



## EAST MIDLANDS SKILLS FOR LIFE STRATEGY FORUM BULLETIN

Bulletin 23

January 2005

### Newsflash

[Please send me a word version, suitable for printing](#)

#### Sharing the Skills!

If you find this Bulletin useful and think that a colleague could benefit from knowing more about Skills for Life just email them a copy. Then, if they want to receive it regularly, they can ask to be added to the distribution list.

#### Resources and opportunities

##### ReadWritePlus Skills for Life Survey research website

is now available on-line. You can find information on adult skills need estimates for literacy, numeracy, information communication and technology and ESOL across England. There are full instructions on How to use the site, and the data options available, as well as a review of the survey and modelling

### The national strategy for improving adult literacy and numeracy, translated in the East Midlands

#### £592,000 available for training East Midlands Skills for Life staff!

The new regional budget for SfLQI will substantially increase the level of free training that can be provided at regional and local level.

In addition to helping the region develop the infrastructure necessary to introduce full regional training delivery mechanisms, it will now be possible to offer a more extensive range of free short courses and funded training from awareness training up to Level 4.

One key part of the professional development plan for the East Midlands is to respond to a need for bespoke Level 3 training by learndirect staff who, it is estimated, offer 40% of all Skills for Life courses. In the past staff have not always been able to access Skills for Life professional development and this new tailored Level 3 course will offer places for 60 learndirect staff in the East Midlands.

Information on the SfLQI courses is available elsewhere in the Bulletin.

**[For more information on the SfLQI in the East Midlands contact Chris Donkin \(Regional Lead Facilitator\) 07791698947 \[donkin.itex@btopenworld.com\]\(mailto:donkin.itex@btopenworld.com\).](#)**

**25% of Derby cleaning company employees “brushing up” on their skills thanks to Valuable Skills funding**

### Events and Conferences

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#### Events

##### EAST MIDLANDS SKILLS FOR LIFE FORUM **Rescheduled event**

##### Meeting employer needs

5 April 2005

The Gateway Hotel, Cinderhill, Nottingham

**[For details or to book a place contact Mark Cockayne \[MCOCKAYNE.GOEM@go-regions.gsi.gov.uk\]\(mailto:MCOCKAYNE.GOEM@go-regions.gsi.gov.uk\).](#)**

##### Derby City of Learning and Derbyshire Learning Partnership

##### ‘Skills for Life’ Forum

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2005, 9.30am to 3.00pm

Conference Centre, Enterprise Park  
Prince Charles Avenue,

methodology.

Your comments on the coverage, ease of use, functionality of the site are welcomed. This will help the development of the site in the future.

**You can access it at [www.dfes.gov.uk/readwriteplus/skillsforlifesurvey](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/readwriteplus/skillsforlifesurvey).**

Transforming teaching and learning by working with DfES standards unit

Would you like to lead the transformation of teaching and learning in one of our four priority subject areas: business; construction; Entry to Employment; and Science? If so, please volunteer to be a subject learning coach within your organisation and receive: free professional training in coaching; free membership of a regional subject network; on-going links with a subject expert in your area.

**To nominate yourself as a subject learning coach or to find out more information, contact Tim Smith, Regional Director for the East Midlands, DfES Standards Unit 0115 929 9100**

**[Tim1.SMITH@dfes.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Tim1.SMITH@dfes.gsi.gov.uk) or [info\\_suem@btconnect.com](mailto:info_suem@btconnect.com). Alternatively, visit [www.successforall.gov.uk](http://www.successforall.gov.uk).**

### **NIACE Regional Achievement Project requests your help**

In developing the Regional Achievement Project over the next year, NIACE is seeking examples of good resources for delivering Skills

24 of the 100 staff at the Derby based company Ideal Specialised Industrial Services (ISIS) are brushing up on their literacy skills and are becoming whizzes with a mouse as they go. This is all down to a partnership approach between the employer, trade union and provider, Derby College, running on-site learning funded by the Employer Training Pilot (ETP) "Valuable Skills".

