgow Caledonian University the UCU has a proactive approach to members' learning needs. The ULR for UCU Glasgow Caledonian University, John Biggam, has just created a Learning Needs Survey, using Survey Monkey, and sent it out to their members recently. The purpose of the survey was to capture professional development and training requirements, including recreational training (e.g. language development), with a view to negotiating training and development opportunities for UCU members. John would be happy to give other ULRs a copy of the survey, contact Diana Hendry, Public Policy Administrator at dhendry@ucu.org.uk.

6. Climbing Frame Newsletter

There's another edition of the TUC's unionlearn Climbing Frame newsletter out – see <http://bit.ly/wnn3MX>. The newsletter includes a survey on the Climbing Frame with the opportunity to win a Kindle.

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unionlearn
with the TUC

Climbing Frame
Climbing Frame Newsletter

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New Year News

Hi Everyone,
Happy New Year!
In this edition of the Climbing Frame Newsletter we take a look at what events and developments took place in 2011, we update you on recent projects and changes which have been made to the site.

We put the spotlight on the Trade Union Education Learning Theme, outline the My Notes area and introduce the Climbing Frame 2012 survey.

As always we are keen to find out what you think of the Climbing Frame and whether there is anything that you would like to see added to the website. Complete the survey today for your chance to win a Kindle!

Wishing you a very Happy 2012.
Best wishes

The Climbing Frame Team

What's New?

The unionlearn Learning Themes have recently been updated, providing even more helpful information for ULRs and learners. Changes have been made based on the ever changing learning landscape.

We have recently added an Advanced Search option for the Learning Themes so you can select a specific Learning Theme to search within.

We have also added a ULR Events section to the 'Other Links' area to keep you up to date with ULR events taking place this year.

Coming Soon...
We are currently working on an e-learning module (e-Note) for the Climbing Frame which will be a valuable resource for new and existing Climbing Frame users. It will outline all areas of the Climbing Frame and in an interactive way show you how to use it. Find out more information about this new resource in the next issue of this newsletter which will be available in April.

7. UCU Conference – Defend Public Education – Saturday 10 March 2012, London

UCU will be holding a major conference on the defence of public education in London on Saturday 10 March 2012.

The aim of the conference is to bring together unions, students and organisations with an interest in defending our education system from cuts, privatisation and the institutionalisation of social inequality.

The conference will be chaired by Tom Wilson, Director of unionlearn, and will include speakers on the break-up of the school system, the attacks on further, adult, prison and ESOL education at a time of rising unemployment, and on the abject poverty of the government's vision for the future of higher education.

There will be an opportunity for delegates to discuss how we can most effectively unite around a principled defence of our education system.

For further details including a full conference programme, a conference flyer and online registration go to: www.ucu.org.uk/defendpubliceducation.

8. Reaching Communities Toolkit

The TUC have designed a toolkit specifically for union learning representatives, community learning champions and other learning advocates but which can be used by any trade union and community representatives working to promote and support learning. The toolkit has been developed in recognition of the wide range of benefits that can arise from trade unions and community learning champions working together, including reaching disadvantaged groups in the workplace and the local community, enhancing learning opportunities, sharing resources and approaches and learning from each other. In the toolkit you will find information to support collaboration and the development of successful partnerships. It includes practical steps, ideas, inspiring case studies and resources. For further information including how to order the toolkit go to:

<http://www.unionlearn.org.uk/initiatives/learn-4405-f0.cfm>

If you have any comments or queries regarding UCU Learning Rep News or would like to contribute material for the next edition, please contact: Diana Hendry, Public Policy Administrator at dhendry@ucu.org.uk. The next newsletter will be issued in April.