

Community Literacies Team Report 2012-13 Impacts for Adults & Families –

The Community Literacies Team offers children, young people and adults support with literacy and numeracy. We design and deliver a range of creative learning opportunities developed to meet the needs of the learners we work with. We have part time staff and over 100 volunteers who work with us to deliver services – in this report we're delighted to highlight just some of the work we've been involved in during 2012-2013. We hope you enjoy reading about it!



Families Reading Together Project

This project ran in Our Holy Redeemer Primary School in partnership with the school, Adult Learning in CL&D and the Library service.

The aim was to encourage and enable parents to be more confident reading and talking with their children and to raise the awareness of the importance of reading together from an early age.

Families took part in lots of fun activities including playing games together- games they could do at home. The group visited the local library to find out about the range of services that the libraries can offer both children and adults.

The end of course evaluations showed that all the parents had felt their confidence had improved and they felt happier helping their children with reading and enjoyed learning new activities which they could do with their children at home.

The Community Literacies Team offer free English classes and ESOL Work Clubs to people who want to improve their speaking, listening, reading and writing.

Between April 2012 - March 2013 we've worked with 89 learners from a range of different countries: Greece, Congo, Thailand, Libya, Russia, Morocco, Burundi, Iran, Poland, Spain, Pakistan, Latvia, China, Italy, Brazil, Slovenia and India.



"My name is Chiara and I come from Italy. I have been in Scotland since one year. I'm going to English classes because I would like to improve my English to be able to understand Scottish people and to speak correctly.

English classes help me to improve my pronunciation because for me it is difficult. I have learnt a lot of new useful words and how to fill my CV. I like to attend English classes because I have met new people.

In the future I would like to find a job and to go on with my English courses".

ESOL Work Clubs

Taher first came to Scotland from Libya as a student but, due to the unstable political situation there, applied for refugee status. He and his family are now settled in Clydebank.

He participated in a CL&D course, "ESOL For Employment" and gained a better understanding of the local labour market, his existing and transferrable skills, barriers to employment and training needs.

He took up other learning opportunities with CL&D completing the Driving Theory Test course and IT Course and has since started a Degree course in Occupational Health and Safety Management Course. He attends an Upper Intermediate ESOL course at West College Scotland - Clydebank Campus.



Employability Support from New Horizons

The New Horizons programme aims to give participants a place to share experiences, reduce isolation and build on their employability skills. The 12 week programme helps participants focus on identifying transferable skills, creating CV's, gain basics in computer skills and goal setting techniques that will improve their overall confidence and employability.

Information inputs are included from the Working 4 U aligned services, CL&D staff, further education providers and voluntary services. These inputs help connect participants to the appropriate next step in their journey to improving their skills level and employment prospects.

Gerry's Goals

Gerry had been unemployed for just under a year and had heard about the New Horizons programme from the Working 4 U One Stop Shop. He has now chosen to change his career path and follow a career in youth work. As he had no previous experience in youth work he now volunteers locally with CL&D youth services. He also gained his SFA coaching certificate which will give him the opportunity to develop his youth work skills, give him the crucial work experience and ensure that he will have references when applying for other youth work jobs in the future. Gerry says "The New Horizons programme has helped me identify what I really want to do as a career, gave me the support & information I needed to make that happen"

Dedicated Adult and Youth Literacies Groups

Literacies groups meet across West Dunbartonshire. Referrals come from various agencies and organisations, as well as self referrals from people who have identified that they want support with reading, writing, spelling and / or numeracy.

The programme for the learner is focussed on the Social Practice model which means that the learning is developed around a person's interests and everyday requirements so that it is relevant to them. All adult literacies learners are placed in a group setting, but work on their own learning plan, supported by a paid group tutor and trained volunteer tutors. Each learning session lasts for 2 hours and learners often attend more than one group.

Learners are offered the opportunity to work towards accredited learning. Most of our staff are SQA Assessors which means learners' achievements are recognised while attending the group in an informal setting. Learners are encouraged to work towards Communication, Numeracy, ICT, Problem Solving and Working with Others up to SQA Qualifications Intermediate 1 level.

The Community Literacies Team is a member of the North Strathclyde Community Justice Authority and contributes to the offender Literacies programme taking place at HMP Low Moss.



Financial Awareness Course:

This course allows young people to look at how finances dictate their conditions in relation to wants and needs. The course raises their awareness of the importance of budgeting skills when in the future they will be responsible for their own finances. During the course the group talk about employment, education and training as options to be explored.



"I didn't realise that owning your own home was so expensive; I suppose I need lots of money, I better get a good job"

Calum 16yr old, Dumbarton

Confidence Building: STEPS to Excellence for adults and PX2 for young people

Both courses are developmental programmes which gives individuals an opportunity to take a fresh look at their lives – it helps them see how much they are truly capable of achieving and offers the tools to make it happen.

The courses confront the beliefs that limit achievement, aiding participants to build a stronger sense of self and an expanded sense of potential and possibility. It helps individuals to move on to build more successful lives.

They are effective programmes for adults and young people who want to build their confidence, self esteem and generally increase their self awareness in all areas of their lives.

*"I feel I have a better, more positive attitude towards tackling life"
STEPS learner*

The Community Literacies Team organises three Supported Study clubs across West Dunbartonshire. The clubs meet one evening a week during term time. Pupils are tutored one-to-one, or in a small group setting, for 1 hour.

The free tutoring service is provided for pupils identified by schools, parents, social workers and other agencies, who would benefit from having one-to-one support or small group tutoring session with a trained volunteer tutor.

Pupils who have fallen behind with their schoolwork are supported to improve their communication, reading, writing, and numeracy skills. All pupils have their own Individual Learning Plan devised with information supplied from the school about what the pupil is working on and needs extra support with.

What pupils, parents, volunteers and teachers said about OSHL:

It's fun. You learn new things. It's interesting. It's great!

Pupil

An excellent programme; long may it continue.

Parent.

I would like to study to become a primary teacher.

Volunteer tutor.

I am very pleased with this pupil's progress. She is far more confident now.

Class Teacher

Volunteering with Community Literacies

Community Learning and Development would like to say a huge thank you to all the volunteers we have worked with over the past year. We have a talented group of volunteers who share their skills, enthusiasm and life experience with children, young people and adults across West Dunbartonshire – we couldn't offer our services without you! So.....

thank you!



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