Practice Tutors – Integrating Learning and Employability

Conference or Workshop Item

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Practice Tutors – Integrating Learning and Employability
School of Computing and Communication

**Building recognition: The ePortfolio**
- **Context**: Practice tutors investigate, get to know and understand the work environment of the apprentice.
- **Interpretation**: This enables them to interpret the module content and explain how it is relevant to the specific apprentice and the apprenticeship.
- **Scaffolding**: They do this by informally relating explicit and implicit learning outcomes in the modules to the knowledge, skills and behaviours in the work environment.
- **Reflecting**: They help apprentices reflect on how new knowledge, skills and behaviours have been demonstrated in the workplace which are then recorded in an ePortfolio.
- **Experienced friend**: Building on their own experiences practice tutors add value to the reflections by putting them in a wider context.
- **Preparing**: They help relate these experiences to job descriptions and professional standards that may help with promotions and future employment opportunities.

**Developing resilience: Solving problems**
- **Identification**: Practice tutors identify barriers to study. This could be lack of study time, a poor work environment, or a lack of entry level skills, etc.
- **Investigate**: They draw together information from a range of sources. The apprentice, the employer, apprenticeship program delivery manager, and module tutors.
- **Negotiate solutions**: They build solutions that integrate the competing demands of the stakeholders in collaboration with the apprentice: developing their skills.
- **Support implementation**: The apprentice owns the solution, but the practice tutor helps track its outcome. This can be light touch, or more intensive depending on the apprentice.
- **Feedback**: They initialise feedforward loops to ensure that as the apprentice moves on in the programme they are ready for new challenges.