The courses were arranged in partnership with ISIS, The Transport and General Workers Union (TGWU), TUC Learning Services and Derby College.

The ETP offers wage compensation for employers who release their employees for a few hours a week to brush up on their essential skills such as English, Maths and increasingly Computers Skills.

**For more information contact Sheila Ensor [Sheila.Ensor@derby-college.ac.uk](mailto:Sheila.Ensor@derby-college.ac.uk).**

### **Learn to Earn at Tresham Institute**

Tresham Institute has developed a new initiative for young people (16-18) who want to work at the same time as studying. Learn to Earn offers a range of study modules including interview skills, writing a CV, leading and working in a team and customer service.

Once they have completed the course students will be priority applicants with many of the local employers and will be guaranteed an interview with Wicksteed Park and RCI.

**For more information contact Tresham Institute 0845 658 89 90.**

### **Sure Start and Skills for Life in West Bassetlaw**

The appointment of a qualified Basic Skills Tutor as a development worker for Sure Start is really paying off in North Nottinghamshire. The worker visits all Sure Start groups and through informal contacts identifies any learning needs. Time is available to follow up referrals from health visitors and midwives about clients with basic skills needs or to follow up requests for help with forms, letters, job applications. The worker can make home visits or signpost learners to other groups/activities/agencies.

The worker has set up a Drop-In facility at a local IT centre in a village hall to help parents prepare for the National tests in literacy and numeracy. This model has used some

Mackworth, Derby, DE22 4LR  
**Places are filling fast - contact Emma Fraser 01332 851745 [Emma.Fraser@Derby-College.ac.uk](mailto:Emma.Fraser@Derby-College.ac.uk).**

### **Skills for Life English for Speakers of other Languages (ESOL) Conferences**

The Skills for Life (formerly Adult Basic Skills) Strategy Unit's latest round of ESOL conferences are in Manchester on 15<sup>th</sup> February, Birmingham on 22 February, London on 24<sup>th</sup> February and Peterborough on 14<sup>th</sup> March. The conferences will focus on providing up-to-date information on the latest ESOL developments. This will include presentations and workshops on a range of topics related to the new ESOL Skills for Life Qualifications, Teacher Training and Quality Delivery in ESOL.

**If you would like to attend one of these conferences, please email all your details to [ESOL@rslive.co.uk](mailto:ESOL@rslive.co.uk).**

### **Maths4Life National Conference**

This event celebrates the beginning of this exciting project and will help to inform its development. Tower Thistle hotel in central London on Tuesday, 22 February 2005.

The conference will focus on the issue of motivation in adult

for Life and of how to use them effectively in teaching and learning. If you or your organisation would be interested in sharing and helping to disseminate your practice to other practitioners in the East Midlands through regional events please send your details as soon as possible to Kath West [kathmwest@hotmail.com](mailto:kathmwest@hotmail.com) or on 01623 882669.

**Experienced and qualified teachers of adult literacy to score writing tasks undertaken as part of a research project on writing.**

LSDA, on behalf of the NRDC, is undertaking a research project on effective approaches to the teaching and learning of writing. This study is investigating correlations between approaches to the teaching of writing in adult literacy classes and learners' progress in writing. Each learner involved in the study is asked to undertake writing tasks at the start and the end of the course using an assessment tool devised for the NRDC by the NFER. A detailed guide to the scoring of the tasks is available.

Applicants should have considerable experience in teaching adult literacy, a Level 4 qualification in literacy or a relevant degree and be able to attend a 1 day training and moderation meeting at LSDA London February 2004, mark a minimum of 100 scripts by the end March 2004, mark a minimum of 100 scripts between July and September 2004

**Payment** £2.50 per script and £250

Learndirect CDROMs and has the support of a qualified basic skills tutor. To date, 10 parents have gained Level 1 and/or 2 in Literacy and/or Numeracy.

