Learning and Teaching within DkIT: A 10 Point Strategy Implementation Plan which seeks to enhance the student learning experience, and inter-relatedly, promote continuing professional development (CPD) among staff, confirming and developing the effectiveness of their own practices. My role as Head of Learning and Teaching:

1. In the context of student learning, work closely with staff in supporting and developing initiatives on transition and retention; promote and develop plans for the setting up of a Student Learning/Resource/Support Centre; contribute to the development and validation/revalidation of courses, the curriculum in general; promote agreement and understanding of graduate qualities and how these may be embedded.

2. Design and implement, for all staff of the Institute who have a teaching or teaching support role, a Professional Development Framework (PDF) that is inclusive and provides opportunities for continuing professional development.

3. In pursuance of the above, plan, design and teach a Master’s programme in Learning and Teaching in Higher Education, details of which are presented below.

4. Also in the context of continuing professional development, plan, organise and teach an Academic Induction programme for new and recently appointed staff.

5. Provide relevant Training Events focusing on e-learning, student-centred teaching and effective research supervision.

6. Provide additional support for staff by designing and writing a Learning and Teaching resource that would be available online to all staff of the Institute.

7. Design and teach a professional development course in Mentoring (for example, a Certificate in Mentoring) for those wishing to become skilled in classroom observation and feedback within departments; for those wishing to be accredited for their ongoing work in this field.

8. Advance scholarship in learning and teaching through: the proposed new Master’s programme in Learning and Teaching; doctoral supervision; the Institute’s own research agenda and external funding and research groups, for example: the All Ireland Society for Higher Education (AISHE) and LIN (Learning Innovation Network); and through disseminating research and curriculum initiatives in teaching and learning carried out/achieved by DkIT staff.

9. Embed e-learning in all modules of the new Master’s, ‘modelling’ its application to learning and teaching; in consultation with others, develop and teach new modules specifically on e-learning and e-pedagogy. Develop leadership in higher education as an area of research and teaching within the Master’s.

10. In the interests of student transition, collegiality and out-reach, provide other teachers/educators in the Dundalk area (those working in second and third level education, in the Health Service and related professions), with access to Learning and Teaching courses, for example the new Master’s in Learning and Teaching referred to above.