

Adult Learning Grant celebrates second birthday as

21 per cent of adults in Essex say more learning could get them the job they really want

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The Adult Learning Grant* (ALG) celebrates its second year as a national scheme this year, following several years as a successful pilot. More than 78,000 people who have received financial support to help them re-train or learn a new skill since ALG first began.

ALG, a weekly grant of up to £30, helps people cover the costs of learning. While the scheme already supports many people going back into learning, there are still thousands more who could get real help to learn new skills – for work, a new career or to help build confidence.

A survey of over 3,000 people** shows that more than one in five people in Essex claim they think it would be worthwhile in the long run to get another qualification. In fact, 21 per cent of respondents in Essex felt that more learning could get them the job they really want.

The biggest obstacles preventing people in Essex from considering taking up learning were cited as not having enough money (47 per cent), time constraints (39 per cent), a lack of self-confidence (19 per cent), feeling too old to retrain or pick up a new skill (12 per cent) or a fear of failing (12 per cent).

Caroline Neville, Regional Director of the Learning and Skills Council in the East of England said:

"Learning new skills are vital in whatever job situation you're in, whether you are seeking work or wanting to get on in your current job. Adult Learning Grant provides that vital financial support to help adults access learning that can make you more competitive and more fulfilled in the workplace."

Notes to editors:

* ALG is available to low income adults in England aged 19 or over who are studying full time for a first full level 2 (5 GCSE's at grades A* to C or an NVQ2 or its equivalent) or a first full level 3 (2 A levels or an NVQ3 or its equivalent) qualification.

**Research was commissioned by the Learning & Skills Council in April 2009, 3,323 adults aged 18-56+ took part.

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