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Learning Spaces - Evaluation

- Evaluation of ‘new’ learning spaces on Leeds Met campuses
- By ‘new’ we mean a £2m capital investment from HEFCE – not a new ‘concept’
- Commenced November 2006
- Will continue into late 2008
Learning Spaces - Evaluation

- Exploratory research so far - exploring the perceptions and terminology
- What people have done in the spaces
- What can be done in the spaces?
- How are the spaces being received i.e. positive or negative?
- Is it purely enterprise education activities that are taking place in the spaces?
Learning Spaces - Evaluation

- 1-1 interviews with teaching staff
- Interactive workshops
- Student questionnaires – perceptions and feedback
- Literature search and review
- Research-informed evaluation

Leads onto results:
Learning Spaces - Evaluation

- Promotes active learning and teaching
- Affects students’ engagement in a positive way
- Valuable and integral support to classical learning and teaching methods
- Adaptable to diverse learning modes
- Offers blended learning opportunities
- Opportunity for student’s to experience a wider range of assessment, learning and teaching modes
Learning Spaces - Evaluation

- Potentially provide the impetus for the design of evolving pedagogy
- Concerns about under-utilisation i.e. ‘flexible ambiguity’ – non-conventional space is a challenge for some individuals’ delivery/approach
- Concerns re physical layout – one size doesn’t fit all i.e. class/group sizes
- Concerns re technological equipment – too advanced, no training given/available
- Is the space for informal or formal learning?
- Do students own the space i.e. social area?
- Staff development concerns – which led to
Learning Spaces - Evaluation

- Teaching Quality Enhancement Fund (TQEF) Bid
- TQEF bid aim was to address under-utilisation of spaces
- Identify what activities worked well in learning spaces and what didn’t do so well
- Small group of UK ALT educator’s invited to a ‘development day’ to work through best-fit scenarios
- Compare and contrast with other institutions learning spaces i.e. what they did in theirs
Could we learn anything from other institutions

Further research is still to be done on the evaluation with comparisons drawn from the use of existing conventional learning spaces, in the context of enterprise education.
Learning Spaces - Evaluation

- In the context of enterprise education spaces are proving to be fit for purpose i.e.
- Enables student-centred learning
- Enables group work and activities
- Real world business scenarios i.e. role play interviews; the apprentice etc
- Business simulations
- Enterprise summer schools; and
- The application and study of the theory of enterprise and entrepreneurial behaviour
Learning Spaces - Evaluation

- What others are saying about ‘new’ learning spaces

- VH to put in a few references to back up what I am saying....