

Company: Hair-Net

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Company information:

HairNet: Supporting e-Learning in the Workplace. Whilst it is true that e-Learning is very under used in hairdressing salons our young people are very technology aware, owning and using smart phones to access social network sites and the internet daily. Recent research indicates that e-learning has the potential, if used appropriately, to support formal as well as informal learning in the workplace and to speed up programme achievement. HairNet is a network of hairdressing training providers working together to promote and improve our sector practice of workplace e-learning specifically with apprentices. The Learning and Skills Improvement Service (LSIS) has supported our initiative by funding the set up of HairNet through its regional responsiveness fund (RRF).

□□ The concept of HairNet was devised by Teresa Mullin of KM Training Ltd, who identified two needs in the sector:

□□ 1. Although there were excellent resources online for hairdressers the majority of these required regular subscriptions and in a period of recession, additional fees may be preventing employers and learners from accessing hairdressing resources online. HairNet Response: Our exciting, online site was launched www.hair-net.co.uk, which brings together all the 'free' resources that are available for educators and all personnel in the industry to access. There is even the opportunity to upload your own resources and all go through a vetting process first to ensure the site is safeguarded in so far as possible. In this way the industry can develop and expand the HairNet resources organically. Links can be found to many hairdressing resources categorised by subject. These are free training and learning resources that can be used in-house to promote and enhance learning and for up skilling. The website is designed to complement other online learning resources available on the market such as U2Learn.

□□ 2. When attending training meetings, many hairdressing providers were finding issues raised too general and not always applicable to our sector. It was felt that a network specifically for the hairdressing industry would be more sensitive to the particularities of our industry. In this way good sector practice could be developed from the bottom up. HairNet Response: A Joint Practice Development (JPD) network initially consisting of ten member organisations who all have connections with hairdressing work-based learning. Some members represent colleges and others training providers. The network was formed to improve the

hairdressing sector practice by exploring and sharing resources, experiences of e-learning and demonstrate good practice. □ Member organisations have also worked on using webinars for conferencing and teaching where salon groups can be linked to hold discussions and for teaching and learning presentations to cut out the need to travel and share specialism. We hope to support the development of other regional HairNet JPDs. If you would be interested in hosting one in your region, please contact us on onsishairnet@yahoo.co.uk. □ □ Please take the time to have a look at the website yourself and leave us your feedback. Keep an eye out for news on how HairNet develops! □