

Blossom Project Interviews

Mainstreaming

David Eddy – Sheffield Hallam

In terms of mainstreaming the practice of using e-portfolios for staff CPD, we're at a very early stage at the moment but in the same way as we've been disseminating practice when we've been embedding the e-portfolio in undergraduate and postgraduate courses we use for example our PebblePad for our special interest group where people that are utilising PebblePad across the institution share their ideas and practice and in that way it begins to become embedded we also plan to disseminate this information at faculty and university LTA conferences to showcase how we can use e-portfolio for staff CPD and a couple of members of the team also have plans to present at conferences to demonstrate this externally as well so it's early days at the moment but we do anticipate that hopefully that will roll out as time goes on.

Neil Carrant - Bradford

We're not planning to mainstream the practice of using e-portfolios for CPD across all staff at the University. What we are trying to do through our adept programme is to encourage staff to use the e-portfolio for CPD and we're hoping to bring out a CPD framework for which there should be a requirement of a portfolio, but that portfolio does not necessarily have an electronic one. So it very much fits with the general ethos of the University is giving a choice and we're not going to impose a particular way of doing things on staff.

Susi Peacock – Queen Margaret

There is not intention to mainstream e-portfolios for CPD or for learning and teaching the background for e-portfolios is very much that it is here as a learning tool it's not here to support CPD for staff. It was always linked to the Centre for Academic Practice and IT supported us and so it is primarily for learning and teaching for students. But because it is very flexible other people are using it for their CPD and PDP, but it's definitely not seen as something that staff have to use. I mean that could always be revisited but HR certainly have no interest in this at all.

Phil Vincent - York St.John

In order to mainstream or roll out our e-portfolio use for CPD the plan would be to trial it with key users, perhaps some call them e-portfolio champions or power users, people who are sort of at the forefront of trialing new technologies and new things as part of their ongoing routine. Hopefully we would like to carry out a pilot and see how that works with staff and with them recording their CPD. We would like to then target middle managers, providing some sort of management briefing sessions. Hopefully allowing them to see the benefits of the e-portfolios for CPD and for appraisal process. And then hopefully to include and emphasise the use of the e-portfolio with any engagement with staff development training events or workshops. We hope to direct towards the e-portfolio in order to record their CPD as a result of these.

Sarah Chesney - Cumbria

At the minute we don't have any plans to mainstream the use of e-portfolios for CPD, although we are encouraging staff to do so, and a good example is the faculty of education who are saying that they would like line managers to be very receptive to staff who did want to use the e-portfolio for their appraisal and this might have sort of a cascading effect where they can see it

used for other activities. So although we're can't envisage it being a mainstream activity I would say that there are some very positive signs that it used through say, a faculty which would perhaps be different than mainstream across the whole of the University of Cumbria.