Title: **Chain reaction: building a community of work based learning through e-portfolio development**

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Abstract:

Session Learning Outcomes

By the end of this session, delegates will be able to:

- Explore the opportunities for the use of e-portfolios in enhancing communities of learning.
- Reflect upon individual assumptions regarding roles and responsibilities of partners within a work based learning context.
- Identify sources to enhance diversity and inclusivity in a 'community of learning' through the means of e-portfolio development.
- Consider the practical and educational implications of extending the community.

Session Outline

This session will showcase the Certificate in Substance Misuse, work based learning award, where the use of e-portfolio has been fundamental to the development of the community of learning.
Recent research (Cambridge, Cambridge and Yancey, 2009) has demonstrated the affordances of e-portfolio practice in supporting both individual learners and communities of practice through the practice of composing, reading and responding. In this workshop we invite participants to discuss the implications of opening up a learning community to a broader based membership. This can often offer rich sources of experience and learning which have previously been overlooked.
Participants will have the opportunity to reflect upon their own learning context and consider the possibilities presented by this approach in their individual communities of practice.

Session Activities and Approximate Timings

Introduction, background and rationale.   5 minutes
A demonstration of the e-portfolio tool, individual participant portfolios within the context of the 'community gateway'.   10 minutes
Group discussion to identify potential sources for enhancing membership and to offer comparative feedback from a current course of study. 10 minutes

Discuss how participants could seek to utilise this approach to seek to enhance learning and teaching within their own field. 15 minutes
Questions and closure 5 minutes

Indicative questions:

'How could e-portfoilos benefit a community of learning?'
 'What are the implications for this type of approach?'

References

Bostock, S. (2007) e-Teaching: Engaging learners through technology. SEDA

Cambridge, D. et al. (2009) Electronic Portfolios 2.0. Emergent research on implementation and impact. Stylus. Sterling Virginia.

JISC (2008) Effective Practice with e-Portfolios. Online at
http://www.jisc.ac.uk/publications/documents/effectivepracticeeportfolios.aspx
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Stefani, L. et al. (2007) The educational potential of e-portfolios. Supporting personal development and reflective learning. Routledge. London