



## Collaboration for Third Sector / ACL Moodle

### Summary

In 2006 SAVO was commissioned by the Governance Hub to develop and maintain an on-line learning platform to deliver Trustee Training. Following the success of this program (which currently has over 2.500 learners signed up) SAVO made the commitment in 2008 to convert its portfolio of paper based and CD Toolkits to be web delivered ([www.practicaltoolkits.org.uk](http://www.practicaltoolkits.org.uk))



### About Suffolk Learning Consortium

The Suffolk Learning Consortium was formed as a Managed Network, led by the Suffolk Association of Voluntary Organizations (SAVO), in April 2007 as a Suffolk LSC / ESF funded project, to help prepare the Third Sector in Suffolk for the forthcoming changes to LSC (and other public) funding;

*to provide a mutually beneficial consortium structure for Third Sector learning providers in Suffolk, in order to support and enable all member organisations to access funding, develop their capacity and achieve high standards of quality and performance in meeting the needs of learners and in tackling disadvantage and advancing equity and social inclusion.*

### The challenge

Whilst the existing learning platforms were delivering a reliable service, it was recognised that a more advanced delivery platform would be needed in the future to support a greater delivery of on-line learning with enhanced administration facilities.

SAVO therefore decided to investigate developing a Moodle (an international open source learning platform, used by many FE institutions). During investigations, it was discovered that Suffolk County Council Community Learning and Skills Development (CLSD), an active partner of the Suffolk Learning Consortium (led by SAVO) was also interested in moving into on-line learning delivery.

It was therefore decided to make a joint bid, between CLSD and the Suffolk Learning Consortium, to the LSIS Resource Utilisation Network Fund, to develop and manage a joint Moodle for use by ACL and Third Sector providers in Suffolk.

### The activity

Our October 2011 bid to LSIS, which included additional Project Partners at Otley College and our JISC RSC (to provide practical and technical support

with Moodle), was successful and a detailed Project Plan was drawn up with clear details of partners Roles, Responsibilities and Target Dates.

SAVO was keen to use this new on-line delivery platform for a large portfolio of ASDAN accredited courses for Volunteers (currently only delivered face to face). SAVO had a meeting with ASDAN to seek their approval for all their learning materials to be used on the Moodle, and for the use of the on-line system to be used for submitting assignments, completing on-line tests, and course administration. ASDAN were most supportive of our plans and also offered to publicise that their courses would also be available on-line.

The Moodle was setup in December 2011 and CLSD and SAVO are now busy developing and loading content ready for the launch of the Moodle in May 2012 (during Adult Learners Week).

### **The outcomes**

- Real collaboration between Adult and Community Learning (ACL) and Third Sector
- Recognition of the skills and value of working with the Third Sector
- Opportunity for all learning providers to review their course delivery and select the best provider for each course (reducing duplication of delivery)
- Identification and adoption of Best Practice for 'teachers'. The project partners have agreed to adopt recognised National support (i.e. LSIS Safeguarding training) and scrapping locally produced packages (reducing costs)
- Greater portfolio of training
- Reduced delivery costs (no travel / venue costs, reduced administration costs)
- Opportunity to deliver accredited training nationally.

### **The impact**

- Real collaboration between Adult and Community Learning (ACL) and Third Sector
- Recognition of the skills and value of working with the Third Sector
- Reduced delivery costs (no travel / venue costs, reduced administration costs)

### **The lessons learned**

- Collaborative working benefits all collaborators
- The Third Sector are notorious at not celebrating success
- If you don't ask you don't get! We were pleasantly surprised that a National Awarding Body would not only accept but would also support our suggestion.

### **Useful links**

- [Suffolk Association of Voluntary Organisations website](#)
- [Suffolk Learning Consortium website](#)
- [Third Sector National Learning Alliance \(TSNLA\)](#)