Experience of Professional Development Weeks on an LLB

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Background

- Previously: Reading weeks/Guided learning weeks
- University replaced these with teaching weeks
- Law team responded positively with ‘Professional Development Weeks’
Content of activities

- Outside practitioners, including magistrates and probation officers
- Non-law graduate opportunities
- Employability sessions
- Volunteering opportunities
- Studying & working
- Mooting
- Court visits
- Student research presentations
- Charity concert
Purpose and benefits

- Employability
- Building networks
- Student experience-sharing
- Wider education
- Complementary practitioner perspective
- Professionalism & attitude
Downside

• Loss of reading weeks/guided learning weeks
• Poor student attendance
• Increased tutor workload
• Risk to tutor/university professional reputation
Discussion issues

- We listened, we did, the students didn’t!
- Involving Student Law Society?
- Professional Development year?
- Any other ideas?
- Your experience?