**For more information contact Pip Beasant**  
[PBeasant@Nnc.ac.uk](mailto:PBeasant@Nnc.ac.uk).

**YALP Project report now available**

The interim report for the young adults and LLN research project can be downloaded from the NRDC website at [www.nrdc.org.uk/uploads/documents/doc\\_539.pdf](http://www.nrdc.org.uk/uploads/documents/doc_539.pdf)

This is quite a large document so it may take a while to download.

**Learning for Living – Developing access to *Skills for Life* for adults with learning difficulties and/or disabilities**

NIACE are leading the Learning for Living Consortium who are working with learners which experience a range of difficulties in learning. These may be learners who have a learning difficulty, a physical or sensory disability, an acquired disability, mental health difficulties, autistic spectrum disorders or disabling conditions and who are working at Pre-entry, Entry Levels 1, 2 and 3 and at Levels 1 and 2 of the Adult Literacy, Numeracy and ESOL Core Curriculum.

The aim of the project is to research and develop guidance for staff working with this group of learners in the following areas; the ESOL Core Curriculum; Pre-entry and Entry Levels 1, 2 and 3; Wider Key Skills, Access to Employment, *Access for All* Families, for parents and carers with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and their children and Teacher Training modules to support teachers and staff at Level 3 and 4.

The project is developing guidance for teachers, carers, support workers, employers and anyone involved in the learning process. The draft guidance materials are currently being piloted in a number of 'pathfinder sites' with colleagues working in a variety of contexts, such as colleges, care settings, work based learning, prisons and the community.

**For more information please contact Narzny Khan 0116 2044293** [narnzny.khan@niace.org.uk](mailto:narnzny.khan@niace.org.uk).

**New Year New You at Northamptonshire County Council Libraries**

The Libraries and Information Service is running a New Year

numeracy and will be of interest to anyone who is involved in the delivery of adult numeracy provision.

**For more information about Maths4Life contact Jenny Wedgbury 020 7612 6521**  
[j.wedgbury@ioe.ac.uk](mailto:j.wedgbury@ioe.ac.uk).

**Skills for Life in Voluntary and Community Settings: Improving Quality Conference for Managers, Policy Makers and Practitioners**

This is to give you advance notice of an important DfES / NRDC Skills for Life conference to improve quality and share good practice in adult literacy, numeracy and ESOL in voluntary and community settings. The conference will be held at the Millennium Gloucester Hotel, Harrington Gardens, London SW7 on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2005. This free conference is designed principally for those in voluntary and community sector organisations (managers, policy makers, practitioners etc.) with responsibility for, or interested in, commissioning and delivering high quality Skills for Life provision. It is also relevant to others with a role in supporting the Skills for Life strategy in voluntary and community settings.

**If you have any queries contact the conference helpline on 0115 947 5666.**

plus travel expenses for attendance at training and moderation meeting  
**To apply** send a CV together with a brief letter of application to  
Bill Meyer  
Learning and Skills Development Agency  
Regent Arcade House  
19-25 Argyll Street  
London W1F 7LS  
**Applications should arrive no later than Friday 11 February 2005.**

### Useful Links

Adult Basic Skills Strategy Unit  
[www.dfes.gov.uk/readwriteplus](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/readwriteplus)  
Lisa Capper ABSSU  
Regional Coordinator  
[lisa.capper@dfes.qsi.gov.uk](mailto:lisa.capper@dfes.qsi.gov.uk)

Basic Skills Agency  
[www.basic-skills.co.uk](http://www.basic-skills.co.uk)

DfES Lifelong Learning  
[www.lifelonglearning.co.uk](http://www.lifelonglearning.co.uk)

Get On Campaign  
[www.dfes.gov.uk/geton](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/geton)

LearnDirect  
[www.learndirect.co.uk](http://www.learndirect.co.uk)

