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Leading learning and skills

E-Mag[>]

For partners and people interested in learning and skills issues in the East of England

November 09

Update on 16-19 transition in the Eastern Region pg 2-3

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If you require this magazine in an alternative format such as larger print or audio tape, please contact the editor.

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Welcome



to the NEW East of England e-newsletter 'E-Mag'.

I am pleased to introduce the November edition of E-Mag. For the first time our regional magazine is an electronic version and aims to keep you informed of what is happening in our region and update you on the transition process of the LSC and the future learning and skills landscape.

The e-mail summary newsletter provides a bookmark to more details and a magazine style newsletter with links to websites and further information.

At the time of going to press, 'The Apprenticeships, Children, Skills and Learning Bill' has gone to the Lords and if agreed will be enacted in November. We are working together in the transition period and plans have been put together over the summer to ensure a seamless service for learners over the coming months.

The LSC continues to work closely with partners, colleges, providers and employers to encourage people to take that important first step to learning or further learning. The Get On campaign joined forces with Sainsbury's to encourage adults to improve their basic numeracy and literacy skills following research that highlighted shoppers were missing out on the offers due to lack of maths skills.

There are links to various support tools and guidance documents that have been produced. New guidance for FE colleges and providers is intended to help prepare for Ofsted's new 'limiting' equality and diversity inspection grade and the Government's proposed new equality duties.

Celebrations around the region recognise the achievements of young people and adults - three young people gained Medallions of Excellence at WorldSkills Calgary 2009, a surgery in Essex celebrated signing the Skills Pledge and Taxi drivers in Luton were presented with an NVQ by their local mayor.

Caroline Neville
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The editor reserves the right to amend or cut submitted copy.

Update on 16-19 transition in the Eastern region

The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill

The Bill went back to the Lords in mid-October for its final reading so, subject to the will of Parliament, the Bill will be enacted in November and the changeover to the new system will gather pace as we move to the transition date of 1st April 2010.

The shape of the new young people's system is emerging fast and local authorities and the LSC have been working together to ensure that, right across the East of England, we are well-placed for a smooth transfer to the new system. There is undoubtedly much more work to be done and we are reaching the most challenging point over the Autumn as we also move into the business cycle for 2010/11, but we will work jointly with our partners and providers to ensure we develop a system that will benefit all of our learners.

Working together in the transition period

Work has been done over the summer to develop plans for how the local authorities, Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA), National Apprenticeship Service (NAS), Skills Funding Agency (SFA) and Government Office for the region will work together in the future to deliver a seamless service for learners. Transition plans are in place to ensure a 'soft landing' and we are confident that, working together, we can achieve that.

The Young People's Learning System moved into shadow operation on 5 October. This means that, although staff will still be physically located in their current LSC offices for most of the time, new local 16-19 teams will start to integrate with local authorities and take up their new roles. The Shadow YPLA also went into operation on 5 October and further information and structure charts will be published on the [LSC East of England web page](#) shortly.

The 16-19 teams will aim to re-locate to local authority offices by 31st March 2010.

Managing the 2010/11 business cycle

The LSC continues to have the statutory responsibility for the funding of provision up to the end of March 2010, so will lead on the allocations, which will be completed, for 16-19 learner responsive funding, by this date. Through this, the LSC 16-19 staff will work very closely with the local authorities to ensure that we jointly develop a plan that the local authorities can deliver in the following year and which fits the identified needs of local learners.

National Commissioning Framework

The LSC is working with the DCSF and the Local Government Association's React Team to develop a National Commissioning Framework for 2011/12, which will provide a detailed guide to how every aspect of the commissioning process works, from initial identification of need through to the contracting and performance management. This will be an important document for everyone involved in commissioning or delivering 16-19 provision because it explains the role of every organisation in the new system and the timings and processes that you can expect. We expect this to be published in draft form, for consultation, in late October. A final version will then be published by the YPLA in April 2010.



The adult system

The Skills Funding Agency will move to shadow operating structures over the Autumn. Since the BIS announcement in August, regarding the potential transfer of the strategic skills function to Regional Development Agencies (RDAs), discussions continue on how this might operate in the future.

In the meantime, the SFA are developing a national account management system to simplify the negotiations and contracting with providers. In the new system, each provider will have a single account manager for all of their business and sites, no matter where in the country they operate.

