

An Chomhairle
Mhúinteoireachta

The Teaching Council



Title of Research Project: How do Further Education and Training (FET) Teachers engage with Continuing Professional Development (CPD) in South-West Ireland?

Researchers: Anne O'Mahony and Helen Kelliher



Contact Details: anne.omahony@outlook.com

Relevant key words: Further Education and Training; Qualitative Research; Experiences of Professional Learning and Development; Formal; Non-formal; Informal; Incidental Learning; Organisational Training

Summary:

This study provided an opportunity for FET teachers in the South-West of Ireland to come together and to share their experiences of their professional Learning & development. Our research questions were: i) What are the psychological conditions of personal engagement for FET teachers in their work role? ii) What is Professional Learning and Development for FET teachers? Results from this qualitative study are drawn from data collected in 3 focus groups and twelve semi-structured interviews that took place in differing locations in Cork and Kerry. Participants represented the broad range of professionals working in the FET sector: Adult Basic Education, Further Education, Youthreach and Vocational Training.

Results from the study highlight the meaningfulness for FET teachers of their role in the provision of a valued service to learners and society. Other factors included a felt sense of autonomy, challenge and satisfaction in their role as FET teachers. Most employer provision of CPD consisted of organisational training. However, participants had a much broader view spanning their personal and professional lives and included formal, non-formal, informal and incidental learning. By exploring participant's experiences, a contribution is made to what is known about the CPD needs and requirements of FET teachers.

Published: May 2020