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Campaigning Against The Cuts

New resources are available for members campaigning against the funding cuts. A briefing paper and draft letter to your MP can be found here:

www.ucu.org.uk/adulteducation Please write to your MP and encourage your colleagues to do the same. The briefing paper emphasises the benefits of adult and community education to individuals and society as a whole. A recent research paper from the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills showed that learning below level 2 returned £10 to the economy for every £1 of government investment. Due to the government's focus on apprenticeships, the cuts to the Adult Skills Budget (which has already fallen by almost 40% since 2009) has had a disproportionately negative effect on other types of adult learning. Adult and community learning services based in local authorities are under pressure from cuts to local authority funding.

Please contact UCU if you are aware of cuts taking place as it might be useful in campaigning to oppose them: ace@ucu.org.uk



ACE Anti- Casualisation Campaign Launch
UCU HQ, Carlow Street, London

Have Your Say – Campaign Meeting

If you would be interested in attending a meeting to discuss future campaigning, please take part in this doodle poll

<http://doodle.com/poll/4hsspt6cze2zxnw3> (please include your workplace with your name). For more details contact ace@ucu.org.uk

Lesson Observations

UCU believes that graded lesson observations are not fit for purpose. Lesson observations should be a developmental, reflective and professional process owned by lecturers. UCU commissioned research by Dr Matt O'Leary that is the most extensive of its kind. The majority of participants expressed the view that it was neither valid nor reliable to make a conclusive judgement about someone's professional competence based on isolated performances. The study shows how observations can be used in the future to exploit their real value.

www.ucu.org.uk/lessonobservation

UCU London ACE Anti-Casualisation Campaign Launch

A London-wide anti-casualisation campaign was launched at a meeting in April. The main aim of the campaign is to improve the security of employment for UCU members working in Adult and Community Education. The purpose of the event was to share campaign success stories and to develop strategies that ACE branches could use to improve contracts and hourly pay rates across London for ACE staff.

The meeting was organised by members at Hackney ACE and Brent ACE, including Amy Jowett, (NEC and branch secretary at Hackney ACE). Those attending listened to speeches from academic Geraldine Healy, Jonathan White (UCU anti-casualisation committee secretary) and Amy Jowett (NEC member for casual workers (FE) and branch secretary at Hackney ACE). Geraldine is author of the TUC report "*The organising challenges presented by increased casualisation of women's work*" www.tuc.org.uk/sites/default/files/casualisationofwomenswork.pdf Jonathan outlined UCU's work on anti-casualisation in the HE and FE sectors and Amy reported on the stages of the successful campaign in Hackney to gain significant pay rises and fractional contracts for teaching staff.

The meeting broke into working parties and shared ideas from their workplaces. Various action points were discussed, which will be carried on at the next meeting.

AREA REVIEWS

London ACE reps and UCU officials attended a meeting with Sue Pember, head of HOLEX (the body to which all Heads of Local Authority Adult Education belong) on 21st June.

The meeting was requested by Holey, who are leading a review to prepare for the future devolution of Adult Education funding to the Mayor's office and, alongside this, the Area Reviews. The Holey review is doing the groundwork for the commissioning that will come with devolution in 2018. Sue Pember emphasised that ACE should be recognised as a significant element of the adult education picture, along with colleges and 16-19 provision.

Holey have been gathering data, and have visited every London service, as well as meeting representatives from other groups with an interest, such as UCU. The review will make recommendations for structures, commissioning and delivery models which could work at pan- London, local partnership and/or individual service levels.

UCU reps and officials stressed that a priority from the UCU perspective was that any model should guard against increased casualisation of teaching staff and improve conditions and job security. There is a possibility that a London Strategy for Adult and Community Education and, more specifically for ESOL, could work positively towards this. Although all recommendations will need to be carefully considered by members.

In order that more members can get more involved in the review process it was agreed that a further meeting would be held in September.

ACE Reps At UCU Congress



ACE representatives at Congress held a successful networking meeting where we discussed the problems facing our sector. Five motions were passed unanimously at FE Sector Conference relating specifically to building in ACE. They were about recognising and addressing the difficulty of organising dispersed workers in small branches (FE23 and FE24), ways to improve involvement of ACE members in UCU structure (FE26), developing the ACE National Meeting (FE25) and building anti-casualisation campaigns for ACE workers through Regions (FE27). For details of the motions visit <https://www.ucu.org.uk/fesc16> Mel Stouph (NEC for FE ACE) and Amy Jowett (NEC for workers on casual contracts – FE) will follow the motions through the relevant committees.

Next year we would like more delegates to Congress from the ACE sector and more input from members about motions.

Area Reviews (continued)

At this meeting we will have the opportunity to look at and comment on the recommendations produced by Holey. The date will be publicised. Please make every effort to attend this important meeting about the future of ACE in London