

## **Commission of Inquiry calls for evidence on lifelong learning, migration and communities**

The Independent Commission of Inquiry into the Future for Lifelong Learning, sponsored by NIACE, is putting out a public call for evidence on lifelong learning, migration and communities. Interested individuals and organisations are invited to submit evidence to the Commission by Thursday 20th March 2008.

Helen Plant, Senior Research Officer for the Commission, said:

“Over the past half-century migration has been a constant but changing phenomenon shaping society in the UK. The different experiences of both migrant and host communities in responding to these patterns raise critical questions about how to develop a notion of citizenship, based on shared identity and a sense of belonging within an open and diverse society. Greater understanding is needed of the ways in which lifelong learning can contribute to enabling people to live and thrive together, from language learning to skills’ adaptation and qualifications’ recognition, to the role of learning in providing a space for social interaction.”

In particular, the Commission invites evidence on the following areas:

What does the evidence tell us about the impact of lifelong learning on migration and communities?

Where are the gaps in evidence in relation to this theme?

What key messages for the Inquiry should be extracted?

How can lifelong learning engage in a more substantial and sustained way with the social cohesion agenda?

What kinds of lifelong learning can help to foster social cohesion?

What approaches and frameworks are needed to meet the diverse learning needs of both migrant and settled communities?