

Adult Learning Team Report 2012-13

Impacts for Adults & Families –

The Adult Learning Team provides a range of learning opportunities for adults in communities across West Dunbartonshire. These are based on learners' needs and take place in relaxed and informal environments. We work in partnership with other organisations to provide our opportunities and offer guidance and support to learners throughout their learning.

Auchnacraig learners working hard to succeed

In Auchnacraig, learners started a Child Development Course in August 2012. Shona Bennett, the course tutor from West College Scotland - Clydebank Campus, said "this group has progressed at an amazing rate". The learners initially started studying at Intermediate 1 level in Child Development and progressed quickly to Intermediate 2 Play in Early Education. The learners have a positive, hardworking approach and it has been a pleasure to teach them. The group is now studying towards a Group Award which will also include Caring for Children and Working in Early Education and Childcare.

So far 6 learners have secured places at West College Scotland - Clydebank Campus studying childcare & intend having careers in this field. They give much credit to the support they received from CL&D and the quality of the tuition they have received: "the course has increased everyone's confidence, the tutor has helped to make learning easy and people have been encouraged to believe in their own abilities. We know we are good enough to apply for further education. The timing of the course made it easy for us to attend and having a crèche was so important for many of the learners".



Sewing Group learns handy new skills

The Sewing Group has been meeting at the Concord Community Centre for a year, where the course has not only grown in size but, members have grown in confidence too. They started successfully with an Introduction to Sewing and have just completed Fashion and Textile Technology: Design and Make, Home Economics Intermediate 1.

To gain the qualification learners had to choose a pattern, they had to cut and sew the material following the instructions and make any modifications required. At the end of the course, each learner had made an entire outfit. Not only that, but they had used their skills to use old shirts, took up the sleeves and sewn elastic in, so that children at a local Primary School can wear them whilst painting. Brilliant!

The learners reported a lot of positive outcomes from doing the course. The course has given one learner the skills, knowledge and confidence to start up her own alterations company. Additionally learners are not only learning from the tutor, but are helping each other, creating a supportive atmosphere. Some learners said they felt less isolated as a result of coming along to the course.

St Eunan's Primary School IT suite enables Adult Learners to gain new skills

CL&D's IT learners in Clydebank have benefited from using the fabulous IT suite in St Eunan's Primary School. The school has set aside time on Friday mornings to allow parents and friends of St Eunan's to acquire IT skills. The opportunity to learn in such an excellent facility has been hugely popular and a group of 12 learners, most of who started out with no IT skills at all, are now studying Developing Further in IT (SQA Intermediate level 2). "It's been great having the course in St Eunan's. I drop my daughter at school and come directly into class. It just makes everything so easy and the computer suite is so modern and up to date".



Universal Jobmatch Support

Nowadays everything seems to be on the internet, including job vacancies – and it's partly true with the start of the Universal Jobmatch, a job searching website started by the Department for Work and Pensions in November 2012. In order to support people to learn the skills needed to use this website, CL&D Adult Learning set up a Universal Jobmatch drop in, every Tuesday morning in the Concord Community Centre.

At the drop-in, participants learnt about setting up and using email accounts, uploading and completing their CV's, navigating the website and how to apply for jobs using the website.

Each learner was offered individual guidance and support – 10 people in total accessed support; 2 learners have moved onto further ICT courses and another learner attended the SQA Employability Award. We will now be developing this pilot to include other ICT skills for people looking for work.

Family Art Project brightens up Linnvale Primary School

Families in Linnvale Primary School have spent 6 weeks taking part in a CL&D Family Learning programme, creating a mural based on the United Nations Rights of the Child. Adults and children worked together with each making a valuable contribution to the finished product. Parents and children developed their art and design skills with the support of a professional community arts specialist from CAOS.

The stunning mural is now complete.

'The project has been great - it is lovely to see the children and their parents working together on the mural and the results look fantastic' - Lindsay Thomas, Head Teacher, Linnvale Primary School



Families have fun getting fit!

Fit Families is a family learning project focusing on cookery and nutrition, sport and activity and was piloted by the CL&D Adult Learning Team, in partnership with Active Schools, in Our Holy Redeemer Primary School. Parents had complained that it was often difficult to cook a healthy homemade meal on a budget. They were worried that their children were not getting their 'five a day' and that they were not as active as they had been as children.

The cookery and nutrition sessions focussed on healthy cooking on a budget using less salt, fat and sugar. Parents and children worked together to acquire basic cookery skills and also participated in the sport/dance sessions.

Parents commented particularly on how much they had enjoyed taking part in activities with their child. Children were looking forward to helping their parents cook at home and all were trying to eat more healthily. Cooking pizza was extremely popular and Paul (the chef) showed how tasty pizzas could be made using vegetable toppings and low fat cheese. All the learners were amazed at how cheap pizza was to make compared to the cost of a takeaway pizza. One parent said: "I'll never order a stuffed crust pizza again! I can't believe how many calories are in it and they're really expensive. The pizzas we made tasted magic and were dead cheap to make."

Another said, "At first I found the sports and dancing quite hard. I was mortified at how quickly I was out of breath, but it got easier. I'm trying to walk for a while every day now."

Andy MacKay, Active Schools Manager said, 'Fit Families sessions take a holistic approach to the key aspects of Health and Wellbeing – healthy eating and physical activity. Parents have a big role to play in ensuring their children have a healthy diet and are getting enough physical activity and I believe this project can really make a difference.'

CL&D now have Fit Families programmes running in St Peter's Primary School In Dumbarton, Christie Park in Alexandria and Linnvale and St Joseph's Primary Schools in Clydebank.

Working 4 U—Employability Project

A new team was established through the Local Employability Team, based within CL&D. Their task is to assist learners through qualifications, such as the SQA Employability Award or Financial Awareness Award.

Employability Awards

The Employability Award is an introduction to the world of work. The course builds skills to help learners move on in their journey into employment. The award helps participants gain a recognised qualification over a relatively short time and is tailored around local job market and issues. The award includes these units: Preparing for Employment, Building on your Employability Skills and a choice between Responsibilities of Employment or Dealing with Work Situations.

Employability Awards Pilot — Alexandria Library January 2013

We were delighted that 7 learners successfully completed the Employability Awards.

Learners looked at their past skills and experiences and local jobs, differing industries and the skills and expectations of employers and employees.

Learners then looked at sourcing employment opportunities and how to apply for work, contact employers, start their own CV's and preparing for job interviews.



Donnie McGilveray from Bellsmyre Community Development Trust gave a presentation particularly based on job interviews and making good first impressions.

The course then looked at what sort of practices and standards you should expect from an employer and how employers expect you to behave in work etc.

Learners were very happy with the course with 5 of them gaining enough confidence to find out about other learning experiences, one learner has passed the selection stage for an Apprenticeship and another is looking to become self-employed.

Awareness Day Success!

Over 40 Representatives from local organisations attended the partners day in Clydebank Town Hall, January 30th 2013, including Job Centre Plus, West Dunbartonshire Council, West Dunbartonshire Community Health and Care Partnership, DACA, Alternatives, Skills Development Scotland, Bellsmyre Community Trust, Clydebank Housing and East Dunbartonshire Council.

Group information sessions gave delegates the chance to find out about the new courses that WDC are delivering, a chance to raise awareness of individual projects. Comments included "A fabulously organised and very informative event. Well done to the staff who were responsible for designing and delivering this".

Contact Us:

Community Learning &
Development Service

2nd Floor, Rosebery Place

Clydebank

G81 1TG

Tel: 0845 0020674

CommunityLearning&Development@west-dunbarton.gov.uk