CLEO: a Collaborative Learning Environment Online for Scottish Dental Healthcare

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Healthcare education today …

• The e-imperative
  – user expectations
  – economies of scale and synergies of connectivity
  – maturing technology and standards

• Varying levels of online learning and teaching

• Poor connections between subject groups (NGO focus on institutions and sectors)

• Many forms and mixtures of blended practice

• Many reinvented wheels and cottage industries

• Many opportunities lost for lack of common ground

• Need for better return on investment, access, shared services

• Need to support subject/domain focused activities
Collaborative Learning Environments

- Extended intranets - communal networks
- Federated, diversified, pluralistic
- Subject or domain focus - NoPs and CoPs
- Participation at different times, rates and levels
- Latitude: breadth of associated professional domains
- Longitude: tertiary - postgraduate - lifelong learning

Principles:
- Common services such as devolved authentication
- Based on common standards and specifications (IMS, SCORM, MedBiquitous)
- Local control and identity
- Portal or thin client architecture and presentation
- Joining people, not just information
A CLEO model for healthcare

NHS services

JISC services

university VLE

college VLE

NHS centre

NES services

commercial providers

open source providers
The CLEO user perspective

- central services
- central content
- subscriber content
- subscriber users
- subscriber services
- third party services
- third party content
Subscribers and Providers

• Universities and Colleges
• NHS Education Scotland
  – NHS Scotland e-Library
  – NES ePortfolio
• NGOs: SFC, NHS, GDC, HEA-SS, JISC RSCs
• Repositories: JORUM, HEAL, BioMed
• Publishers: journals, ebooks, CAL materials, knowledgebases
• Tools: wikis, blogs, portfolios, file stores, ‘casts, feeds, mashups
• International groups and organisations
• Patient groups - the public face
• Research communities - grid
• User tools: My Space, Facebook, Flickr etc (ref PLE Project)
Issues

- Politics
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- Partner asymmetry: capabilities and levels
- Parental reluctance and inertia
- Extent of coupling - exponential complexity
- Standards and specifications still in flux (or absent)
- Match between capacity, capability and intent
- Politics
Opportunities

- Shared teaching and learning materials
- Opportunities for joint courses
- Common professional services: e-portfolios, knowledgebases
- Economies of scale and return on investment
- Extended professional learning communities
- Alignment with needs and expectations of ‘digital natives’ - learner empowerment
- Locally-defined speed and extent of participation
- Massively increased transparency, communication, engagement and access - particularly with previously peripheral communities
- Affords the next round of the possible - double loop thinking
- Exemplar to other communities of practice, both for individual subscribers and the Scottish dental community as a whole
The way forward

- Steady state - closed shops and cottage industries
- Externality … is always elsewhere
- Technocaracacy - focuses only on pipes and boxes
- Monocultures - BbCT world

or

- Federation

- CLEO main proposal submitted (NES and SFC)
- CLEO study well under way
- …