

SPRING #2004

SNAPSHOT

New Screening and Initial Assessment tools

To complete the set of assessment tools available to practitioners, DfES is developing and producing further Screening and Initial Assessment tools. These will be generic and will cover both literacy and numeracy up to Level 2. All the tools will be available in both paper-based and onscreen versions from DfES Publications. They will be produced free of charge and may be reproduced under Crown Copyright. The complete suite of materials is expected to be available in December 2004.

This is a high priority project, and will mean that tools for all stages of the learning infrastructure will be available for general use. It also reflects the continued drive to enable all learners to be effectively placed on appropriate courses quickly and accurately. Please see page 28 for further information on assessment tools.

News in brief



Delegates debate the issues at the New Statesman event

New Statesman Roundtable Event

The New Statesman magazine, supported by Fellowes Associates and the DfES, held a roundtable discussion on Adult Basic Skills in London on 25 February 2004.

Key figures attending the event included Ivan Lewis MP, Minister for Skills and Vocational Education at the DfES; Alan Wells, Director of the Basic Skills Agency; Jaine Chisholm-Caunt, Director of Operations for the Workplace Basic Skills Network and Brendan Barber, General Secretary for the TUC.

The discussion, which was separated into two overall themes – 'Responsibility for Adult Basic Skills' and 'Next Steps' – was facilitated by TV and radio broadcaster, Jenni Murray. An edited version of the discussion has appeared in a special 16-page supplement in the New Statesman magazine. The supplement, which is entitled '*Adult Basic Skills – Who Is Responsible?*' can be downloaded from the New Statesman website. For a copy please visit www.newstatesman.co.uk/pdf/basicskillssupp2004.pdf

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