

About our company: CENTRA Education and Training Ltd

- A not-for-profit charity – founded in 1839
- Owned but not controlled by all the FE and Sixth Form colleges in the North West
- A stakeholder and employer for ABC Awards (a national awarding body)

CENTRA provides support services, consultancy and CPD for individuals, government bodies, schools, colleges and training providers, including:

- Overcoming dyslexia – through its national IDL software and training support programmes
- IT support for schools, colleges etc
- In-house and seminar programmes for educators
- Vocational training – accessing public funds to improve skills for employability

Early history

CENTRA's origins date back to 1839, when it was formed as the Union of Lancashire and Cheshire Institutes (ULCI). This was one of Britain's first vocational examining and training bodies for the new commercial and industrial sectors, evolving in the industrial heartland of the North West.

ULCI/CENTRA is one of the oldest education associations in the country, pre-dating the Board of Education and Local Education Authorities. ULCI started to examine in 1847: the Royal Society of Arts in 1854 and City and Guilds in 1879. Lord Beaconsfield, Charles Dickens and William Gladstone were actively involved on the Council of ULCI. King George VI became patron in 1939, by which time 176,000 students attended classes and exam candidates numbered 36,000 (98,000 subject entries).

More recent history

The ULCI merged with the NWRAC (North Western Regional Advisory Council) in 1976. In 1988, NWRAC/ULCI became CENTRA (the Further Education Centre for the Regional Association of LEAs). During the following years, LEA subscription income was gradually withdrawn and CENTRA became self-financing in April 1993.

In 1994, CENTRA achieved corporate status as CENTRA (Education and Training Services) Ltd with a Board of Directors taking over from the North West LEAs. In 2000, CENTRA along with AOSEC, EMFEC and Learning South West formed the Awarding Body Consortium Ltd (ABC) to provide its examining functions nationally.

CENTRA Ltd has charitable status as a result of its provision of services to the education sector.

Further information and a demonstration of the IDL programme is available via our website: www.dyslexia-products.com

Alternatively, contact Paul Howarth on 01257 244909 paulh@centra.org.uk or Ros Hynes on 07912 122429/01257 244916 rosh@centra.org.uk