Jisc Change Agents' Network

1. What is the Jisc Change Agents' Network?

The Change Agents' Network (http://can.jiscinvolve.org) currently:

- Supports students working as change agents, digital pioneers, student fellows and students working in partnership with staff on technology related change projects
- Connects staff and students in colleges and universities across the UK working on such projects
- Communicates, disseminates and influences the sharing of good practice
- Publishes the open access Journal of Educational Innovation, Partnership & Change
- Runs an accredited course on being a Change Agent/Institutional Change Leader through SEDA

2. Background and context:

In response to the strong 'students as partners and change agents' theme emerging from a number of Jisc projects from 2010 onwards and in recognising that student change agents are a key enabler in the area of technology change, Jisc has funded the Change Agents' Network to disseminate the learning from these projects more widely and support other institutions in implementing staff-student partnerships. The Change Agents' Network, is supported by the NUS, HEFCE, QAA, QAA Scotland, HEA, RAISE Network and Students as Partners Network (Wales) with representation from these organisations on the Network Advisory Group. Please contribute to the current list of Student Engagement/Partnership Initiatives and Resources of the Advisory group members at
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1XFclQBIRDUewVWLayOwpvrBlTfOZbPWe7UDYbKI01HY/edit

The Network is now an established network of students and staff working on curriculum enhancement and innovation projects. Key Change Agents Network activities include facilitation of networking and peer support; development of an accreditation framework through SEDA for students as change agents and staff working in partnership with students; formation of an open access Journal of Educational Innovation, Partnership and Change, the establishment of a Jiscmail mailing list to support the community of practice and the development of a "Student Partnerships Toolkit" to support institutions in change processes associated with student partnership initiatives, based on the University of Ulster's Viewpoints change framework.

The network has 115 members who have joined the CAN@jiscmail.ac.uk mailing list; 201 followers of the @CANagogy Twitter account; and has delivered over ten workshops and presentations at national conferences over the past 6 months reaching over 500 staff and students. The network has a new web presence at http://can.jiscinvolve.org which we are in the process of developing.

3. Change Agents Network project team:

- Sarah Knight, Senior Co-design Manager is managing the activities of the Change Agents' Network from Jisc

- Ellen Lessner, Change Agents' Network Co-ordinator

- Mark Kerrigan, Anglia Ruskin University and Simon Walker, University of Greenwich, are leading the accreditation of on the SEDA Institutional Change Leader award, the development of the CANLearn online course supporting the award and leading the development and publishing of the Journal of Educational Innovation, Partnership and Change.

- Peter Chatterton, Consultant responsible for further developments of the Student partnership toolkit and for developing plans to expand the network to FE and Skills and employers.

- Clare Killen, Case study journalist responsible for gathering and authoring examples of institutional practice

4. Change Agents' Network events

A face to face networking event is scheduled for 17th and 18th March in Birmingham. We will have capacity for 100 participants and we will be developing the agenda for this event over the next month. We will request support from Advisory Group members in contributing to and promoting this event to staff and students.

5. Change Agents' Network Webinar series

The Change Agents' Network will be running a series of webinars to support the sharing of best practice across the FE and Skills and HE community, from students working as change agents, digital pioneers, student fellows and students working in partnership with staff on technology related change projects. The following webinars are confirmed:

- **27th January 12:30 – 13:30** – Ellie Russell, NUS, Principles for effective Student Engagement and Jim Pettiward, London Metropolitan University, Clued Up! project: How students and staff can explore digital literacies together
- **18th February 12:30 – 13:30** UCL DigiFest (http://ucldigifest.org/) (Speakers to be confirmed) and Julie Wintrup, RAISE Network
- **27th April 12:30 – 13:30,** Gillian Fielding and Rebecca McCready, UCISA Digital Capability survey results and how this impacts on staff-student partnership working
- **13th May 12:30 – 13:30** Deborah Millar, Blackburn College and the DigiPals initiative

Further information about these sessions together with the registrations forms will be available shortly.

6. Change Agents' Network Case studies of Institutional Practice

We are in the process of gathering examples of institutional practice from colleges and universities on student-staff partnership working and from institutions supporting students as change agents, digital pioneers or student fellows. We will be publishing these on the Change Agents Network website at http://can.jiscinvolve.org and hope to collate a range of examples from projects just starting out to mature examples where practice is embedded as part of the institutional strategy

for student engagement and curriculum development. Clare Killen will be authoring these case studies.

7. Journal of Educational Innovation, Partnership and Change

We received 29 papers for the inaugural issue of the network's Journal of Educational Innovation, Partnership & Change – an edition exploring how staff and students are working in partnership to identify, lead and deliver change in education. Sarah Knight is a guest editor for the first issue alongside Mark Kerrigan who works as the journal editor. Linda Bennett, a nationally published crime writer and expert in academic publishing manages the journal. Articles are in the process of being reviewed with a maximum of 10 papers being accepted for this first edition. The team are working with the Jisc Communications team to ensure appropriate Jisc branding of the journal which will be launched in the new year at Jisc DigiFest Conference on 9/10 March.

Further information is available from https://journals.gre.ac.uk/index.php/studentchangeagents

8. CAN SEDA Accredited Programme for Agents of Change – Institutional Change Leader award

The Network has now completed the SEDA accreditation process for the Institutional Change Leader programme, a National award. The award comprises of an online course, delivered via Moodle (http://www.CANLearn.co.uk) and a reflective portfolio. The award has been designed to recognise and support staff and students, working in partnership, in the area of managing and delivering change. The online course is assessed using automated technology and named tutors support and mark the portfolio. The portfolio is based on a named project undertaken, or supported by, the participant. The assessment of the award is pass or fail. It is expected that the online course take no more than 18 hours to complete and the portfolio (3000 words) will require approximately 30 hours of effort (excluding project delivery). To be eligible for the programme participants must be: (1) a student undertaking a change agent project, (2) a member of staff supporting a student change agent project, (3) a student having completed a change project within 12 months of starting the programme or 4) a member of staff having supported a student complete a change project within 12 months of starting the programme. Currently this programme is only available to those registered at UK FE/HE institutions.

The course was submitted to the SEDA-PDF committee and is aligned to the SEDA award 'Responding to Change in Higher Education'. We have now had confirmation that the award has been recognized and accredited. The team are in the process of planning the marketing materials for the award and would welcome your comments and feedback on this Google doc:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1RlTK5UwvtKHaPpQcaKmM7XQ7RGMdYD4c4259DjogITQ/edit