

# Paper D1

## The new URC Learning Hub

### Education and Learning Committee

#### Basic information

<b>Contact name and email address</b>	Secretary for Education and Learning: <a href="mailto:jenny.mills@urc.org.uk">jenny.mills@urc.org.uk</a> Instructional Designer: <a href="mailto:anne.hewling@urc.org.uk">anne.hewling@urc.org.uk</a>
<b>Action required</b>	None.
<b>Draft resolution(s)</b>	<b>None.</b>

#### Summary of content

<b>Subject and aim(s)</b>	Update on the URC Learning Hub.
<b>Main points</b>	The URC Learning Hub is the new home for all the URC blended learning and self-access online learning programmes.
<b>Previous relevant documents</b>	Education and Learning report Mission Council 15 to 17 March 2021 Paper D1 (4).
<b>Consultation has taken place with...</b>	Stepwise and those using the previous URCLÉ storage space.

#### Summary of impact

<b>Financial</b>	Already covered in budget: eLearn Design for hosting and tech support; minor increase only as it consolidates two previous spaces for resource storage and access.
<b>External (e.g. ecumenical)</b>	Is Moodle based and a universally understood resource space.

1. The URC Learning Hub is the new home for all the URC blended learning and self-access online learning programmes. It is an updated and expanded version of the platform that has successfully delivered the Stepwise programme over the last couple of years.
2. The system is based on software used by many educational institutions, including the URC Resource Centres for Learning. The move to the new Hub is a response to new technical options, user expectations, and accessibility requirements. Also, the need for a more flexible system than URCLÉ, and one that is easily adjustable to changing needs (expansion or reduction) and is thus futureproof.

3. The system is currently managed within Education and Learning by the Instructional Designer who has overall responsibility for maintenance of the Hub and liaison with our specialist external technical support provider: eLearn Design.
  4. Access to the Hub is available to all URC members. Access is usually granted through registration for particular programmes, eg Stepwise, or the Church Leadership Programme. However, anyone within the URC can apply for access, and within the Hub they will find some courses and programmes which offer open-access, self-paced content, eg foundation level Safeguarding. Other programmes are delivered by a combination of self-access online materials and in person group work and are available via a simple sign-up process, eg Stepwise. materials that are purely informational, reports and other resources that are not part of a blended or self-contained self-access programme, will not be stored in the Hub, although certain resources for the EM2 continuing education programme and core training materials used by Training and Development Officers will be located there.
  5. Details of all programmes housed in the Hub are available in the Hub, and will be available on the URC website, and on request from Education and Learning. It is anticipated that most people will enrol in the Hub by enrolling in one of the programmes it houses. Programmes currently in the Hub, and / or under development are:
    - Stepwise – Faith-filled Life
    - Stepwise – Faith-fuelled Leadership
    - Stepwise – Faith-filled Confidence
    - Stepwise – Faith-filled Community
    - Stepwise – Faith-filled Worship
    - Church Leadership Programme
    - Exploring Eldership
    - Safeguarding.
  6. Each programme within the Hub has a co-ordinator who is the contact point for that programme within the Hub.
  7. Programme Co-ordinators:
    - enrol participants into the specific programme for which they have responsibility
    - monitor enrolment and, where necessary, mark completion (possibly issuing a completion certificate if required)
    - highlight and chase non-completion
    - may unenroll participants (eg if they withdraw from a specific programme), although main Hub registration will endure until a participant is no longer in URC, or otherwise no longer in a position to use the Hub resources.
- Co-ordinators will also advise participants on straightforward login enquiries, eg lost passwords, but will refer complicated user queries to ID, along with queries about content, and requests from users or authors for site changes or development.
8. Proposals to effect substantial changes to uploaded content, or to develop new programmes will be actioned through the Secretary for Education and Learning.