

**“Learning from the Best” – 5th Annual Family Learning Conference
6th July 2005 – Ushaw College Durham**

Question	Comments
<p>What did you expect and hope for from the conference?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To find out more about Family Learning • More information, networking opportunities • To share good practice, get ideas for new programmes, to have a vision of future provision • New ideas from the workshops • Opportunity to network & find out about other initiatives • Ideas and information • Networking with others involved in similar projects. Sharing of good practice • Greater understanding & appreciation of the concept of ‘family learning’ & the benefits to society • New ideas • See what’s going on • New ideas, approaches and resources x 2 • Good information and networking opportunities • Information and ideas • Information, support, strategy • To gain an awareness of FL generally (as an ODPM regeneration programme manager etc) • An overview of FL locally and nationally • To meet new people, set up new links and hear new ideas, which could be implemented at school • I was looking for background information and the chance to find out what types of activities were taking place under the ‘family learning’ banner. • Knowledge, networking • I expected to meet and work with different people involved with family learning. I also expected to learn something from the chosen workshops. • Good practice and information • I hoped to find out more about Family Learning in general but particularly more about the work in the area • Ideas for the development of Family Learning that I could take with me to improve services in Hartlepool. I wanted to ‘learn from the best’ • Learn exactly what Family Learning is. • An opportunity to network and update knowledge on the way forward for family learning • To gain knowledge & ideas from other people, professionals & working groups

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I wanted to gain further information regarding other projects and initiatives that are going on in other areas • To hear about best practice and to get a feeling for the overall strategy Durham were following for Family Learning • New and creative ideas to add into our practice • To pick up ideas of good practice and how to set up family learning from scratch
<p>What did you like most about the conference?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting people and opportunity to gather information • Workshops • K'NEX workshop and looking at the displays • It was very well organised. A big thank-you to the conference team. • Workshop – Manchester Model and presentation to families • The workshops. Meeting people and interlinking the ? into family learning • Brainstorming in session 3 • Diversity of workshops and practical examples of what works • Talking to other FL workers • Friendly, positive • Share workshop • The obvious knowledge and passion for their subject areas (workshop speakers) • The setting was inspiring and the schedule was well thought through • Easy pace and not rushed • The willingness of the delegates to share • Cross section of FL related activities and info. Were useful given my lack of expertise/practitioner knowledge • Opportunity to network with many agencies as it was so well attended • The friendliness and openness from everyone there, which were willing to share good practice plus the pitfalls along the way • Three things: 1. the overview given from the speakers, which lent the issues a sense of direction strategically. 2. the opportunity to find out what was going on locally. 3. the empowerment given by the last workshop enabling planning groups to decide on a strategy for themselves. • The easy relaxed atmosphere, meeting new people • The Family Learning Awards were really good to see. What lovely families. I also enjoyed my SHARE workshop as it was practically based. • Networking & updating myself on current learning position in the county

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The displays were really useful giving people the chance to walk round at their leisure and find out about activities • Informal, well organised, fabulous location • Manchester workshop • Networking opportunities. Meeting new people • Meeting other professionals • I thoroughly enjoyed the workshop held by the Manchester Model • Very well supported, good practice from other areas (Manchester) • Manchester workshop • Good atmosphere – excellent speakers – good stalls
<p>How well did the conference meet your expectations and hopes?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quite well • Fully • Reasonably well • It did • Good workshops • Yes • Well • Good – people who facilitated workshops were enthusiastic and fully understood their relevant subjects • Really good • Encouraging • Didn't know what to expect • Exceeded them x 2 • Very well organised & interesting & <u>friendly</u> • Very well – lots and lots of ideas • Better than expected • Quite successfully overall • Very good – unfortunately I had to leave early • Very well x 3 • My hopes were well met – thank you • It surpasses them • It was more of a celebration for the people of Durham involved in Family Learning and was not really useful to 'outsiders'

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fine • Very well – it was well organised throughout • Didn't enjoy workshops – unrellevant • It lived up to my expectations and hopes • Very well. You covered practical issues but also had a strategic level to the delivery e.g. NIACE, Director LEA etc • KNEX and Manchester and the 14-19 workshops gave food for thought ... but we are still needing to break new ground ourselves • Only partially 	
<p>Which two workshops did you attend and what did you think of them?</p>	<p>Manchester</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good ideas about engaging learners. Very interesting well presented • Excellent ideas • Good presentation, subject material was most informative. Insufficient time for questions. • Very good, confirmed we are on the 'right road' • Excellent, re-enforces our practice and makes you want to continue developing your own ideas • Created good discussion and provided useful practices • This workshop gave good examples and handouts of what had happened within the different wards of Manchester. The speakers were knowledgeable about what they had achieved and how they had made things happen. • Very informative with hints at practical advice or at least where to find some to replicate their success in engaging parents in school-based activities. • A lot of information to take in but extremely useful to hear about the good practice taking place • Excellent example of good practice. Very interesting • The Manchester staff were very informative and enthusiastic • Good examples – it was good to see the link with Community Safety and the wider impact of learning • Would have liked them to have one long session – they had lots to share. Really interesting and they did try to pack so much into a short time.
	<p>14-19 Research</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It gave me ideas but I felt more structure was needed • Lot of information sharing & evidence of good practice which I may be able to use elsewhere

