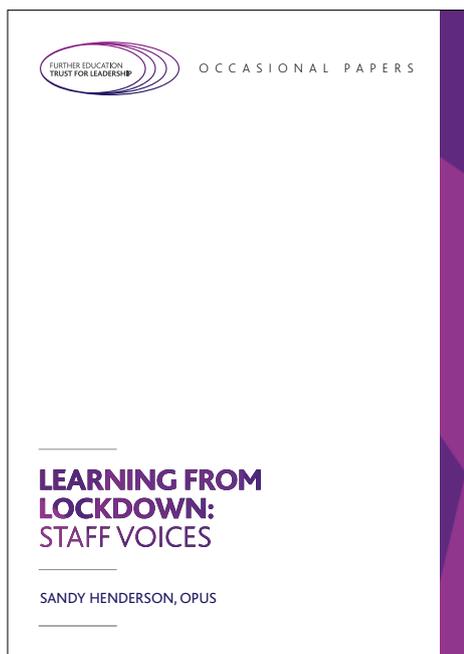


Learning from lockdown

A new report from FETL uses 'listening post' methodology to draw key lessons from the response of further education staff and leaders to the COVID-19 lockdown

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The agency shown by further education staff in responding to the challenges of the COVID-19 crisis suggests that there is much untapped talent in the sector that could be used better.

This is one of the findings of a new report, *Learning from lockdown: Staff voices*, developed by Sandy Henderson of education charity OPUS and funded by the Further Education Trust for Leadership (FETL), that aims to understand how the sector has responded to the lockdown and what we can learn from it.

This report reflects intelligently on the experiences of further education staff during the lockdown, using the 'listening post' methodology developed by OPUS and used in a previous FETL publication, *Leading by listening: Reflective learning*. This innovative methodology uses group discussion with participants to unearth themes that speak to the experience of the whole sector.

In this case, 19 listening posts took place online between September and November with staff representatives of different parts of the FE workforce, with five further individual discussions with senior leaders.

Dame Ruth Silver, President of FETL, said: 'FETL is pleased to support and to commend this excellent and timely report. The COVID-19 pandemic has tested our resources, our

resilience and our creativity. It has reminded us of our interdependence, as well as of the frailty of our social contract. And while it has taken a huge personal and social toll, it has also revealed hidden reservoirs of strength and hope on which we might build.

'Understanding what has happened and learning from it will be crucial if we are to build on these glimmers of hope in a positive, creative and inclusive way. The results presented here highlight the issues the sector has been struggling with during the pandemic, indicating both the challenges faced by colleagues and the way in which staff and leaders have responded. The treatment is nuanced and illuminating, covering a wide range of relevant themes. The report deserves to be widely read.'

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