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EAST MIDLANDS SKILLS FOR LIFE STRATEGY FORUM BULLETIN

Bulletin 15

November 2003

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

New National Needs Survey - Updated regional targets

The first definitive profile of adult literacy and numeracy skills was published on 30th October 2003 by DFES. The National Needs and Impact Survey of Literacy, Numeracy and ICT Skills assesses working adult's basic literacy and numeracy skills and shows for the first time the direct impact they have on attainment and employment.

It demonstrates the early success in the Government's drive to increase the number of adults with basic skills in literacy and numeracy. The proportion of adults aged 16-65 with literacy skills below the skills for life baseline (level 1) has fallen from the 7 million estimated to 5.2 million and those below the Skills for Life baseline for numeracy (entry level 3) has fallen slightly from the 7 million estimate to 6.2 million.

The survey dramatically exposes the years of neglect in the sector and reveals that 15 million adults overall lack the numeracy skills expected at a lower grade GCSE.

The Survey is available online at www.dfes.gov.uk
A Research Brief (summary version) is being produced and will be available free of charge from DfES Publications in due course (ref: RB490)

Changes in lead responsibility for offender's learning
Following Ministers' decision in 2002, the DfES, the Offenders Learning

Events

Next East Midlands Skills for Life Forum Meeting

February 11th 2004
Skills for Life – 3 years on
More details to follow

Research into the teaching and learning approaches used with dyslexic learners in adult literacy, numeracy and ESOL provision events.

NIACE and LSDA, commissioned by ABSSU, are holding **5 Regional Events in January 2004**

These FREE events are aimed at practitioners currently working with, or with an interest in, teaching dyslexic learners.
Dates are as follows:

Opportunities

Call for teacher- researchers for an adult numeracy project

A new (NRDC) adult numeracy project has just started which is looking at effective practice in adult numeracy teaching. They are looking for three teacher-researchers, who will be actively involved in data collection. They are also inviting submissions for Adult Numeracy teachers willing to become involved by offering to become a research site.

Please contact Valerie Rhodes at the following email address for further details:

valerie.rhodes@kcl.ac.uk.

Volunteers needed!

The Enterprise Training Project

7 January 04 Thistle Tower Hotel, London
13 January 04 Thistle Tower Hotel, London - Prisons event
15 January 04 Marriott Hotel, Bristol
20 January 04 Birmingham Lakeside Conference Centre, Aston University
27 January 04 Renaissance Hotel, Manchester
30 January 04 Copthorne Hotel, Newcastle

Further details and a registration form can be accessed from the link below or by contacting **Philippa Cattell in the NIACE conferences department on 0116 2044245.**
http://www.niace.org.uk/Conferences/Dyslexia_Reg.htm

**NATECLA:
A one-day conference on ESOL teacher training
Saturday 29 November 2003,
Birmingham**

A conference for ESOL teacher trainers to share approaches to the new ESOL teacher training programmes. These are based on the FENTO subject specifications for ESOL teachers which come into effect from September 2003.

For further information contact:

and Skills Unit (OLSU); the National probation service and the LSC have been working in partnership to transfer the lead responsibility for policies which support the education and training of offenders under supervision from the National Probation Service to the OLSU. The LSC will assume responsibility for the funding and planning of education and training for those under supervision. Targets for referral and basic skills qualifications will be jointly agreed and shared between the DFES, OLSU, LSC and NPS. Planning for the implementation of the framework will take place from April 2004.

NPSbasicskillsenquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

LSC funding for workbased learning providers

The LSC has agreed to fund the delivery of basic skills by workplace learning providers. The initial phase will allow some WBL providers to take a larger role in delivery of basic skills separate from any key skills they might be delivering as part of Modern Apprenticeship.

For more information contact your local Learning and Skills Council or Lisa Capper Lisa.CAPPER@dfes.gsi.gov.uk.

'Achieving Success for All.' - Improving the learner's experience of work-based learning

The next year represents a concerted effort to improve the quality of work-based learning across the East Midlands by the five Learning + Skills Councils, supported by their partners. A conference in October saw the public launch in the East Midlands of the Support for Success programme run by the LSDA funded by the LSC. The programme will offer information and advice, run regional quality networks for work-based providers, fund Action Research Projects, team leadership training for key provider training staff and offer free consultancy days for providers. **For more information contact Rebecca Godwin, Regional Co-ordinator LSDA, Tel 0115 9299066 rgodwin@lsda.org.uk**

National and Regional CPD strategy – and YOU!