Learning and Skills Council  
[www.lsc.gov.uk](http://www.lsc.gov.uk)

Learning and Skills Development Agency  
[www.lstda.org.uk](http://www.lstda.org.uk)

National Literacy Trust

New You promotion from January - March 2005 using the learndirect service in libraries across Northamptonshire. They will offer testing for the national Literacy and Numeracy Certificates from February 2005.  
**For more details contact Dawn Howsam**  
[dhowsam@northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:dhowsam@northamptonshire.gov.uk) **01604 236162.**

**Nottingham City Council Basic Skills Strategy Group** headed by Pat Rhodes, is currently working closely with BEGIN to identify basic skills needs in the City Council workforce. They will then liaise with local providers to design and deliver appropriate training courses. Several colleges already have projects underway and the group are now planning pilot courses in telephone skills, letter writing and minute taking to be delivered in the summer.  
**For further information contact [enquiries@begin.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@begin.org.uk).**

**Nottinghamshire Skills for Life Partnership**  
Nick Payne has recently taken over as the interim manager of the Nottinghamshire SFLPartnership and is currently working with relevant external partners to develop SFLP strategies for Employer Engagement/Workforce Development and for the engagement of learners with disabilities.  
The Partnership has recently commissioned a full external evaluation which will report in February, the outcome of which will shape how the partnership functions in the new financial year. A conference will be convened in March to disseminate the conclusions. In addition, a consortium of SFL partners led by Nottinghamshire County Council and endorsed by the SFLP has submitted a tender to LSC cofinancing to establish a SFL Centre for Continuing Professional Development in the county.  
**For more information contact Nick Payne**  
[nick@enable.uk.net](mailto:nick@enable.uk.net) **0115 9349561.**

### Training and CPD opportunities

**SfLQI Professional Development East Midlands Region- Feb/Mar 2005**  
The following courses are being offered and places may be available:-  
Access for All

### Embedding and Mainstreaming Step in to Learning Midlands Regional Consultation Event

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March – ICC  
Birmingham

Step in to Learning is a frontline staff training and development programme for the early years and childcare sector that helps staff to identify parents, carers and other staff who may have literacy, numeracy and language skills needs and refers them to appropriate learning opportunities.

This conference will be of interest to the following groups:

- National, regional and local LSCs
- LEAs and their early years and childcare partnerships
- Other policy makers in the early years sector who are interested in embedding the Step approach
- Regional SureStarts and managers of SureStart local programmes
- Managers of settings throughout the early years & childcare sector
- Early years & childcare sector membership organisations
- FE providers who want to learn about the relevance and importance of the Step approach with regards to Adult Learning and who want to develop partnership work

[www.literacytrust.org.uk](http://www.literacytrust.org.uk)

National Research Development Centre for adult literacy, language and numeracy

[www.nrdc.org.uk](http://www.nrdc.org.uk)

NIACE (National Institute for Adult and Continuing Education)

[www.niace.org.uk](http://www.niace.org.uk)

Nottinghamshire Skills for Life Partnership now has a website

[www.ns4lp.org.uk/homepage](http://www.ns4lp.org.uk/homepage)

Qualifications and Curriculum Authority

[www.qca.org.uk](http://www.qca.org.uk)

Skills for Life Quality Initiative

[www.lsc.gov.uk/sflqi](http://www.lsc.gov.uk/sflqi)

Ufi

[www.ufi.com](http://www.ufi.com)

Workplace Basic Skills Network

[www.lancs.ac.uk/wbsnet](http://www.lancs.ac.uk/wbsnet)

