

 For information

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Leading learning and skills

Learning for Living and Working in London

A plan for people with learning difficulties
and/or disabilities

Easyread
March 2010

Introduction

Learning for Living and Working in London

A plan for people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities

Three years ago Learning for Living and Working in London was written to plan how money for training, care, health and employment could be used better.

We set 5 goals and this leaflet lets you know what we have done so far.

A Strategic Partners' Group including the Association of London Directors of Children's Services, the Learning and Skills Council, London Development Agency, Job Centre Plus, ADASS, SKILL: National Bureau for students with Disabilities, the Greater London Authority, London Councils, Valuing People, Department for Work and Pensions and Valuing People, has helped providers to work towards the goals.

You can read about what we planned in the Learning for Living and Working in London Easy Read Version May 2008. This can be seen and printed from www.livelearnwork.org



Learning for Living and Working in London

Goal 1: To make more opportunities and better ways for getting work

We have put in place programmes and projects which bring together different services to help young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities to move on from college or training into work.



Some of these programmes are:

- **Foundation Learning** - gives people pathways to supported employment and rewards all of their achievements including employability skills
- **Transition to Work** - this programme helps people to move from full time education to employment
- **Pathways to Work** - helps people who are not working to move off incapacity benefit and into work with skills and training and extra help if they need it
- **Personal Best** - helps people to find volunteering opportunities for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games where they can learn new skills and get a qualification which will help them to get into work
- **Skills for Jobs** gives people the skills that they need to get a job and keep it.



Job Centre Plus



Paralympic games

Goal 2 Better Services through Partnership

Local Area Agreements in many London boroughs are being changed to make sure the employment needs of young people and adults with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are met.

Valuing People Now, expects all young people with learning disabilities to have a Person Centred Plan by 2012 that includes education to make moving from school to college a better experience. The Transition Support Programme is supporting all Local Authorities make this happen.

An 'Employability Manifesto' report was sent out to providers across London to share good practice.

Job Centre Plus has created Local Employment Partnerships, which help employers to tell providers about the skills they want and the jobs they have, as well as to offer work trials, interview experience and jobs to people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

We have helped learning providers to work with charities and voluntary groups who have specialist knowledge and can give specialist support.



Valuing People Now



Employability Manifesto



Goal 3: To better understand what learners and employers want, what services there are and what changes need to be made

Existing learner groups were asked to comment on the strategy and issues were taken forward in the strategy.



There are 5 networks in London - North, South, East, West and Central that meet each term to talk about what learners and employers want and to share information on the plan.



We used a planning system called Licence to Skill to help organisations to look at the goals of different groups of people and review the services, partnerships and funding arrangements required.



With help from employers, we have changed many courses to ensure that we are teaching people the skills that employers want.

There is a learner page on the Live Learn Work website, so learners can find out about what is happening in London, including meetings, events, papers and links to good websites
www.livelearnwork.org



Pilot projects have tried out job coaching, which helps people to move into work with the right kind of support and supports employers.



We have funded projects to offer better help e.g. for people with mental health problems.

Goal 4: To change courses so they move towards independent living and work

We have changed the way that courses are organised to make them work better for people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. This is called Foundation Learning.



We are helping the learning providers to understand the new qualifications and to make changes to their courses to create pathways to supported employment and independent living.

Students on courses will get better assessments to find out what they can do and what they have already done. Students will get more information, advice and guidance on moving into employment and help with other things that stop them getting into work.



Goal 5: To help people have a choice of opportunities they want and need

We have funded a number of projects to get learning providers to offer courses in different ways. For example, Orchard Hill College has successfully located a new Vocational Progression Centre at Carshalton College. Learners from Orchard Hill and from Carshalton are now attending courses at the Centre and the two colleges are working closely together to maximise benefits for learners.



The ROSE Project (Realistic Opportunities for Supported Employment) is helping young adults with moderate to severe learning difficulties to move into supported employment.

Ellingham Employment Services work with people who have disabilities to find out what jobs they want to do, help them to find work and then support them when they find a job. They help people to build documents on the computer to show the employer what they can do.



The Future

www.livelearnwork.org remains the key website for partners to access information on the strategy, programmes, policy, events, meetings and conferences.

Although we have worked hard to change things, there is still lots left to do, so we also wanted to let you know how we will continue to work once the Learning and Skills Council closes down next April.



A lot of the work the Learning and Skills Council does will be taken over by Local Authorities. We have already agreed with the London Regional Planning Group to continue working towards these goals.



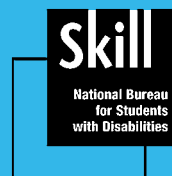
You can give us your ideas via the website or network groups.

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