

# Supporting Lifelong Learners in the North West

## SOLVS & ioNW2



University of  
Chester



greater  
manchester  
strategic alliance



Manchester  
Metropolitan  
University

# Who is involved

- **The 3 Lifelong Learning Networks in the Northwest**
  - **Cheshire & Warrington**
  - **Greater Manchester**
  - **Greater Merseyside & West Lancs**
- **9 HEIs and 43 FECs in these partnerships**
- **Phosphorix Ltd (SHELL, Learning Matrix, EELLS, PDP4Life)**

# Project team

- **Projects manager – Roger Clark (The Learning Matrix)**
- **Garfield Southall (University of Chester)**
- **Gill Scott (GMSA)**
- **Selwyn Lloyd (Phosphorix)**
- **Other credits:**  
**Mark Stubbs, Janet Strivens, Simon Grant, Sandra Kingston, Mark Barrett Baxendale**

# What's the problem?

- **Supporting employed learners with cross institutional learning paths**
- **Help them to make appropriate choices sensitive to sector needs and requirements (PDP)**
- **Allow them to browse and search learning opportunities from multiple institutions**
- **Simplify application processes**
- **Tracking for multi-institutional awards**

# The plan

- **Project work is embedded into the operational strategies of the LLNs**
- **There are two projects with complementary focus**
- **Interoperability Network NorthWest ioNW2 (led by MMU)**
- **Supporting Ongoing Learning in Vocational Settings SOLVS (led by University of Chester)**

# ioNW2

- **Technological and administration focus**
- **Simplify deployment of ioAgents into network configurations**
- **Add learner administration tools to address issues of learner tracking**
- **Look at how information about skills content related to sector-specific skills frameworks can be incorporated into XCRI**
- **Deploy and use for LLN business!**

# SOLVS

- **Learner focussed project**
- **Learner portals in two vocational sectors**
  - **Creative Industries and**
  - **Health and Social Services**
- **Focus on PDP**
- **Flexible tools for creating pluggable, shareable, PDP activities tailored to vocational sector needs**
- **IAG and multi-institution course search**
- **e-Portfolio for application to courses**

# Technology approach

- **Building on the Learning Matrix work, which built on SHELL**
- **Web-services based ioPortal with ePortfolio and “social” software elements**
- **ioNetwork components**
- **Course information system built on XCRI**
- **Refine and adapt**
- **Work synergistically with other projects**

# Success is ...

- **It works!**
- **This a working project delivering mission critical functionality for the LLNs**
- **If the project work is incorporated into the working practices of the LLNs**
- **If the technology basis for a data-exchanging network across the Northwest is in place**
- **If the approach is transferrable to other regions**