The National Apprenticeship Service

NAS staff have already moved into their new roles and NAS is now working with local authorities to identify 16-18 apprenticeship needs and work to deliver these. Negotiations with all apprenticeship providers (for all age groups) will be undertaken by the Skills Funding Agency account management staff so that providers delivering across the range of apprenticeships, Train to Gain and other programmes will only need to have one discussion and a single contract for all of their employer responsive funded provision.



A new approach to ESOL

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and the Department of Communities and Local Government (CLG) published 'A new approach to ESOL' in May 2009. The document responds to the ESOL consultation in 2008 to enable ESOL provision to have a greater focus on social inclusion and community cohesion. The key elements of the new approach are for local authorities (LAs), leading other local strategic partners, to identify currently excluded groups for ESOL provision, consider what provision is currently on offer and agree actions to support the identified priorities. Partners and providers will then need to modify their services and provision accordingly.

Implementation

In September 2009, 'Implementing the New Approach to ESOL' was published capturing the experiences and lessons learnt from the 31 pathfinder LAs that have been fast-tracking the new approach since June 2009 (East of England = Peterborough). We are now moving towards full roll-out, with all LAs being asked to produce a local action plan by December 2009.

The LSC held a regional workshop for LAs in the East of England on 16 September and a follow on event is planned for 2 December to be run by NIACE in conjunction with the LSC.

A range of documents have also been developed, to support information sharing and implementation, all of which are available on the [LSC website](#). Documents include the main publications, action plan templates, fast facts, other funding sources and FAQ.

Huddle

Huddle is an information sharing website to support LAs. If you are a local authority ESOL lead you can join this forum by emailing your name, job title and local authority to: esol@bis.gsi.gov.uk.

For further information please see the LSC website (link above) or contact [Helen Mann](#).

EMA learning providers' resource pack

The [Education Maintenance Allowance \(EMA\)](#) learning providers' resource pack is designed to support providers to help young people with their post-16 options. The pack consists of a short programme of learning designed for Year 11 students and comprises a booklet, DVD and loose worksheets, which can be photocopied and distributed among learners.

Copies of this resource pack are now available to order by email from [Prolog](#) or by calling 0845 602 2260, quoting reference LSC-P-NAT-080087.

Skills mean savings

Shoppers in the East of England are missing out on supermarket savings because of poor maths skills



Shoppers struggle to work out basic shopping discounts, according to new stats from the Get On campaign. When asked, nearly nine out of ten (89%) adults in the East of England could not do the maths behind typical high street special offers.

Well over half (66%) could not work out how much a pack of sausages would cost if it had a third off and nearly half (45%) admitted they often won't pick up discounts because they don't understand if it's a good deal or not.

With nearly a third of adults (28%) saying they would buy more discounts if they were more confident with their maths, Get On, the campaign to encourage adults to improve their basic numeracy and literacy skills, is joining forces with Sainsbury's to help shoppers grab the best bargains on the shelves this Christmas. For three days in October the Get On team joined the Sainsbury's store in Dunstable Road, Luton to talk to shoppers about how to improve their skills and enrol on a free Get On course at their local college.

As Kevin Brennan, Minister for Further Education, Skills, Apprenticeships and Consumer Affairs, says, "This is a great chance for people to think about how improving their skills could help their everyday life – from doing the weekly shop and helping children with their homework, to improving their chances in the workplace. Call free on 0800 66 0800 or go to www.direct.gov.uk/geton to find out more about free maths or literacy courses in your local area."

Jeff Wren, Area Director for the LSC Bedfordshire and Luton said, "We are really excited about our partnership with Sainsbury's and are hoping that lots of people who are interested in brushing up on their skills, will find out more about the free maths and literacy courses available in our area."

NVQ is specifically designed for taxi and private hire drivers

The Learning and Skills Council along with GO Skills has been acknowledged in Luton Borough Council's [press release](#) – 'Driving up standards for taxi and private hire drivers' in developing an NVQ specifically designed for taxi and private hire drivers to ensure health and safety for themselves and their passengers.

29 local licensed taxi and private hire drivers recently received their NVQ Level 2 certificate in Road Passenger Transport from the Mayor, Cllr Mohammed Riaz, at Barnfield College.

The qualification has been introduced to Luton thanks to successful partnership working between the Council, Barnfield College and ABA Training – an external specialist training organisation. The drivers have benefited from Government funding for the course.



Get On announces winner after live 'chant-off'



"Underground, overground signed on a 'free, He's Dougie Freedman of S.U.F.C, Scores goals for fun he's a blue through & through, Better watch out 'cos he'll score against you".

