THE UNIVERSITY OF OPPORTUNITY

Learning and Skills Research Network

Making Space for Collaborative Research Networks across 5 Black Country Colleges

Naomi Knott & Julie Wilde

Making Space for Collaborative Research Networks across 5 Black Country Colleges

In this presentation we will share:

A brief context for the LSRN Black Country Colleges.

Connecting constellations – How it came about.

Naomi Research Networking in FE & The Sandwell College Research Group

Julie initiating the recommendations from a longitudinal study – beyond ITE in FE.

Developments over time in pictures and stories from the Black Country Colleges LSRN events.

Context for the LSRN Black Country Colleges

LSRN –The Learning and Skills Network is an open network enabling people interested in research and the use of evidence to share ideas and work together. It has no formal structure or funding. People volunteer for tasks and sponsors help support activities. Convenors organise events in the regions and a National Planning Group does the same nationally.

History

The Learning and Skills Research Network (LSRN) was set up in 1997 by a group of individuals from further, adult and higher education who had met together at a workshop on research in FE in 1996. Andrew Morris continues to be involved.







Looking forward.

‡5th Annual conference – Wolverhampton College

‡2nd Edition of FocusED – March 2026

‡ Events booked throughout 2026 Dudley & Walsall

‡SiGs – Sustainability, EdTech & SEND – online sessions for ITE