



ESCalate Research Grant Project Interim Report

Date submitted	11 January 2011
Project Title	Using reflective dialogue to assess professional learning
Project Leader	Mrs Ruth Pilkington
Institution	University of Central Lancashire
Project Start date	1 September 2009
Project End date	31 August 2011



ESCALATE Interim Project Report

Project Activity to date March 2010

Project Name: 'Using reflective dialogue to assess professional learning'

Project Lead: Ruth Pilkington

Project Plan Sept-Dec 09 and into Spring 2010

1. An initial meeting in September 09 with invited institutions to agree final research questions and methodology, using the pilot as base line for discussion and planning
2. This first meeting will focus on agreement of the interview schedule and literature review. The interviews will be carried out by members of the project team with participants and assessors for dialogue samples drawn from each institution.
3. The project lead has a contact for transcription and this will also be finalised at this stage.
4. Early 2010 would take forward dialogic data gathering activity and the literature review

Update on actual activity:

Initial meeting held in November 2009 and second meeting held on 18 March 2009.

The two meetings drew together a core project team representing 4 institutions as outlined in the initial project bid: Chester, Glyndwr, UCLan and Worcester. The Transcriber was appointed to post starting from March 2010; A critical friend has been invited onto the team, Dr Peter Kahn from Liverpool who has worked in professional development and published on collaborative working.

Meeting in Nov 2009

. We agreed methodology and management issues, as well as issues of commitment dissemination and ownership at the first meeting. We also discussed content of interviews, shared initial outcomes from a pilot dialogue process for the project and shared issues around the diverse contexts for the dialogic case studies that will be provided by institutions. Methodology agreed.

RP as project lead had set out parameters for literature review and for dialogue, and offered to focus on literature review over next period

- One of challenges to project is that with no formally costed time, priorities for individual participants can be difficult to maintain; the team is however very committed and engaged in the project outcomes.

Period of Dec – Feb involved much discussion especially with Chester regarding confidentiality and permissions, however all ethical processes completed by January. Attempt made to establish a project NING. Research Assistant appointed and in place for transcribing.

Meeting in March 2010. The second meeting allowed progress monitoring and developments to be discussed. Key topics addressed and confirmed at this meeting included ethical clearance (obtained), project permissions, initial dialogue recording and sharing, outcomes from the literature review and proposals for a projected book and workshop.

- Uclan is focusing on dialogue use for Standard 2; Chester focus is on use for SD3; Glyndwr use is in context of SD2; Worcester uses dialogue for APL purposes for professional awards.

Wider Project Involvement: External interest appears to be growing in the work of the project. Contacts made from colleagues at Hull (dialogue to support peer review reflection), Portsmouth (Narrative dialogue), Leeds (Formal scholarly dialogue), and Middlesex (reflective dialogue for WBL) about dialogue and its value to reflection and work-based learning. It was suggested that a workshop take place in May/June to invite a wider group to share practice in this area (see attached flier). It would also potentially lead to further case studies for exploration.

Progress Plans from second meeting:

1. Advertise a project workshop through ESCalate for June 4th 2010
2. Project Lead to explore wiki for collaborative work on documents and space for sharing
3. Project Lead to circulate documents from meeting for annotation to Team
4. Team members circulate further contacts and additional literature
5. Project lead draft and circulate data security and disposal agreement

Ruth Pilkington UCLan, March 2010