

HEaTED Regional Network Meeting – Meeting Report

Region: North East

Date: 29/11/12

Venue: Northumbria University, Sutherland Building, Boardroom 1, Room 201

Agenda:

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| 10.30 am | Welcome and Introductions
Linda Robinson, HEaTED North East Regional Network Coordinator |
| 10. 40am | HEaTED Update
Dr Katherine Forsey, HEaTED Course & Regional Networks Coordinator |
| 11.00am | The Changing Role of the Technician
Ian Moulson, Sheffield University

Replaced with 'over to you' session and 'Raising the profile of technical staff in your HEI' resource sharing and feedback activity. |
| 12.00pm | Lunch and networking |
| 12.30pm | Demonstration of HEaTED online communities
Dr Katherine Forsey, HEaTED Course & Regional Networks Coordinator |
| 12.50pm | Forthcoming North East technical training events
Linda Robinson, HEaTED North East Regional Network Coordinator |
| | Date/venue/themes for 2013 North East Regional Network Meetings |
| | Evaluation of event |
| | Tour of technical area at Northumbria University – details to be confirmed |
| 3.00 pm | Close |

Key discussion points from each agenda item:

HEaTED Update - Dr Katherine Forsey:

- HEaTED are working to be the lead organisation supporting professional development.
- HEaTED going through a renewal of membership process at the moment, to-date 68 HEIs have subscribed. Over 2,000 individuals from these institutions have registered on HEaTED website. Attendance at regional meetings has increased.
- Website has now been updated and regular email correspondence to members is now sent out fortnightly with additional course and event notifications.
- There is heavy representation from Science and Engineering bodies therefore Rachel Crossley, HEaTED Programme Manager is in discussion with other complimentary representative bodies eg Arts Creative Media, Health & Safety, IT etc to ensure HEaTED are working with those in other disciplines.
- At HEaTED conference there will be a specific session on Arts Creative Media discipline where HEaTED will share all the work they have been doing to work more in that sector. There is a wide range of training

events now available. Next Yorkshire & Humberside meeting is to be held in Huddersfield in their Arts faculty.

- HEaTED is making contact with the senior management of membership universities to ensure they know what's available through HEaTED to staff of their institution.
- HEaTED conference is now planned for 9th January 2012 in York.
- All regional networks are now established and up and running.
- Course brochures were circulated to the group – all details are now available on HEaTED website.
- HEaTED are concentrating on running courses locally, as well as developing new courses based on what technical staff have requested eg a Teaching & Learning skills course has recently been developed. The aim is to develop 2-3 new courses every year based on demand.
- Information was provided on a number of courses that could be brought to the NE region - Using and maintaining pipettes, Basic maintenance and repair of electrical equipment, Training the Technical Trainer, Safe use of laboratory gases
- Professional registration – until recently there has been no professional registration for technical staff. Registered Science Technician (RSciTech) is a new professional registration available to technical staff. Anyone wishing to register will need to submit evidence of continuing professional development, reflective practice, contribution to team and work etc. It's a way for technicians to be more recognised for their professionalism. All HEaTED courses are linked to the competencies and professional registration. HEaTED is a vehicle not an awarding body for RSciTech. Available on the HEaTED website is a quick guide regarding professional registration and the various awarding bodies.
- Katherine discussed marketing materials produced by HEaTED and encouraged members to consider following on Twitter @HEaTEDTechs
- **Changing Role of the Technician** – due to adverse weather conditions the guest speaker, Ian Moulson, Sheffield University was unable to attend the meeting. Ian has agreed to deliver his discussion at the next regional meeting to be held March 2013.

Group discussion

The following points were discussed by group and the suggestions put forward are summarised for each item:

1 Things you want to hear about from HEaTED

- Training course updates – new and local ones, regular/updated ones
- What courses are being requested
- Feedback from people who have been on courses
- What is discussed at other regional meetings
- Professional registration/CPD
- Career Progression
- Professional contacts/suppliers
- Ways to network (discipline specific)
- Focus on a HEI and what they contribute

2 What would you like to see in HEaTED Update

- Discipline updates/case studies
- Future developments
- Feedback from technicians who have attend HEaTED courses
- Which institutions have joined, is the word spreading
- Latest legal regulations that would affect training courses
- Personal case studies
- Information on professional bodies
- Hints and tips section
- Who are HEaTED?
- Case studies/successful solutions

3 What things would you like to take away from HEaTED Conference

- Freebies
- Supplier networking
- Mutual aid/face to face networking
- Professional Registration
- Updates from other regions
- Regional representatives at 'stalls to hear from different regions and what they're doing
- Information to take back
- Strategic marketing
- New contacts
- Enthusiasm
- Workshops
- Showcase opportunities

Issues to be fed into Online Groups:

Linda Robinson will take appropriate discussion points to 'seed' the online discussion group.

Discussion points to be incorporated into forthcoming meetings: Bullet points

- Changing role of the technician – March regional meeting
- Apprenticeships
- Professional registrations

Actions:

- All attendees to gauge what interest there would be in organising the following events in the region and feed back to Linda Robinson:
 - Gas cylinder safety training
 - Pippet training
 - Research techniques – analysing results & statistics
- The audience was encouraged to contact Linda Robinson with any further suggestions on training events.
- HEaTED will liaise with training providers to negotiate rates. The audience were asked to contact HEaTED or Linda Robinson should they wish to recommend a training provider.

Venue and Dates for 2013 NE regional meetings:

- Sunderland University – March 2013
- York (joint with Yorkshire & Humberside tbc) – July 2013
- Teesside – November 2013

Appendices:

- The HEaTED presentations slides will be added as a separate appendix in the [online group topic for this meeting](#).
- The Action Plan for Raising the Profile of Technical Staff in your Institution will also be placed in the same group.