[to the tune of 'Wombles Theme']

The winner of the Get On campaign national football chant competition was Southend United FC fan Terry Cockell. England football legend John Barnes and Barnsley FC's poet-in-residence Ian McMillan chose Terry's chant, sung to the tune of 'The Wombles' theme, from the nine finalists. The finalists were whittled down from hundreds of entrants from across the nation, who battled it out in a live competitive 'chant off' in central London to claim the chant champion crown.

The competition was launched in February to tap into the nation's writing talents, and show just how creative with language football fans can be.

It is part of the Government's Get On campaign to encourage adults to recognise the ability that they have with words in their day-to-day life and inspire those who need to brush up on their English skills to do so and gain a qualification. John Barnes and Ian McMillan also announced the launch of a new chant competition to mark the launch of the new football season, challenging fans to show off their literary talents by sending in their written chants, or by uploading a video clip to YouTube of themselves performing their entry. The winner of this year's competition, Terry, will also be joining Barnes and McMillan in judging the new season's entries. Enter this years' competition at www.direct.gov.uk/geton

Cambridge College offers training opportunities in preparation for London 2012

Cambridge Regional College (CRC) and LIVING SPORT, in partnership with ACER (the Association of Colleges in the Eastern Region), and SkillsActive (the Sector Skills Council for Active Leisure and Learning), have launched [East-links: Leading the Field](#).

East-links is an innovative project designed to help up-skill the sport and active leisure workforce in Cambridgeshire ahead of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2012. The project has been allocated £1.3 million in funding by the Learning and Skills Council to take advantage of the enthusiasm surrounding London 2012 and the numerous volunteering and employment opportunities it will bring to the entire country. The project began on 1 April 2009 and will run until 31 December 2010.

Aiming to support more than 1200 people from across the eastern region; East-links: Leading the Field will help deliver a range of sport and recreation training opportunities to those people who are employed or volunteer in sport. Examples of the qualifications available are Coaching, Officiating, Health & Fitness, Management Development and Mentoring.



41st WorldSkills competition – London 2011

In October 2011, London will host the largest international vocational skills competition in the world. It will be held at the ExCeL exhibition and conference centre in London's docklands from 5 – 8 October 2011. www.worldskillslondon2011.com

North Hertfordshire College and The Consortium for Business have been named Train to Gain Provider of the Year in the East of England



In a time of recession they have continued to grow the number starting on Train to Gain, up by 75% on 2007/08 with success rates of 83%. Robust processes combined with support and development of consortium members and sharing best practice has enabled a growth in employees achieving qualifications of 62%.

North Hertfordshire College is the lead partner in the Hertfordshire Train to Gain Consortium covering NVQ delivery in the workplace in Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Essex. This allows the Consortium to offer a huge range of qualifications covering most sectors. They continue to explore opportunities for new provision and have established an unfunded rapid response service for employers to help them with downsizing.

Caroline Neville, Regional Director for the Learning and Skills Council East of England presented the Award to Fintan Donohue, Chief Executive and Principal of North Hertfordshire College and said: "The consortium has been chosen to receive this award in recognition of its outstanding performance and responsiveness to the needs of employers throughout the academic year.

"Feedback from skills brokers has been consistently positive with the consortium praised for the responsive and dynamic way they manage enquiries and keep them updated."

Fintan Donohue, accepting the Award said: "This award means a lot to North Hertfordshire College and its excellent partners. Two years ago, with support from the LSC, we committed to major investment in our employer responsive capacity, which has paid off."

"Our Goldsmith Centre for Business has become a recognised Centre of Excellence for training and the outstanding success rates are a testimony to the quality of providers that make up the Consortium. This Award will give all of us in the Consortium a strong incentive to do even better in the future. We hope that more employers will see the Consortium as their partner of first choice."

Learner Support Toolkit

The LSC have produced a [Learner Support Toolkit](#) which provides an introduction to the Learner Support Programme and how it provides financial support for learners aged 16+.



'Good for Business' campaign launched by National Apprenticeship Service

On 22 October the National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) launched the 'Good for Business' campaign. The campaign will run until the end of November, and then for a further month in January. The objective of the campaign is to increase the number of Apprenticeships available, in particular to those aged 16-18. Marketing and communication efforts will be focussed on employers to engage and explain the business benefits that Apprentices can bring to an organisation. Employers in both the public and private sectors will be targeted.

This campaign is a continuation of the work started in February and March with the Sir Alan Sugar TV advertising which was very successful at raising awareness and employer interest in Apprenticeships. This campaign will focus 'below the line' to convert the high interest to leads, and more Apprenticeship places.

