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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

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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?

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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:

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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

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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?

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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

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Learning Spaces - Evaluation

- 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.

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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

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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….

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