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.