

ADULT LEARNING GRANT ONE YEAR ON

Figures show the huge success of ALG on its first anniversary

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As the Adult Learning Grant (ALG) this week celebrates its one-year anniversary since national roll-out in 2007, figures show that the scheme has soared to success over the past 12 months, providing financial support to more than 1,700 adult learners in the South West since the scheme began¹.

The ALG offers adults up to £30 per week to go back to learning by helping with extra costs such as travel and books. Across the region, the scheme has been utilised by learners (aged 19 or over) who are studying full time for their 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.

Due to the success of the initial ALG pilot across the UK between 2003 and 2006 led to the national roll-out of the scheme being brought forward a year.

Malcolm Gillespie, LSC Regional Director - South West, said: "It's fantastic to see what an impact the Adult Learning Grant is having on adults and that it has offered so many learners a helping hand in education.

¹ LSC Adult Learning Grant performance statistics at 21st May 2008

“The grant can be used to help with anything from the cost of books and materials, through to childcare costs and really does give critical support to adults who might not otherwise have the opportunity to go back to learning.”

Recent research by the LSC has also shown that more than half of adults (52%) in the South West want to learn in the future, yet a third (33%) have admitted they feel that money – or a lack off it – is the main factor holding them back from achieving their goals.

If you are thinking about going back to college it's time to start looking at your options. ALG could help you. To find out if you are eligible visit, www.direct.gov.uk/alg or call 0800 121 8989 today.

- ENDS -

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Note to Editors:

ALG awards (South West)

Devon and Cornwall

- Bicton College of Agriculture: 38
- Bodmin College: 2
- City College Plymouth: 127
- Cornwall Adult Education Service: 11
- Cornwall College: 164
- East Devon College: 19
- Estover Community College: 4
- Exeter College: 93
- Exeter Tutorial College: 1
- Helston Community College: 4
- King Edward VI Community College: 1
- North Devon College: 49
- Paignton Community College: 1
- Penwith College: 23

- Plymouth College of Art and Design: 52
- Deep Blue Sound (care of City Coll Plymouth): 32
- South Devon College: 102
- Stoke Damerel Community College: 1
- Treviglas Community College: 3
- Truro College: 94
- **TOTAL: 821**

Bournemouth, Poole & Dorset

- Arts Institute at Bournemouth: 4
- Bournemouth & Poole College: 146
- Dorset Adult Learning: 3
- Kingston Maurward College: 14
- Weymouth College: 53
- **TOTAL: 220**

Gloucestershire

- Cirencester College: 19
- Gloucestershire College: 66
- Hartpury College: 13
- Royal Forest of Dean College: 8
- Stroud College: 14
- **TOTAL: 120**

Somerset

- Bridgwater College: 51
- Strode College Somerset: 21
- Yeovil College: 41
- **TOTAL: 113**

West of England

- City of Bristol College: 127
- City of Bath College: 44
- Filton College: 71
- Norton Radstock College: 12
- Weston College: 52
- **TOTAL: 306**

Wiltshire & Swindon

- New College Swindon: 22
- Salisbury College: 29
- Swindon College: 32
- Wiltshire College: 38
- **TOTAL: 121**

Adult Learning Grant

ALG is available to low income adults in England aged 19 or over who are studying full time for their 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.

LSC

The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for planning and funding high-quality vocational education and training for everyone. We have a single goal: to improve the skills of England's young people and adults to world-class standards. Our vision is that by 2010, young people and adults in England have the knowledge and skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce. Established in 2001, we work nationally, regionally and locally from a network of offices across the country. For more information visit: <http://www.lsc.gov.uk/westofengland>