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January 6<sup>th</sup> 2005

### DYSLEXIA IN THE WORKPLACE SEMINARS WELL RECEIVED

A new, ground-breaking one-day course devoted to the issues associated with dyslexia in the workplace, and developed by the Workplace Basic Skills Network at Lancaster University, has been well received by participants. The positive feedback from basic skills teachers and work-based trainers has convinced the Network that there is a definite need for more courses and seminars on understanding workplace dyslexia.

Three courses were held in York, Oxford and Guildford and, due to demand, a fourth is to be held in Guildford on January 11th. A new half-day course for employers is also being developed.

Participants learned about the issues involved in dyslexia in the workplace, examined the implications of the Disability Discrimination Act (1995) and the legislative requirements for employers, along with the specialist support that is available. They also focused on the positive aspects of the dyslexic learning style and how it can be utilised in the workplace.

"We were very happy with the way the courses went," said Jo Kendall, the Network's Professional Development Manager. "We have received very positive comments and feedback from these early courses and have plans to run more around the country.

"One of the most useful aspects was the way participants were able to learn about the key principles in setting up a successful learning programme. The course looks at issues within the workplace and strategies and adjustments for building on the strengths of dyslexic individuals. Research suggests that at least 10% of the population are affected, 4% severely."

The course is referenced to the FENTO Standards for Teachers, the Subject Specifications for Teachers of Adult Literacy and Numeracy, and the ENTO Learning and Development Standards L21, L22, L23 and L24. The course content - exploring key aspects of dyslexia in the workplace and the strategies that can be used by employees to overcome difficulties - was established after negotiations with specialist bodies, and was written for basic skills teachers.

Dyslexia in the Workplace is a new addition to the Network's ever- expanding portfolio of specialist courses. In addition to training, the Network provides advice, guidance and consultancy services to assist the development and management of workplace basic skills, and it is committed to research and evaluation activity.

**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](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/wbsnet)

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