

## HEaTED Regional Network Event – Event Report

**Region:** North East

**Date:** 28<sup>th</sup> March 2013

**Venue:** The University of Sunderland

### Agenda:

10.30 am Welcome and Introductions

*Linda Robinson, HEaTED North East Regional Network Coordinator*

HEaTED Update

*Dr Katherine Forsey, HEaTED Course & Regional Networks Coordinator*

11.00 am The Changing Role of the Technician

*Ian Moulson, Departmental Manager, Sheffield University*

12.00 pm Lunch and networking

12.45 pm Update on Professional Registration Event at Newcastle University – *Linda Robinson*

Forthcoming North East technical training events – *Linda Robinson*

Date/venue/themes for next HEaTED North East Regional Network Event

Evaluation of event

Tour of Analytical/Sports Laboratories at Sunderland University

### Key discussion points from each agenda item:

#### HEaTED Update

A copy of the 'HEaTED Update' slides presented by Dr Katherine Forsey are available in the NE HEaTED online community group. HEaTED now have 66 member institutions with over 2300 individual members. Expanding membership to Science Parks & FE colleges.

#### The Changing Role of the Technician

Ian Moulson delivered a presentation on 'The Changing Role of the Technician'. The presentation is now available in the North East online group.

During his presentation Ian discussed the 8 recommendations developed by The Technician Council:

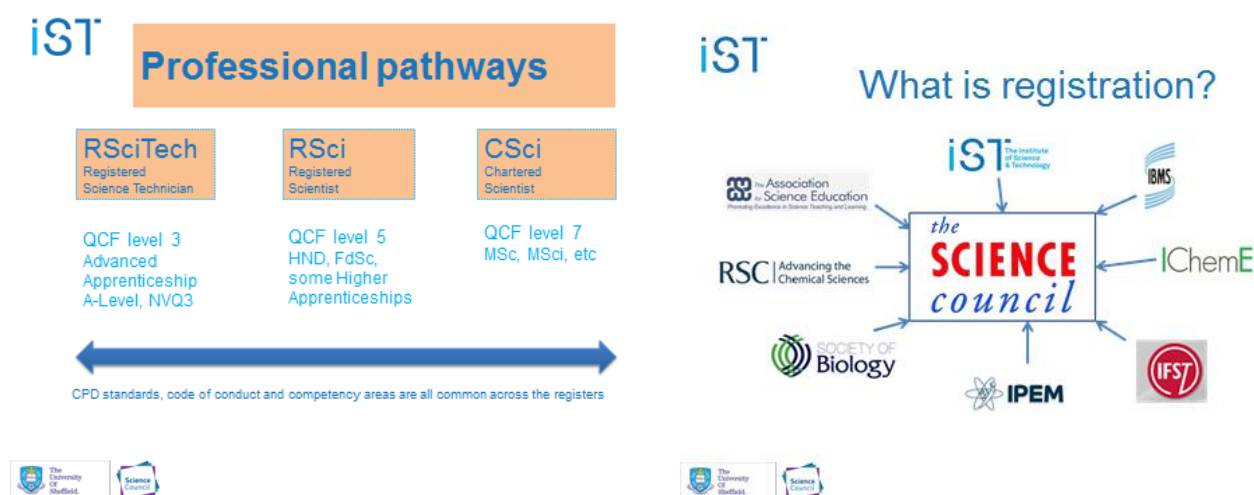
1. **Endorse and promote *Professional Technician***
2. **Support registration and professional development and announce own aspirational targets**
3. **Active support for professional technicians**
4. **Improve communications on career choices**
5. **Raise the profile of *professional technician* in Government communications to the young**

6. Use the *professional technician* brand
7. Promote greater diversity
8. Sustain the work of the Technician Council

The audience was asked to consider how their role has changed. The responses were – more admin and managerial staff, more academics but no increase in technicians. Technicians are working to capacity which impacts on academic work, student support and output from research groups and departments.

Professional technicians are essential to delivering growth in the UK in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Students are demanding to be taught by professionals. Accredited degree courses have to be delivered by professionals. As technical staff contribute more and more to the student experience there are now professional pathways for technical staff to consider:



A member of the audience asked if funding bodies were going to require all technical staff to be RSciTech when awarding grants? Ian's response was that it was not clear at present but may move in this direction.

HEaTED are the lynch pin in holding all of this work together, raising status, being a channel for accessing CPD, bringing CPD to your area, keeping costs non-inhibitory.

### Update on Professional Registration Event at Newcastle University

Over 100 technical staff at Newcastle University attended a 'Professional Registration' event organised by Linda Robinson on the 4<sup>th</sup> February 2013. The IST and various awarding bodies were in attendance at the event. Further discussions are to be held with the HR Assistant Director at Newcastle University in respect to the funding of professional registration for technical staff at Newcastle.

### **Forthcoming North East technical training events**

Those attending the event were asked to identify training and development activities that the NE regional co-ordinator could consider organising in the North East region this year.

It was agreed that the next NE regional network event will take place in York and organised as a joint event with the Yorkshire regional group. Late June was suggested as a date.

#### **Issues to be fed into Online Groups:**

Using the NE HEaTED online community members to discuss possible topics for forthcoming regional events.

#### **Discussion points to be incorporated into forthcoming events:**

Discipline specific break out groups for specific sharing best practice sessions.

Tours of discipline specific departments.

#### **Actions:**

Information from Post-it notes identifying training activities to be analysed by NE Regional Co-ordinator and forwarded to HEaTED.

#### **Appendices:**

- Presentation on 'Changing role of the Technician, Ian Moulson (available NE HEaTED online community group).
- Presentation 'Update from HEaTED', Katherine Forsey (available NE HEaTED online community group).