



The Leitch Report

This is a special FACE (Forum for Access and Continuing Education) e-bulletin, offered to policy-makers, researchers, practitioners and others with an interest in access, widening participation and lifelong learning. This message is sent to those in the sector, members and non-members alike.

Last week the UK Government published its response to the Leitch Report for England. This has been long-anticipated and awaited by those in the further and higher education sectors, as well as those involved in delivering learning programmes to adults. Front page headlines in The Times Higher Education Supplement reads 'Embrace Leitch or lose out to FE, sector warned'.

- **FACE Seminar on September 11th 'Responding to Leitch: Implications for adult learners and community regeneration'**

FACE realises that the Government's response to the Leitch Report will have far-reaching implications for its members and those working within the sector, and is holding a one-day seminar in September, hosted by the University of Glamorgan. Although the recent response is focused on England and the FACE seminar will highlight issues in Wales, the relevance of the discussion and debate will have meaning and deep resonance with those working throughout the UK.

Please contact me at carmel.dennison@ntlworld.com for a programme and booking form.

Below are links to the Government response and plans for the future, and also how the press and others are reacting, including FACE's initial response to the Leitch Report.

- **UK GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO THE LEITCH REPORT AND PLANS FOR THE FUTURE**

<http://www.dius.gov.uk/publications/publications-leitchreview.htm>

- **THES HEADLINES: 'EMBRACE LEITCH OR LOSE OUT TO FE, SECTOR WARNED'**, Tony Tysome, 20 July 2007

http://www.thes.co.uk/current_edition/story.aspx?story_id=2037536

- **UniversitiesUK: Response to the Government's Leitch Review of Skills Implementation Plan**, 18 July 2007

<http://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/mediareleases/showpressnotice.asp?PR=48>

- **FACE's initial response to The Leitch Report:**

<http://www.f-a-c-e.org.uk/comment.htm>

- **Leitch set to get top marks for report**

Unions welcome plan to urge businesses to sign pledges to boost their employees' basic skills. Peter Kingston, [The Guardian](#), June 12, 2007

<http://education.guardian.co.uk/further/story/0,,2100461,00.html>

- **Business reluctant to make skills 'pledge'**, *Financial Times* 21 May 2007

The Financial Times reports on CIPD/KPMG's report on the Leitch review. Nearly half of employers are unlikely to sign up to the government's voluntary skills "pledge", with many companies unwilling to pay for costly basic training, a survey of businesses has found. The research showed that the government will struggle to reach its target of encouraging businesses to voluntarily agree to provide basic level 2 skills training equivalent to five good GCSEs for struggling employees.

http://www.cipd.co.uk/news/inthenews/_Archive/FT_20070521_skillspledge.htm