

CLEO: a Collaborative Learning Environment Online for Scottish Dental Healthcare

Dr Rachel Ellaway
e-Learning Manager

**College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine,
The University of Edinburgh**

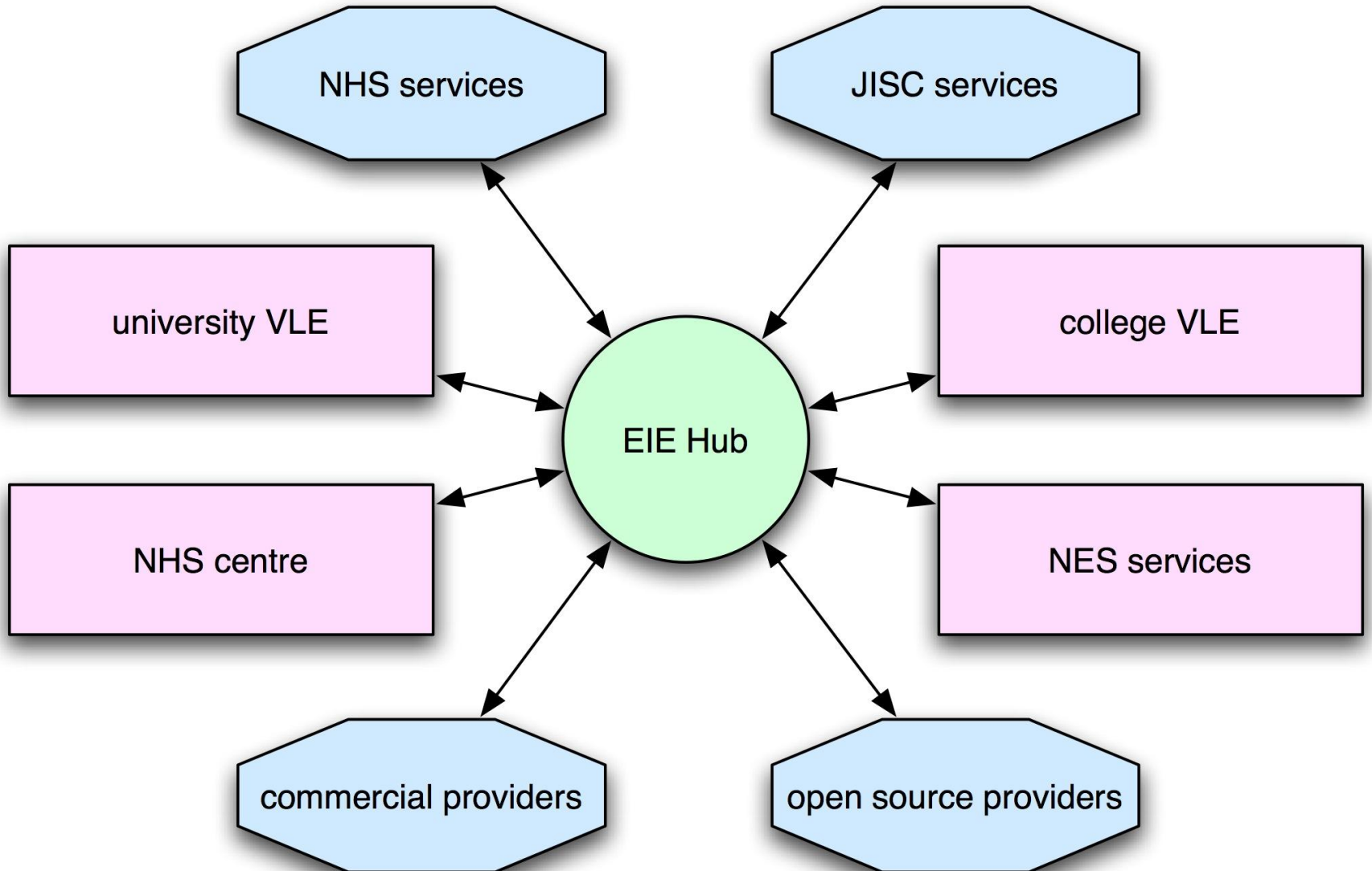
Healthcare education today ...

- The e-imperative
 - user expectations
 - economies of scale and synergies of connectivity
 - maturing technology and standards
- Varying levels of online learning and teaching
- Poor connections between subject groups (NGO focus on institutions and sectors)
- Many forms and mixtures of blended practice
- Many reinvented wheels and cottage industries
- Many opportunities lost for lack of common ground
- Need for better return on investment, access, shared services
- Need to support subject/domain focused activities

