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WORKPLACE BASIC SKILLS NETWORK MARKS EXPANSION WITH PUBLICATION OF LARGEST EVER PORTFOLIO OF SKILLS

The Workplace Basic Skills Network at Lancaster University has marked its ever-expanding work in the fields of literacy, numeracy and language by producing a special 16-page, comprehensive portfolio of skills.

The new loose-leaf format, which explains in detail the wide-ranging work of one of the country's leading basic skills organisations, is published this month. There has already been a large take-up of the new material among basic skills practitioners, brokers and providers nationwide.

"We wanted an easy-to-use design that we could distribute in its entirety as a single package, or as separate sheets depending on the needs of the client," said Neil Chatterjee, the Network's Marketing Manager. "The last portfolio we produced was just four pages long, and focused on our expertise in professional development.

"That is still one of our strong areas, but now the portfolio also covers our work in conducting surveys, consultancies, seminars, organising award ceremonies, encouraging regional growth, making videos of learners' achievements, producing directories, researching into basic skills needs in the retail and construction sectors, plus many more."

The 16 sections are colour-coded so that clients can easily identify the sections most relevant to their needs: red for LSCs, dark blue for providers, and light blue for RDAs.

"The wide range of activities on offer shows how far the Network has come in recent years," said Neil Chatterjee. "We are now multi-dimensional and have a reputation as a consultancy in basic skills that is hard to beat. What's more, we have a number of exciting plans in the pipeline, as we get asked by more and more literacy and numeracy institutions to assist in their development plans."

The 16 sections are: Introducing the Portfolio, General Introduction to the Network, Basic Skills in Construction, Learner Awards, Lancashire Brokerage Scheme Survey, Learner Forum, Professional Development Needs, Impact of Basic Skills on Employers, Work with Sector Skills Councils, Communication Tools, Learner Experiences, Regional Seminars, Consultancies, The Provider Toolkit, Directories of Workplace Provision, and Surveys of Workplace Basic Skills Provision.

Note to editors:

The Workplace Basic Skills Network, based at Lancaster University, is a national membership organisation dedicated to workplace language, literacy and numeracy provision. Founded in 1993, it supports "Skills for Life", the government's adult literacy and numeracy strategy. The Network builds professional capacity in workplace basic skills through sharing and dissemination of good practice and continuing professional development, supporting basic skills professionals to meet the language, literacy and numeracy needs of today's changing workplace. Address: Workplace Basic Skills Network, CSET, Lancaster University, Lancaster LA1 4YL; tel: 01524 593405; website: www.lancaster.ac.uk/wbsnet

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