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Lisa Hartley and Simon Calvert

The Healthy College Journey Conference

Accrington and Rossendale College recently hosted an event to build links between local key agencies providing health services and education provision. The college has been committed to partnership working with the local PCT and this has had the effect of driving up the quality of the health of young people in the area. As a result of this, and with the current national discussion around the future of the Healthy College agenda, it was felt that the college was best placed to provide a conference for local FE providers, PCTs and key agencies who work with young people.

Sharing good practice

The aim of the event was to share good practice and to develop a dialogue between health and education organisations working with young people across Lancashire. Delegates represented a variety of organisations including FE colleges, PCT commissioners, senior managers from Children and Family Service provision, Public Health and extended services. It was hoped that the event would develop local partnership working, create a shared vision in raising the profile of Healthy Colleges, and work towards the achievement of positive health and education outcomes for young people.

The college had set up a Healthy College Task Group and this group decided to work towards the National Healthy Schools Programme alongside the FE development group with the Lancashire programme. It was felt that this successful model best suited the college to promote a cross college

approach to health amongst its staff and students.

Key note speeches

There were seven key note speeches, ranging from the student experience through to Peter Chell, FE Advisor - National Healthy Schools, discussing the national picture.

The presentation on the role of the Health Development Practitioner created much discussion on how strategy and operational issues can be addressed utilising a holistic and public health approach. This jointly funded post began in January 2007 with an action plan being developed to meet the needs of the college population. The role of the Health Development Practitioner will be published in a future edition of *Education and Health*.

SHEU (www.sheu.org.uk) were invited to the conference as the college recognises the crucial role of data in health activity and service provision. Health needs assessment data, collected by the college, include student profile data, additional learning support data and college student surveys.

The college was able to provide evidence of how these data, tailored to national and local health priorities, have led to amendments in the tutorial, enrichment, PSHE and health service provision within the college. Delegates were also given a presentation on the national CPD accreditation programme for PSHE. Following the conference a peer support /development group has been established across Lancashire and will meet termly.