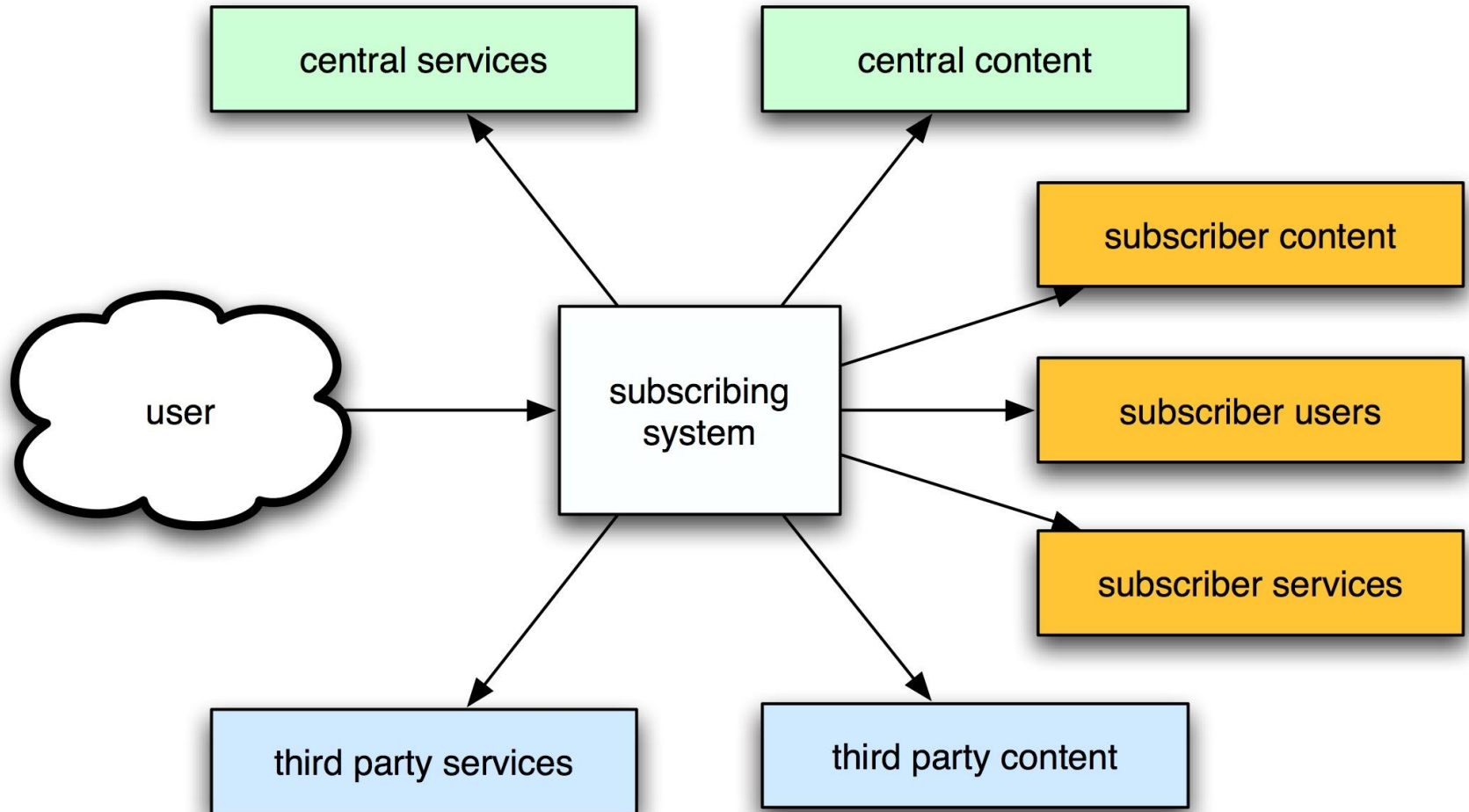
Collaborative Learning Environments

- Extended intranets - communal networks
- Federated, diversified, pluralistic
- Subject or domain focus - NoPs and CoPs
- Participation at different times, rates and levels
- Latitude: breadth of associated professional domains
- Longitude: tertiary - postgraduate - lifelong learning
- Principles:
 - Common services such as devolved authentication
 - Based on common standards and specifications (IMS, SCORM, MedBiquitous)
 - Local control and identity
 - Portal or thin client architecture and presentation
 - Joining people, not just information

A CLEO model for healthcare



The CLEO user perspective



Subscribers and Providers

- Universities and Colleges
- NHS Education Scotland
 - NHS Scotland e-Library
 - NES ePortfolio
- NGOs: SFC, NHS, GDC, HEA-SS, JISC RSCs
- Repositories: JORUM, HEAL, BioMed
- Publishers: journals, ebooks, CAL materials, knowledgebases
- Tools: wikis, blogs, portfolios, file stores, 'casts, feeds, mashups
- International groups and organisations
- Patient groups - the public face
- Research communities - grid
- User tools: My Space, Facebook, Flickr etc (ref PLE Project)

Issues

- Politics
- Politics
- Politics
- Partner asymmetry: capabilities and levels
- Parental reluctance and inertia
- Extent of coupling - exponential complexity
- Standards and specifications still in flux (or absent)
- Match between capacity, capability and intent
- Politics

Opportunities

- Shared teaching and learning materials
- Opportunities for joint courses
- Common professional services: e-portfolios, knowledgebases
- Economies of scale and return on investment
- Extended professional learning communities
- Alignment with needs and expectations of 'digital natives' - learner empowerment
- Locally-defined speed and extent of participation
- Massively increased transparency, communication, engagement and access - particularly with previously peripheral communities
- Affords the next round of the possible - double loop thinking
- Exemplar to other communities of practice, both for individual subscribers and the Scottish dental community as a whole

The way forward

- Steady state - closed shops and cottage industries
- Externality ... is always elsewhere
- Technocracy - focuses only on pipes and boxes
- Monocultures - BbCT world

or

- Federation

- CLEO main proposal submitted (NES and SFC)
- CLEO study well under way
- ...