

The **learndirect** toolkit – The Ufi/**learndirect** approach to the e-portfolio

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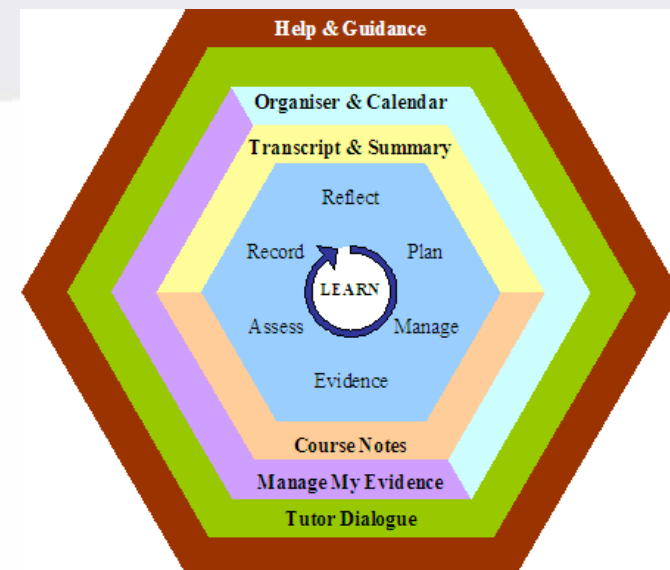
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Ufi/**learndirect**

- Ufi Ltd is the largest government backed, supported e-learning network in the world
- Offers “any time, any pace, any pace learning” to individual adults and businesses
- A key Ufi/**learndirect** objective is to win over new and excluded learners, many of whom are described as Skills for Life learners – they have low levels of literacy and/or numeracy, or English is not their first language

The challenges in developing a toolkit suitable for Skills for Life learners

- Accessibility for wide range of learners
- Cultural attitudes
- Many **learndirect** learners take short courses
- Many are new to recent formal learning
- Many have been alienated by education system in the past
- Balancing sophistication, complexity and ease of use
- Nothing similar has been done before!



The **learndirect** toolkit approach

- Action research
- Partnership approach work with Trade Unions, some industrial sectors, eg print
- Support from “EQUAL” funding as part of the project “Building Opportunities through Workplace Learning”, led by the TUC
- Consider the whole support model, in particular the role of the Union Learning rep and the tutor, staff development is important



What is in the **learndirect** toolkit

Recently released into the Learner Support Environment (August 2003)

- The organiser
 - The calendar
 - Course notes
 - My own learning
 - Help and guidance
- From Winter 2003/4:*
- Manage my evidence
 - Evidence for qualifications



The **learndirect** toolkit, future developments

- Full scale field research into the use of the toolkit
- Incremental change controls, based on research and practice
- Development of new functions, including the **learndirect** transcript



The toolkit: - issues for reflection

- Should there be separate e-tools for different groups of adult learners, is there one size that fits all?
- An embedded approach or a separate box for e-Portfolio type functions
- Will all SfL learners be able to use these tools?
- An act of faith?



The **learndirect** toolkit

Further information from:

- “The **learndirect** toolkit for managing learning” (conference paper)
- Margaret Christopoulos and Colin McDonald at...

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