The theme, Good for Business, has been tested with groups of employers who liked the style and directness of the messaging and design. National and Regional Press and Radio Advertising will be used alongside PR,



Digital and Direct Marketing. They are also looking to provide downloadable 'Good for Business' collateral for providers and colleges.

NAS has end to end responsibility for Apprenticeships in England. Building on an incredible renaissance in Apprenticeships, the NAS has been designed to increase the number of Apprenticeship opportunities and provide a dedicated, responsive service for both employers and learners. Alongside a high quality service they have simplified the recruitment process through

Apprenticeship vacancies, an online web-based matching service.

Apprenticeships bring considerable value to organisations, employers, individuals and the economy. They provide a highly skilled workforce, boost productivity and staff retention and help businesses secure a supply of people with the skills and qualities they need and which were often not available on the external job market.

For more information on Apprenticeships call 08000 150 600 or go to www.apprenticeships.org.uk



Minister of State for Europe visits Bedford College

Caroline Flint (Minister of State for Europe) and Patrick Hall (MP for Bedford and Kempston) visited Bedford College's Bridges 14+ Centre earlier this year to find out how the European Social Fund (ESF) is used and what it means to students on the Way to Work programme.

The Way to Work programme is for students who have become disenchanted with school and even refuse to go to school. It provides them with a buffer between school

and college and proved its success with all 29 students going onto further education or Apprenticeships.

Caroline Flint spoke to students and said: "Bedford College is meeting the needs of many different types of young people and actively supporting them to get the skills they need to carry them through their lives."



Bedford College recognised for its focus on sustainable development and skills

LSC Chief Executive, Geoff Russell visited Bedford College on 13 October to see a college that is a recognised champion of sustainable development amongst FE colleges. In 2008 they won a Green Gown Award (against competition from universities) for their approach to embedding sustainable development in the curriculum and this year, they were runner-up in the Colleges and Smaller Institutions Category.

Sustainable development (SD) is the simple idea of ensuring a better quality of life for everyone, both now and for the generations to come. It's about making four things happen – prudent use of our national resources, social progress that recognises the needs of all people, high and stable levels of growth and employment in the economy and effective protection of our environment.

Geoff Russell was able to see how Bedford College can offer a range of specialist courses, many developed in partnership with industry, in new

low carbon/sustainability technologies such as photovoltaic systems, sustainable construction and rainwater harvesting.

The LSC has had a strategy for Sustainable Development since 2005. They have funded a range of projects including the [SORTED](#) web resource the annual [Green Gown Awards](#) the [Sustainable Colleges Assistants Project](#).

In July a [Low Carbon Industrial Strategy and Transition Plan](#) were published setting a series of challenging targets, culminating in an 80% reduction in carbon emissions by 2050. This will have a significant impact on how we all live and work individually and how all businesses operate.

The LSC has just started a review of the LSC's Strategy for Sustainable Development in order to make recommendations for the successor organisations on how they can most effectively support this agenda. They will be seeking the views of leading providers such as Bedford College to help shape these recommendations.

West Suffolk College accredited with Matrix Standard

The Matrix standard, a quality benchmark for Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) has been accredited to West Suffolk College and the quality mark extended to Learning and Enterprise Access Points (LEAP) centres in Mildenhall, Haverhill, Stowmarket and Sudbury.

The report stated that the IAG service at the main Bury St Edmunds campus and four LEAP centres

run by West Suffolk College all have a drop in service which focuses on courses provided by the College and provides information on other providers.

The assessor identified the commitment of staff to providing an environment in which students are respected and valued as a key strength.

New Guidance shows FE colleges and providers ways to improve equality and diversity practices

The LSC and the Learning and Skills Improvement Service (LSIS) have jointly published guidance for FE colleges and providers, to help them to self-assess equality and diversity.

Both bodies have worked closely with Ofsted and Lifelong Learning UK (LLUK) to develop the guidance, indicating a shared commitment to driving forward standards in self-assessment.

The guidance is intended to help providers prepare for Ofsted's new 'limiting' equality and diversity inspection grade and the Government's proposed new equality duties. It also includes sections on funding body requirements and workforce development.

Trish Bugg, Learning and Quality Director for the LSC East of England says: "Learning and skills can be life changing, but sometimes a lack of understanding or physical barriers get in the way of getting the learning you need to succeed. Learning providers in the East of England are leading the way to address these concerns and improve the service they offer to all. This guidance will help colleges and providers to identify where they are particularly successful at

removing barriers and addressing achievement gaps, and to make further improvements."

