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BEATTIE RESOURCES FOR INCLUSIVENESS  
IN TECHNOLOGY AND EDUCATION

# Can BRITE do something for you?

*"It's all very well saying that staff should support more and more learners with diverse needs, but the staff need support, too!"*

## How can BRITE help?

We understand that the most valuable asset in any college is the staff. The BRITE Initiative offers a range of facilities to support and inform staff, including:

- The Virtual Staffroom - where registered users can seek advice, exchange ideas, post information, download useful documentation or just share experiences - any time, and from a location that suits them.
- Regional Seminars - often focused on a topical issue, in response to demand, and always backed up with information packs and/or pointers to resources. Watch the BRITE website for news of events near you!

*"One of the things that would make a real difference in our college would be having staff who are qualified to conduct needs assessments for our own students. The nearest ACCESS Centre is too busy and too far away."*

## Does BRITE have the answer?

One of the main activities for the BRITE Initiative has been the design, development and delivery of an accredited programme of staff training. The programme has been running successfully since 2002 and already has more than a hundred registered participants.

Staff completing the four BRITE units and the associated assignment will be validated to conduct assessments for students with additional support needs (where previously these students would often have been referred for an external assessment of needs). Discussions are ongoing with key stakeholders (including the Scottish Executive and the Student Awards Agency for Scotland) to establish a clear and consistent assessment framework, in which the BRITE professional development units are likely to play a significant role.

Interested in getting a better idea of what the training involves? We would be pleased to send you some sample materials.

*"There isn't a big demand for obsolete assistive technology at the local car boot sale! If there was, our college could make a small fortune from all the kit we bought with good intentions and then found it was out-of-date before we'd really used it."*

## Any BRITE ideas?

Wouldn't it be helpful if you could 'try before you buy' - or at least have access to independent 'Which?' style consumer guides to assistive technologies? The BRITE Initiative offers both. We can also help you to get the best from the technology you already have.

Ask your BRITE link(s) about the Equipment Loan Bank Pilot. Many colleges currently have assistive technologies on loan this way - benefiting lots of students as a result. Not sure who your college's BRITE link(s) are? Log on to the BRITE website for a fully searchable list.

*"Staff can get so caught up in 'fire-fighting' the burning issues that we sometimes overlook the importance of stepping back to take an overview."*

## Where does BRITE fit in?

Maybe your team could benefit from getting away and having time to reflect? If it has got anything to do with Inclusiveness, then your team meeting could take place in the BRITE Centre in Edinburgh. The Centre was purpose-built in 2002 - to help the sector 'get to grips' with the Beattie Agenda.

You may have your own agenda - or it might be helpful to have the meeting facilitated by one of the BRITE Initiative staff? If this sounds interesting to you, talk to us about how we can help.

*"I think our college is quite a long way down the road to Inclusiveness but we're at the stage of reviewing our progress and we'd welcome comments from an outside perspective."*

## What's that got to do with BRITE?

As the BRITE link participants have returned to their colleges on completion of the initial training, many of them have said that the biggest challenge is embedding what they've learned and keeping up the momentum as far as developing good practice is concerned.

If you feel that an external facilitator can help to keep up the momentum, or breathe fresh life into a flagging agenda, talk to us! BRITE staff are experienced in helping teams to develop and apply quality standards in the areas of Inclusiveness, Assistive Technologies and Curricular Access.