


# OCN South East Region Access News for Centres – Vol.1 08

*Welcome to the first edition in 2008 of our Access Newsletter for Centres. We are looking forward to working with you in the coming months to support your Access to HE work.*

*This edition includes updates about our services to centres and QAA issues. We welcome feedback and any brief articles for inclusion in the next edition of 'Access News'.*

*Yours sincerely*



David Gittins

Director of Access & Business Development

## Access Conference

Our regional Access conference will be held on 23rd April at the central London LSE Conference Centre. The theme for this year is 'Taking Access into the Future'. Our keynote speaker will be Professor Van Gore who is Vice-Chancellor of Southampton Solent University and he will focus on the future of Access in the emerging FE and HE context.

Kath Dentith will provide a QAA perspective and we are lining up a range of specialist seminar sessions to meet the interests of practitioners and college managers alike.

Amongst others, sessions are planned on, grading, e-portfolios, marketing Access courses, and developing a regional Access Curriculum. Please do try and send at least a couple of delegates to the conference and support Access in the SE Region.



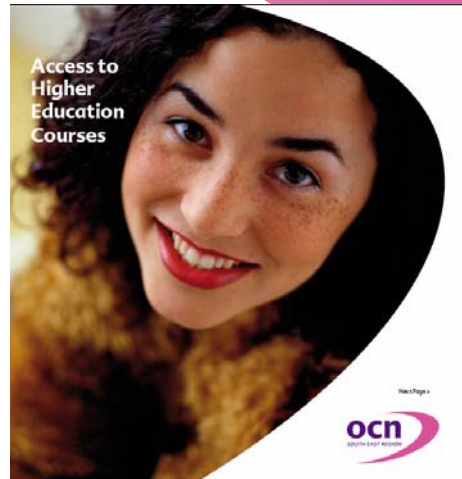
To book please email [s.martin@ocnser.org.uk](mailto:s.martin@ocnser.org.uk) or phone 01227 827823 or visit our web site and follow the Access link. The cost for OCN SER Member organisations is £90 for the first delegate with 10% off for every additional booking.



# News from OCNSER

## Access Directories

OCNSER Access Course Directories for 2008 are now available in hard copies. We will be sending a small quantity to each Access centre approved by OCNSER. The rest are being distributed to libraries, Next Step Centres, HEIs across the SE. An electronic PDF file version is available for download from our OCNSER homepage and Access web pages.



Click on the image above to download the Directory

## New Documents from OCNSER

We have recently published a new 'Access Centre Handbook' which is now available for downloading from our web pages. We hope that this will prove a useful reference document for Access Coordinators and other colleagues involved in the teaching of Access. We've also published a 'Guide to Designing Access Courses' for centres thinking of starting new provision. Along with the other documents which are available for download from our web pages, we hope these new documents will make a useful addition to our publications for Access centres. Please send comments on these publications to any of the staff identified in our contacts section at the end of this newsletter. Click on this link in the e-version of this newsletter to go to our Access Downloads pages [www.ocnkm.ac.uk/access/Access%20Page.html](http://www.ocnkm.ac.uk/access/Access%20Page.html)

## OCNSER Access Web Pages

We are still awaiting a brand new web site but in the meantime we have re-vamped our Access pages. The detailed pages are located on the original web site of our Kent & Medway OCN/AVA. However this is now part of our OCNSER web offer and is for use by all our members across the SE Region.

Have a look at the pages by following the links from [www.ocnser.org.uk](http://www.ocnser.org.uk) or navigate direct to [www.ocnkm.ac.uk/access](http://www.ocnkm.ac.uk/access). The Access Downloads page is especially useful as it contains a wide range of our Access documentation.



## Grading

Just to emphasise that there is still no grading for Access to HE courses. The QAA is undertaking a series of trials using the individual grading of units approach as outlined on their web site ([www.accesstohe.ac.uk](http://www.accesstohe.ac.uk)). However the timescale for implementation is not until the academic year 2009-10. We plan to have a workshop on grading at our annual conference in April (see above for booking details).

## Access Diplomas

As most of you will know by 2008-09 all Access qualifications will be expressed as 'Access Diplomas' rather than the older 'Access Certificates'. OCNSER is converting courses via a Diploma Compliance model. The Access section on the OCNSER website has a page devoted to this and it explains the fast track and standard procedures for ensuring that all Access courses in the region are ready for the start of the academic year 2008-09 – see <http://www.ocnkm.ac.uk/access/Access%20Dip%20Com.html>

## Access Networking

### Access Practitioner Groups (APGs)

We hold regular Access Practitioner Group Meetings in locations across the region. The dates of the next meetings are summarised in the table below. At the July meetings we would like to have sessions on standardisation of learner work and sharing good practice on funding. Please send us suggestions for other items for July to Sue Martin (see end of newsletter for contact details).

Staff will be able to use attendance at this session as part of their CPD entitlement. There will be a small charge to cover room and refreshments for these day sessions.

Venue	Date	Time
University of Kent, Derek Crabtree Room, Keynes College	Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> July	10.00am – 3.00pm
University of Brighton' Room 227, Mithras House	Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> July	10.00am – 3.00pm
OCNSER Addlestone Office, Surrey	Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	10.00am – 3.00pm



## Access Networking (continued)

### New Access JISC mail Forum

We are setting up a new JISC mail list for Access in the South East. This will provide an opportunity to share discussion of Access related issues with staff in other centres across our AVA. We will be contacting centres to ask for staff to sign up but if you would like to join this group then please contact Sue at our Canterbury office ([s.martin@ocnser.org.uk](mailto:s.martin@ocnser.org.uk))



## Annual Centre Reports

We are asking centres to return these by the end of July this year. We appreciate that any statistical analysis in this report will be based upon provisional data and we will be requesting final data from MIS departments in the Autumn term.

An updated and revised template for these reports is available from our [Access Downloads page](#). Please ask your OCNSER Access Development Manager for any further assistance in completing these reports.

### OCNSER Contacts for Access

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A full list of OCNSER contacts is available at [www.ocnser.org.uk/Contact%20Us.htm](http://www.ocnser.org.uk/Contact%20Us.htm)