Esther Cook, Equality and Diversity Manager, for the LSC East of England says: "Providers worked with Dr Christine Rose to use systems such as reviews of work placements to make sure all learners are treated fairly and have equal opportunities for learning and success, whatever their race, gender or disability. The project helped the providers effectively collect and use the numbers and stories in terms of data and learner feedback in order to make changes to improve the learning experience for all."

[New equality and diversity guidance.](#)

The LSC East of England [project report](#) for 'From Quality to Equality – A match made in heaven'.

Colleges and Providers involved included:

Barnfield College
British Racing School
Colchester Sixth Form College
Eagit
ITS
Otley college
West Herts College
West Suffolk College

UK role for Barnfield

Barnfield College has been appointed Eastern Region Ambassador for WorldSkills 2011 with a senior tutor at the Luton college named for a top training role. John O'Neill, the deputy head of computing and IT, is the new training manager for the UK team. The part-time role will see Mr O'Neill travel across the UK, mentoring and coaching teams and planning for a major team effort in 2011, where teams from all over the world will be competing in over 40 competitions. Mr O'Neill traveled with the UK team in September.



The Lives We Lead – New Horizons

A series of events have been held over the last two months culminating in a one day Suffolk Summit at Adastral Park on 14 October to celebrate the best of the Suffolk experience. The Suffolk Summit marked the launch of a new chapter in [The Lives We Lead](#) - New Horizons, a cross-sector approach to building trust, creating innovative ways to work together

to be more collectively efficient and engaging with communities in deeper and more revealing ways.

The Summit presented a collection of living examples of organisations in Suffolk working together in new ways to achieve outcomes that would not be possible by working in isolation.

Team UK honoured for their achievements at WorldSkills Calgary 2009



[Team UK with Boris Johnson
Reproduced by kind permission of UK Skills']

“...I hope their hardwork and results inspire more to take part in skills competitions and indeed come and see the WorldSkills Competition in action themselves when it is held in London in October 2011.”

The 26 members of [Team UK](#) were honoured at a prestigious reception at City Hall, London on 9 October to celebrate their fantastic achievements at WorldSkills Calgary 2009, the skills equivalent of the Olympics.

The team, who are all under 25, achieved the UK's best results yet – placing the UK 7th in the World (four places up from the last WorldSkills Competition in Shizuka, Japan), winning a total of three Gold medals, six Bronze medals and 14 Medallions For Excellence, which are given to competitors who achieve at least 500 points, deemed the world class standard.

Four young people represented the East of England, gaining three Medallions for Excellence between them.

- Melanie Adlam, 22, from St Albans, Herts - for Electronics, a student at the University of Bristol and works for MBDA UK
- Hugo Landau, 19, from St Albans, Herts – for IR PC & Network Support, who is a student at Barnfield College, and
- William Gadd, 22, from Thurston, Bury St Edmunds – for Landscape Gardening, who attends Otley College and works for The Country Life Landscapes.

Simon Bartley, Chief Executive of UK Skills, who manages Team UK said: “I had the honour of being able to see Team UK in action at WorldSkills Calgary 2009 and what they achieved was nothing short of amazing. The dedication the whole team put in before the competition was outstanding and it has certainly paid off. We couldn't be more proud of them.”



Mark Blundell opens new motor vehicle facilities

Former Formula 1 Driver, Mark Blundell officially opened the new, state-of-the-art Motor Vehicle Workshop at Cambridge Regional College. The occasion was marked with an exciting and action-packed event which invited guests from all over Cambridge to come and enjoy the new facilities.

The new £multi-million facility includes 13 vehicle ramps, a diagnostic rolling road, a customer reception area, Electronics/Electrical workshop, tyre & wheel centre and two IT suites.

Alan Ward, Academy Manager said, “With our new building and equipment we will be able to move forward in providing a first class service to our customers. For the future we are planning to enhance the courses on offer and will be introducing a foundation degree in Motor Vehicle engineering and a number of short courses.

The development also includes a brand new Sports Centre, reception, Hair, Beauty and Catering training facilities, as well as separate professional studios and restaurants for commercial use.

Surgery makes a public commitment to developing their staff



The official opening of new state of the art Oaklands Surgery was an opportunity for Dr Mahesh Kamdar to formally sign the Skills Pledge with the Learning and Skills Council Essex to acknowledge a commitment to developing the skills of the practice staff.