By now all organisations delivering basic skills should have a staff development plan in place and to help these developments the East Midlands Skills for Life Forum is holding its next event on **'Quality in Teaching & Learning: Developing the Professional'**. This will take place on Tuesday November 25th at Burleigh Court in Loughborough. By the time this Bulletin reaches you the closing date for booking places will have passed. If you have missed the chance to attend but want to find more about CPD you can visit www.niace.org.uk/projects/skillsforlife

for disability development in Northampton need volunteers to assist in training sessions. If you can help or know some one looking for teaching practice please **contact Rosemary Haddiway on 01604 603045**

People

By now most of you will be aware that **Lisa Capper** the Adult Basic Skills Strategy Unit Regional Coordinator is back from maternity leave. She can be contacted via

Lisa.CAPPER@dfes.gsi.gov.uk.

Terry Smith is now working with ABSSU in London as Achievement and Qualifications Advisor You can contact Terry terry.smith@dfes.gsi.gov.uk

Lynn Carpenter of the BSA has moved into a regional role with the BSA in the West Midlands and **Teresa Latham** is now the East Midlands BSA Regional Coordinator. **Contact her on 07979 240897 or theresal@basic-skills.co.uk**

East Midlands Skills for Life Forum

The Regional Forum was set up in autumn 2001, initially made up of 100 plus key organisations, to develop a series of major events to encourage debate and disseminate good practice. This Bulletin is aimed at supporting that debate and dissemination

NATECLA National Centre
Tel: 0121 688 8121 mail co-ordinator@natecla.fsnet.co.uk

**NRDC numeracy and maths:
the challenges
for lifelong learning**

A one-day conference for policy makers,

practitioners and researchers

**Thursday 4 December 2003,
Institute of Education.**

This conference is aimed at researchers, policy makers and engaged practitioners.

**For further information email
publications@nrdc.org.uk**

**The Learning and Skills
Research Network Conference
9-11 December 2003,
University of Warwick**
**For further information email
pmelling@lsda.org.uk**

**Success for all? What it means
for black
practitioners and learners**
NIACE annual race equality
conference

**Tuesday 16 December 2003,
Britannia Street Conference
Centre, London**

**For further information email
gurjit.kaur@niace.org.uk**

**The Regeneration Game:
Learning for neighbourhood
renewal**

Conferences to launch this game
which
has been developed by David

Move On coming to the East Midlands

Judy Alderson is taking up her new role as the new regional Move On coordinator in January and her task is to ensure that every institution has a Move On plan in place. The Move On Pack is in the National Test Toolkit available from the DfES. To order a copy please call 0845 60 222 60 and quote reference SFL NTT. If you already using Move On – please let Lisa Capper know lisa.capper@dfes.gsi.gov.uk

The Big Read Top 21 Revealed

The BBC's Big Read is reaching its final stages - the top 21 has been revealed and voting has started for the Nation's Favourite Book. The Big Read can be used as a prompt for a variety of literacy-related activities (e.g. balloon debates, favourite book discussions). Details of the top 21 books and downloadable resources can be found at the Big Read website www.bbc.co.uk/bigread. There are links to www.readon.org.uk

Viewers can vote for their best-loved novel in the Top 21 in the following ways: Telephone: 0901 522 9000 (calls cost 15p) SMS: 86200 (by texting the title of the chosen novel. This costs no more than 12p per message) Online: at www.bbc.co.uk/bigread Interactive TV: By pressing the red button on the digital remote

National Training Awards 2003 East Midlands Campaign

70 East Midlands groups or individuals were entered for the National Training Awards in 2003 (up 9% on 2002). These included 41 from employers, 7 from providers, 5 from partnerships and 17 from individuals. Out of the 70 original entries 30 reached the national judging stage and of these 19 have been successful in becoming national finalists.

News from around the region

Training for FLLN

The ROWA! Skills for Families project is offering BSA training for Family Literacy, Language and Numeracy (FLLN) to teachers and managers of pre and post 16 on FLLN courses in Derbyshire. The courses will take place at the Bridge Centre in Langley Mill on November 13th, 27th and December 4th.

On 11th December the project is hosting a Regional Development Seminar for Skills for Families. To disseminate practice to LEA, LSC and FE. This is an invitation only event but if you would like to attend the courses or find out more about the conference contact **Karen Hanson**
ROWA 01773 535232/ Khanson@rowabridgecentre.fsnet.co.uk

process amongst Forum representatives, now over 350 people receive a copy. The Steering Group, which leads the work of the Forum, has recently gained 5 new partners: Mary Alys of the TUC, Wendy Chamberlain of Job Centre Plus, Lynn Crooks of the Health Development Agency, Helen Fielder of the Prison Service and Tony Raban of the Probation Service.