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Useful to kick start ideas • I thought the workshop highlighted the necessity to try to connect all the pockets of work going on; issues around future funding; more communication between the different organisations who have contact with young people and their families. • Not clear what the workshop was really about. It was more of a discussion & debate. • I felt this was more of an opportunity to ‘pick our brains’ rather than for us to learn anything, and to that effect I was a little disappointed. Unfortunately the presenter had very little to tell us and therefore it was perhaps a bit premature, and would’ve been better at the end of her research. • Lynda made the most of the opportunity to discuss and get information from us. It shows that there is still a bit to do! (Nationally) • This was much more beneficial to the presenter than the audience as most of the session consisted of her gathering info. About new or existing projects for her research
Share	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, great, would love some of this in Tow Law • An insight to another programme which is very interesting and I am hoping I will be able to be funded to attend the training. • Very informative, gave lots of ideas to take forward. I was only aware of Share foundation. • Enjoyed the practical exercise • I was pleased to find out about Share. I am very interested in the materials and would like to be involved with this in my school. It was good to do some hands-on work. • Good resources and information • Interesting to hear about the share materials
K’NEX	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent, very professional and interesting. Would like to attend further workshops on integrating into family learning • A very good practical activity • Enjoyed looking at ways to use KNEX in learning • Brilliant! Lots of great ideas • Excellent workshop. First half informative & 2nd half practical/enjoyable method of embedding the message. Great!

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very informative: I thought the practical element was excellent • Good & interactive • Good. It was well presented interesting and fun. It was a useful opportunity to explore new materials for use in community family learning projects. • Very good – I hadn't realised the value of this type of learning until now.
eLearning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good to find out about this resource but would have liked more info/direction as there was a lot to look at in a short time. • Too much in too short a time • Good to look at new materials • Interesting but adversely affected by the size/shape of the room. Could have benefited from additional facilitators • Could have been better in terms of tutor, but it was good to have a hands on approach • It was interesting to find out what was available, particularly what was free. Some of the demo programs did not seem user-friendly, however. I was able to sign up for newsletters and updates, which is useful. • Not very useful as some of the materials were quite out of date and not appropriate for community work. The session did not seem well planned and was somewhat disorganised • The guy on the e-learning was vibrant and obviously very enthusiastic about his subject
Tyne & Wear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I had hoped this would have been inspirational but found it went over old ground • Interesting to hear about the project • Good, interactive • I enjoyed this workshop, as the tutor was relaxed and talked freely and knowledgably about this project. She also answered questions very well • Interesting, although the presentation didn't leave enough time for discussion • Too much time on irrelevant things e.g. making a flatpack box/writing down any other agencies we work with. Not enough information about how groups are set up/ popular subjects etc.
What did you think of the speakers?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good x 3 • Good, especially Jeanne Haggart • Not particularly inspiring

- Nothing new – I didn't learn anything new
- Very good but no new information or research news
- Very keen and interested in FL and this is highlighted in their speeches
- Highly committed – well done
- Very good x 2
- Excellent x 2
- Good, interesting and good time allocations
- Fine
- Very good. Personally found the national Policy/Strategy picture very interesting & useful contents.
- Pitched at the right level – good perspectives on FL
- All speakers were good, informative, thought provoking and enthusiastic about what they were delivering.
- Informative, well prepared, helpful.
- Both speakers were eloquent. It was also obvious that they firmly believed in and supported Family Learning.
- Focussed on “Family Learning”
- Very engaging and encouraging – a lot of solid determination to continue the good work being produced
- Good. Clear concise and did not ‘lecture’.
- Very good experts in their fields!
- Good – well informed
- Just read out report – no inspiration
- Liked what Keith Mitchell had to say – needed to seem a bit more confident and hopeful... this is within our reach! Would have liked Jean to bring us something new, but appreciated the summary & also drawing positively on what Keith had said.

Overall rating	Conference:	Very good	21
		Good	8
		Satisfactory	2
	Poor		
	Venue:	Very good	20
		Good	11
		Satisfactory	
		Poor	
	Catering:	Very good	18
		Good	12

		Satisfactory	Poor
Which conferences have you attended?	2001 Family Learning Conference, County Hall		3
	2002 It's a family thing, Durham University, St Aidens		6
	2003 Light on family learning, Ushaw College and Stadium of Light		4
	2004 Everyone's a winner, Ushaw College		6
	2005 Learning from the Best, Ushaw College		31
How Useful have you found County Durham's family learning conferences?	Not very useful	2	
	Useful	12	
	Very useful	11	
	Invaluable	5	
How much would you/your organisation be willing to pay for future FL conferences?	£50	10	
	£75	2	
	£100	2	
	£100+	0	
	No comment	17	
	Any comments:		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It might give a contribution to organise • Don't hold the budget! • It would be up to my manager to answer this question 		
Total number of replies:	30		