The new health centre, sponsored by South East Essex PCT NHS Trust and based in Canvey Island, Essex is now able to treat patients in up-to-date modern facilities.

The celebration publicly acknowledged the practice's ongoing agreement to improve the administrative and customer service skills of their staff. The Mayor of Castle Point, Councillor Cliff Brunt was invited to share in the celebrations and talk to staff.

Mrs Sheila Kamdar, Practice Manager comments: "The surgery prides itself on a proven collaborative approach to the needs of patients that is based on a well-equipped surgery and the belief that ongoing investment in the development of dedicated and highly skilled staff ensures state of the art medical care for all patients."

Presentations to staff followed the Skills Pledge signing with practice staff receiving certificates for achieving their NVQ in Customer Services, Business Administration and Team Leading through Thurrock and Basildon College.

The Skills Pledge signing was followed by the signing of the Memorandum of Partnership with Thurrock and Basildon College. The partnership will further enhance the joint commitment to continue to expand the training and development of the practice.

ESSEX Skills Pledge Club inspires others to make a commitment to skills

Based on an idea to help promote the Skills Pledge as an incentive to drive commitment to skills development, the Learning and Skills Council Essex created the Essex Skills Pledge Club.

The aim of the Club is to encourage organisations to see the genuine benefits of the Skills Pledge as a vehicle for encouraging continuous

staff development. Members who have signed the Pledge can encourage other employers to get involved and give real-life examples of the benefits and the wealth of support available to develop the skills of their employees.

More than 390 Essex employers have signed the Skills Pledge since it launched in July 2007. There are

a wide range of organisations both public and private and include FedEx, BAA, Essex County Council, Thurrock Council, Ford, Southend-on-Sea Borough Council and many of the local NHS and Primary Care Trusts.

For more details and to contact the Essex Skills Pledge Club log onto the [lsc website](#).

Unemployed executives helped back into the workplace

[Oaklands College](#) has worked closely with Local Strategic Partners to respond to the urgent need to support out of work local senior executives and high calibre professionals. Funded through the LSC's Response to Redundancy, the primary objectives of the venture include exploring roles and transferable skills in new sectors, the development and distribution of CVs to relevant employers, understanding how to set up a franchise and new business, coping with financial and personal stresses and reassessing work/life values.

Of the 20 who attended the first forum, four participants have gone on to secure jobs within Voluntary and Public Sector positions.

Mark Dawe, Principal and Chief Executive of Oaklands College commented: "We have the resources in place to offer a one-stop solution to local business professionals. We are at the heart of our community, working



with the Learning and Skills Council and we want this forum to provide the perfect platform to offer a modern service that can simply help people get back into employment and stay there".

The LSC funded [Response to Redundancy](#) offer for those facing redundancy, recently made redundant or newly unemployed provides support

of between 2 to 8 weeks. The offer includes customised, flexible training tailored to the labour market, as well as improved access to advice about jobs and training and fully funded repeat Level 2 and partially funded Level 3 qualifications on return to work.

Adult Learners in Norfolk improve English with ESOL for Citizenship course

Learners in Norfolk have passed an English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) course in Norwich run by Poultec Training Ltd in conjunction with the Norfolk Library Service.

Adult learners from all over the world took an 11 week intensive course to improve their English language and study topics associated with living in the UK including history, politics and British culture.

Part funded by the Norfolk Learning Partnership (NLP) and the European Social Funded Stepping-Stones co-financed project from the LSC and the Association of Colleges of the Eastern Region (ACER), all 10 learners have achieved national ESOL qualifications. The course was aimed at harder to reach communities and those people who are unable to follow the usual path of Citizenship.

NLP manager Andy Hodgson comments: "We have recognised the need to support language training for those whose first language is not English as a way of integrating them into both work and their community."

Norfolk Constabulary Safer Neighbourhood Team visited the learners on the course and gave them an opportunity to meet members of the community and allay any fears as well as provide information.



Learning for Living and Work – a Suffolk provision guide for learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities



The [Guide](#) was commissioned by the Suffolk Learning for Living and Work (L4LW) Forum. A clearer picture of the range of provision across Suffolk available to learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities (LLDD) was needed to help identify the gaps in provision.

All Jobcentre Plus, Connexions and Nextstep advisors and the Employers Network group have been issued with a Guide. Some schools and all special schools have also been issued with a Guide

to help individual learners when they are looking at Further Education and employment options – and show the choices available to them.

The Guide includes the definition of Supported Employment and Learning in the Workplace, with details of Integrated Employment and Skills (IES).