

Making it Happen

The Community Learning Newsletter - Autumn 2016
Focusing on Post-16 and Adult Learning in West Berkshire

This issue of Making It Happen promotes West Berkshire Council's **Elevate** and **Community Learning** services focusing on courses, providers, partnerships and local sector news and updates.

Making a Difference Locally

The community learning team launched an annual telephone survey in April to investigate the impact of learning on adults and families across West Berkshire. The survey demonstrates the positive effect learning has on individual lives and supports the Council's priorities for the post 16 education service with a specific focus on:

- Developing Employment and Education Opportunities
- Improving Health and Wellbeing
- Widening Community Development
- Supporting Families

The research was carried out by J2Profit Services using a sample base of 299 adults who had attended a community learning course between September 2015 and March 2016.

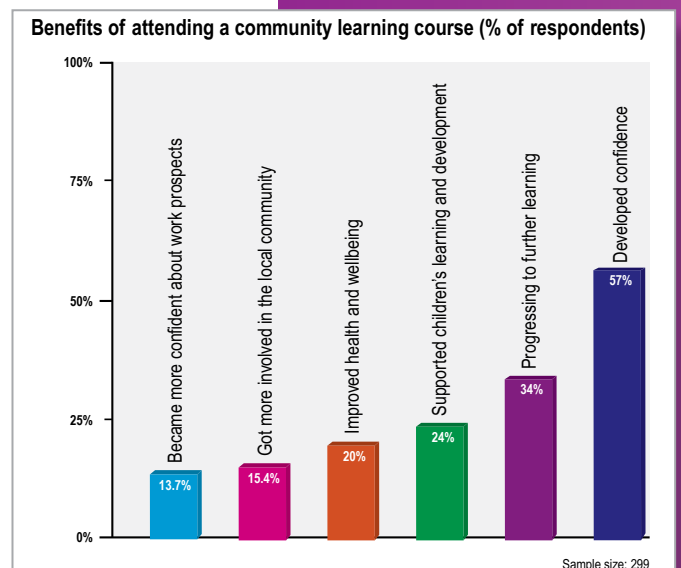
The results reinforced a number of national, European and international **research studies** in to the effects of post compulsory

education on individuals, families, communities and the country as a whole. It is clear that many of the outcomes are shared across public services specifically public health, adult social care, schools, early years, economic development and libraries.

As a result the post 16 service has developed a cross service approach to address local need, improve delivery and maximize funding.

The next survey will be conducted in October/ November 2016.

For more information contact the **Community Learning team** or **download the report**.



Community Learning Partnership

The West Berkshire Community Learning Partnership continues to go from strength to strength with over 40 members from local learning providers, funding bodies and community organisations.

The next meeting will be at Newbury College on Wednesday, 7th December at 10:00am. [Click here](#) to join the partnership or contact the **community learning team** for more information.



Working together to improve 16 plus services



Councillor Lynne Doherty

Following the bringing together of the Council's community learning and Elevate post-16 service in

2014, both teams have developed a stronger, coordinated approach to maximize funding and widen the reach and impact of post 16 provision. Although each service retains a distinct brand identity this year will see an increasingly joint approach to areas such as strategy, funding and promotion, including a new Elevate section on page 6. The community learning and Elevate teams are managed by Mark Browne, Post 16 Adviser, and sit within the Council's education service under the responsibility of Councillor Lynne Doherty, Executive Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People.

National Focus

During 2015/16 the conservative government introduced some key changes to the further education sector that reflect the wider impact of post 19 education beyond employment skills and training.

In November 2015 the new Adult Education Budget was announced which brought together community learning and adult skills in to a single funding stream. This was followed by the transfer of the further education sector, which includes community learning, from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) to the Department for Education under Justine Greening MP.

There is now a greater emphasis by the government on devolving decisions

down to regional and local levels. To ensure adults and families across West Berkshire continue to benefit from community learning provision it is important that the impact of the service is promoted across the sector. Tutors and project managers can help by feeding back on success using the course evaluation forms (ACL7), nominating someone for a Learner Achievement Award, sending an article for the newsletter or simply contacting the **community learning team** to promote success on **Facebook** or **Twitter**.



Justine Greening, Secretary of State for Education



Celebrating another successful year

Community learning had another successful year in 2015/16 with a good Ofsted inspection, a wider course offer, new providers and

partnerships, a positive impact research survey and excellent learner achievement.

