

ICT in FE

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Network

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Background Information

- Scotland has 46 FE Colleges
- There were 514,877 enrolments in 2001/02
- There are 12,500 FTE staff
- One third of staff are support
- Colleges have over 4,000 sites for education
- All Colleges connected to JANET

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Student Information

- 84% of enrolments are part time
- 58% of students are female
- 61% of students are over 25
- 69% of students have no qualifications on entry

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Course and Skills

- 26% of College activity is HE
- 28% of Scottish HE is provided by FE
- 60% of students entering HE for the first time do so through FE
- 70% of enrolments are in:
 - Computing (22%)
 - Care (13%)
 - Health (11%)
 - Engineering (10%)
 - Business (8%)
 - Tourism (6%)

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FE ICT Managers Network

- Formed January 2002
- Initially 4 representatives from FE
- Undertaking to launch two events per annum
- Undertaking to act as the responsible body for Bootstrap
- Currently Undergoing Reform

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Other Support Groups

- Regional Support Centres (S&W and N&E)
- Other JISC services
- Scottish Further Education Unit
- Learning and Teaching Scotland
- Learndirect Scotland (SUfl)
- Scottish Further Education Funding Council

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Types of Collaboration

- UHI
 - 8 FE Colleges
- JISC Funded Projects
 - SWaNI
- SFEFC Funded Projects
 - E-Procurement
 - Technology Transfer
- Local MAN groups

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The Big Issues

- E-Business
- E-Learning
- Managed Learning Environments
- Intranets/Extranets and the Internet
- Wireless Networking
- Security
- Legislation
- Sustainability and Future proofing

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Problems

- Small Numbers of Technical Staff per College
- Technical experts thin on the ground
- Small ICT budgets
- High expectations

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The Solution Is

Greater Collaboration

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Proposed Solutions

- Pulling resources across colleges
- Setting up specialist groups in Networking and User Support
- Drawing on the expertise contained within HE
- More formal dissemination and knowledge transfer through workshops, training sessions etc.
- Stop reinventing the wheel

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Thank You

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