Core Curriculum (ESOL) 1 day version  
Core Curriculum (Literacy) 1 day version  
Core Curriculum (LLN Intro in voc context) 1 day version  
Core Curriculum (Numeracy) 1 day version  
Diagnostic Assessment and Learning Materials  
Dyslexia Awareness Training  
Introduction to the Sfl Strategy  
Leadership and Management Training  
Level II Adult Learner Support - unit 1  
Level II Adult Learner Support (Full certificate)  
Level III Adult Learning Support, Literacy and Numeracy  
Level III Enabling Learning and PECF  
Level IV Subject Specialism, Literacy, Numeracy and ESOL  
e-learning in Basic Skills  
Initial Assessment  
Recording progress and achievement  
Training for Teacher Trainers (1 day)  
Training for Teacher Trainers (4 day)

**For more information contact Elaine Scott SflQI Regional Training Officer, East Midlands [elaine.scott@edu-co.co.uk](mailto:elaine.scott@edu-co.co.uk) 01536 330250 / 07876 687797 or visit the sflqi website [www.sflqi.org.uk](http://www.sflqi.org.uk).**

#### **University of Derby, Buxton level 2, 3, 4 courses**

**9295** This is being offered as a full or unit accreditation new courses in early February.

**9484** Can be offered to teachers of subjects other than skills for life who have to address these issues in their own subject area. It can also be offered to those wishing to qualify and work as learning support assistants on a one to one basis.

**9485** Full level 4 qualification cohort will probably be offered on a modular basis in starting in February.

**9486** Planned for February start

**Anyone requiring further details can contact Dawn Fisher on [d.fisher@derby.ac.uk](mailto:d.fisher@derby.ac.uk) 01332 594429.**

#### **MA in Adult Basic Education Institute of Education**

For experienced adult literacy, ESOL or numeracy practitioners who want to study for an MA or build up credits at master's level. There is a part-time modular MA - taught modules and independent research, Diploma route - taught modules only or Modules are offered as freestanding courses

with this sector

There are 3 FREE events across the country and places will be by application only.

**If you are interested in further information and/or would like an application form please contact Emma Mullenger on [emmam@ctad.co.uk](mailto:emmam@ctad.co.uk) Tel:01223 478 288 Fax:01223 470 481.**

#### **LSC Local contacts**

Derbyshire

Eryl Prentice

[Eryl.Prentice@lsc.gov.uk](mailto:Eryl.Prentice@lsc.gov.uk)

0845 019 4183

Leicestershire

Gill King

[gill.king@lsc.gov.uk](mailto:gill.king@lsc.gov.uk)

0116 228 1870

Lincolnshire and Rutland

Di Pudney

[diana.pudney@lsc.gov.uk](mailto:diana.pudney@lsc.gov.uk)

01522 508547

Northamptonshire

Gordon Sergent

[gordon.sergent@lsc.gov.uk](mailto:gordon.sergent@lsc.gov.uk)

01604 533031

Nottinghamshire

Elaine Beckford

[elaine.beckford@lsc.gov.uk](mailto:elaine.beckford@lsc.gov.uk)

0115 8720036

More information at [www.ioe.ac.uk/courses/maabe](http://www.ioe.ac.uk/courses/maabe) or contact Nora Hughes [n.hughes@ioe.ac.uk](mailto:n.hughes@ioe.ac.uk) 020 7612 6161.

**Basic Skills Awareness and FENTO Level 2 courses in Northamptonshire**

These courses have been developed by various providers in Northamptonshire. They will be delivered in various county locations. A total of 8 BS Awareness courses and 5 Level 2 courses will be run before March followed by a further 12 BS Awareness raising courses before December 05 and further Level 2 courses.

**Details of dates and venues have yet to be confirmed further information can be obtained from [MEvans@northamptonshirelp.org](mailto:MEvans@northamptonshirelp.org).**

For further information about the East Midlands Skills for Life Strategy Forum, or to contact steering group members approach Mark Cockayne on 0115 971 2702. To receive copies of this monthly bulletin, you can join the email distribution list by [clicking here](#).  
This bulletin does not represent the views of the DfES or other organisations in the Skills for Life East Midlands Regional Strategy Forum.