2015/16 in Numbers

2,641 adults enrolled on a course

408 courses were delivered across the region

20 providers were commissioned to deliver adult and family learning

41 community venues were used

24% of the learners were aged 60+ years

27% of the learners had a learning difficulty/disability

23% of the learners lived in an area of deprivation

33% learners were from an area of low participation in education

Learner Achievement Awards 2016

West Berkshire celebrated the 2016 **Festival of Learning** with the annual Learner Achievement awards at Shaw House in June. Previously called Adult Learners Week the Festival is a national celebration of lifelong learning that takes place in May and June each year.

The West Berkshire awards highlight the wide impact of adult and family learning across the district especially in relation to improving employment opportunities, developing health and wellbeing and supporting families and communities.

The 2017 Learner Achievement awards will be launched in

January and tutors and project managers are encouraged to nominate individual learners, groups, volunteers, employers and colleagues to celebrate success across the district.

For further information on the awards contact the **community learning team**.



LAA 2016 Winners and Councillor Quentin Bell

Ofsted Calling

Following an Ofsted inspection in November 2015 the community learning service in West Berkshire continues to be good.

The inspection highlighted a number of strengths including the outstanding range of courses; the outstanding partnership work and the outstanding achievement of learners who attend community learning courses.

For more information view the special Ofsted issue of **Making It Happen** or download the full report.

Community English Courses

The Berkshire School of English (BSE) is a new English language school in Newbury aimed at non-native-speakers, their families, schools, and businesses across the district.

The community learning team initially worked with the school to support the **Government's Syrian Vulnerable Person programme**, to create a language learning offer to help families explore their new environment, use public transport and communicate in written and spoken English.

During 2016/17 the BSE will be working with the community learning team to deliver ESOL courses (English for Speakers of Other Languages) in Lambourn, Calcot, Thatcham, Newbury and Greenham.

For more information go to the **Berkshire School of English website**.



New Programme to Support Offenders

Browns Community Services CIC has been commissioned by the community learning team to deliver a range of courses across West Berkshire targeting offenders & ex-offenders and those at risk of offending.

The courses, entitled 4E and 3E, are delivered in small groups by tutors experienced in working with adults and families involved in the criminal justice system.

4E courses are designed to Empower, Educate, Encourage service users on a path to Employment.

3E to Wellbeing courses focus on developing positive mental

wellbeing and skills to cope with the normal stresses of daily life, deal with uncertainty, work productively and be part the local community.

Browns will be working with existing services and local partners to ensure the courses address local need and complement existing provision.

For more information go to **the Brown's website** or email: **info@brownscs.co.uk**



Tutor Forum

The next Tutor Forum will be held at Shaw House on Friday, 4th November from 09:00am to 1:00pm. All community learning tutors and project managers are invited to the training which will focus on four key development priorities:

- Being learner centred
- The impact of CL provision
- Update on local courses including new partners
- Embedding healthy lifestyles in course delivery.



Getting involved in the 2015 Tutor Forum

Contact the **community learning team** to book a place.

Local Update

Scene Change is a monthly drama workshop based at the Watermill Theatre. It is aimed at adults who are either carers, recently bereaved, struggling to get back into the community, supported by mental health services, or just need some me-time. [Click here](#) for information or contact **Lixi Chivas** telephone **01635 570918**.

Volunteering is a fantastic way to meet new people, feel valued, get active and learn new skills. Five A Day Market Garden provides volunteering opportunities in an organic market garden which also provides education based activities aimed at adults and children. For more information contact **Pam Goddard** or phone **07939 676 050**.

Adult Leisure Workshops are available at Shaw House and West Berkshire museum and include book binding, crafts,

floral design and picture framing. [Click here](#) for information on the autumn/winter programme.

Developing Local Communities has been an important aspect of community learning for a number of years. The team are continuing to support the Community Council for Berkshire (CCB) to train local volunteers at parish level to support neighbourhood planning, local community investment and community involvement. [Click here](#) for details on the courses and activities delivered by CCB across the district.

Newbury Library is offering free IT sessions to support individuals to develop job search skills and complete on-line job applications. Contact **Rav Gopal** on **01635 519900**

Developing Peer Support

Following a successful Boost parenting course at the **Hungerford and Area Family Wellbeing Centre** some of the learners have been working with the Council's Emotional Health Academy and centre staff to become peer volunteers in order to address mental health concerns.

The role of the volunteer involves working with other parents to help them cope with the difficulties around having a family. The scheme is particularly helpful for mums who need reassurance and social interaction to reduce the risk of mental health issues. Hungerford centre is planning to continue to develop the peer training and will be working with the **Family Wellbeing Hubs** to implement the scheme across West Berkshire.

For more information contact **Shelly Hambrecht** at the Hungerford centre on **01488 682628**



Advice and support on employment, work experience, volunteering and mentoring for 16-24 year olds in West Berkshire

Elevate West Berkshire News

Construction Workshops

Sovereign Housing is working with JCP, Newbury College and building contractor Midgard to provide free information sessions on construction opportunities at the Newbury Racecourse development.

