

Editorial

Although funding for the Centres for Excellence in Teacher Training (CETTs) has now finished, most CETTs are to maintain their work in some form or another and we are pleased to say that we continue to receive papers for peer review from a good range of the CETTs.

At the time of writing, we do not know the details of the Spending Review and the impending cuts but we do know at least some of the implications of the Browne Review. Lobbying is already underway to try to ensure that funding for Initial Teacher Education (ITE) for the Further Education (FE) sector is maintained. We need to ensure that ITE for the sector continues and that we have parity with the Schools sector. Reducing support for ITE in the FE sector at a time when we know that we need, more than ever before, a well-trained professional teaching workforce will have a large detrimental effect on recruitment and, ultimately, on the quality of teaching.

This edition provides a good distribution of papers across the range of issues. McLay's paper on the profiles of six pioneering teachers/trainees, how they came into their chosen profession and subsequently into teaching, and what processes and attitudes help or hinder them in their work provides an insight into the diversity of teachers we have in the sector. Rushton's contribution to mentoring processes reveals how one 'failing' teacher was moved from a grade four to a grade one. We are pleased to say that we are publishing a further paper on teacher educators (Exley) and contributing to the small but increasing number of papers on teacher educators in the FE sector. Parfitt's paper on teacher education in the 1950s and 1960s identifies the 'creative wisdom' that was needed by FE lecturers to maintain and open up and forge links with local industry and communities and how we might learn from this for today's challenges. Tedder and Lawy reflect on a CETT mentoring project and how this has revealed both a shift in college practices and a questioning of the value of subject specialist mentoring.

Finally, we include a report on the West Midland CETT's (WMCETT) work on a professional network and its benefits.

Please do keep up the submission of papers; this demonstrates the good work that has already been done and the need to maintain it for the FE sector.