Each session will concentrate on training options, gaining work experience and job opportunities ranging from labourer to trainee document controllers. The sessions will be held in Newbury on the following dates commencing 10:30am:

- Wednesday, 5th October
- Wednesday, 19th October
- Wednesday, 16th November
- Wednesday, 30th November
- Wednesday, 14th December

Applicants should be aged over 18 years and spaces are limited. [Click here](#) to find out more information and to register on a session.

Newbury College Supporting Employment

Newbury College continues to provide a range of [courses](#) and events to develop employment opportunities across the region. In May it hosted the [West Berkshire Work and Careers Fair](#) which attracted over 55 exhibitors and in excess of 500 visitors.

In June the hair and beauty students showcased their talents and in July the engineering students put on an exhibition to display their final projects.

The College has a number of open days and information events throughout the year and individuals are encouraged to contact the College to discuss their training and education needs. The next [open evening](#) will be on 8th November and there are also monthly [apprenticeship information sessions](#) available.



West Berkshire Work and Careers Fair 2016



Engineering students put on exhibition at Newbury College

More than just Information

Elevate West Berkshire provides an Information, Advice and Guidance service to young adults across the district. Delivered by West Berkshire Council's Alex Pye the service focuses on supporting individuals in to employment, education and training through personal 1-1 sessions.

Alex's role is community based and involves going out in to the community to support individuals by identifying needs and working out solutions. Since joining the Elevate team Alex has been able to help many young adults to improve their lives - see recent success stories below (the names have been changed to protect identities).

Harry

"It was great meeting Alex - he was able to quickly see what barriers I have and we worked together to get a realistic plan to overcoming them. The course at the Racecourse was the first of these stepping stones and was great, it was a really good insight into where a career in construction could take me – and how to get started".

Oliver

Aged 24 Oliver lives in a housing association property in Thatcham with his girlfriend and their 2 year old daughter. The couple are in rent arrears and debt for a number of reasons. Oliver has a catering job but is looking to change due to the long shifts, late nights and high pressure. This has affected his health and he has been signed off work with anxiety and depression. As a result, he is on SSP (furthering his debts since he didn't know to notify JCP beforehand).

Alex helped Oliver to identify his strengths which resulted in an interest in a practical, hands-on trade ideally within the construction industry. He was signposted to Sovereign (for debt advice, tenancy support) and a construction workshop to help him explore his options.

Katie

Aged, 19, Katie has a young toddler and was struggling to work out what support was available and how she could build a better future.

Alex signposted Katie to Sovereign Housing for tenancy support and to the Family Information Service to get details on 2 year funding and local childcare providers. He also gave her information on completing her studies having previously attended Newbury College before becoming pregnant.

For more information contact Alex on [07810 056678](tel:07810056678) or email Alex.Pye@westberks.gov.uk



Alex Pye, Elevate West Berkshire

Elevate Website

To find out more about Elevate West Berkshire go to the [Elevate Me website](#) or email elevate@westberks.gov.uk.



Useful West Berkshire Contacts

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Mair Atkins, CL Officer, West
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Learner Services and
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www.newbury-college.ac.uk

U3A Newbury,
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National Careers Service
0800 100 900

Venues for Hire

Calcot Community Learning Centre, Calcot

Tel: 0118 942 7040

Email: calcot@newbury-college.ac.uk

Gateway Adult Learning Centre, Theale

Tel: 0118 930 2741

Email: parthur@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk

Riverside Centre, Clay Hill, Newbury

Email: clayhillra@gmail.com

Adventure Dolphin, Pangbourne

Tel: 0118 984 3162

Email: adventuredolphin@westberks.gov.uk

Phoenix Resource Centre, Newbury

Tel: 01635 520150

Newbury College, Newbury

www.newbury-college.ac.uk/room-hire.html

West Family Wellbeing Hub, Newbury

Contact: Sally Lawson - slawson@victoriapark.w-berks.sch.uk

Central Family Wellbeing Hub, Thatcham

Contact: Paula Craven - paula.craven@westberks.gov.uk

East Family Wellbeing Hub, Calcot

Contact: Jo Roberts - joanne.roberts@westberks.gov.uk

Hungerford and Area Family Wellbeing Centre

Contact: Shelly Hambrecht

- Shelly@hungerfordnursery.w-berks.sch.uk

Newbury Community Resource Centre

(Free room hire and car parking) 01635 43933

Contact Us:

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If you require this information in a different format such as audio tape
or in another language please ask an English speaker to contact the
ACL team at the above address.