Steering Group Members

Mary Alys,
Midlands Co-ordinator
Trade Union Congress Learning
Services malys@tuc.org.uk

Mike Attwell,
WEA East Midlands
mattwell@wea.org.uk

Elaine Beckford,
Nottinghamshire Learning &
Skills Council
elaine.beckford@lsc.gov.uk

Lyndsey Bunn,
Skills Development Manager
East Midlands Development
Agency
LyndseyBunn@emd.org.uk

Lisa Capper,
Regional Co-ordinator
Adult Basic Skills Strategy Unit,
DfES, East Midlands region
lisa.capper@dfes.gsi.gov.uk

Wilcox and Drew Mackie with NIACE and endorsed by the Neighbourhood Renewal Unit (NRU) It is a resource for promoting community involvement in neighbourhood renewal, encouraging partnerships and creative and collaborative thinking, or developing the planning and negotiating skills needed for community regeneration. It is ideal for staff development and training programmes and for use in 'real' situations with local organisations, agencies and groups.

Tuesday 18 November 2003, Bristol
Thursday 20 November 2003, Birmingham
Tuesday 25 November 2003, Hull
For more information contact Gurjit Kaur

[Tel 0116 204 2833](tel:01162042833); [Email - gurjit.kaur@niace.org.uk](mailto:gurjit.kaur@niace.org.uk)
[or visit NIACE website Conferences/Regeneration.htm](#)

Useful Links

Adult Basic Skills Strategy Unit
www.dfes.gov.uk/readwriteplus

Get On Campaign

Skills for Life in Libraries

In Derbyshire the basic skills 'Quality in Libraries' initiative is supporting the Skills for Life strategy. This sets out a framework, focusing on effectiveness and entitlement; which an individual library has to meet to gain a Quality in Libraries award. The assessment process requires the library to produce a portfolio of evidence including publicity, photographs, staff development records, policies and notes of meetings. Derbyshire Libraries and Heritage Service have committed themselves to a further 10 libraries gaining the award by April 2004.

[For more details contact Carol Taylor carol@rowa.co.uk](#)

Lincolnshire and Rutland Get Rid of your Gremlins Week, 13th - 17th October 2003

The LSC worked with a host of partners to run a week of activity based around the Skills for Life agenda. Gremlins helped to raise awareness by encouraging individuals to try the national test whilst onboard the BBC Learning Bus and Boston College Bus, on Monday, at major industrial estates, and on Wednesday in town centres all over Lincolnshire & Rutland. Tuesday saw the opening of the first of nine CPD centres at Horncastle college, as well as an event on Embedding Basic Skills for tutors. On Thursday, Basic Skills Awareness Events were held for IAGA practitioners. Friday, the final day, brought Skills for Life - A Celebration conference to Stoke Rochford Hall, Grantham. Delegates celebrated the achievements that have already taken place in the region, and looked ahead to the next phase of delivery from 2004 to 2007.

[For more details contact caroline.wright@lsc.gov.uk](mailto:caroline.wright@lsc.gov.uk) 01522 508556 (direct dial)

Basic skills and the Probation Service

The five Probation Areas the East Midlands are in contact with about 20,000 offenders, and national research suggests that one in three have basic skills needs below level one. From April 2004, Probation funding for the provision of basic skills programmes will be transferred to DfES, and LSCs will take on responsibility for the funding and planning of basic skills programmes for offenders under supervision.

Probation will screen, assess and refer offenders to relevant provision, with targets and learning outcomes being shared between DfES, LSC, and Probation. Joint work is taking place in areas and regionally to ensure that the benefits of the new arrangements are realised. Anyone wishing to find out more should [contact Tony Raban, Probation Regional Manager for the East Midlands. Tel 0115 9846115. E-mail:](#)

Wendy Chamberlain,
Basic Skills Co-ordinator
(Regional representative)
Jobcentre Plus
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Liz Cousins,
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Lynn Crooks,
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/ lcrooks@goem@go-regions.gsi.gov.uk

Jennifer Fearon-Beckford,
Regional Director Learning
& Skills Development Agency,
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Hilary Fielder,
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(Regional representative)
Prison Service
hilary.fielder@hmpr.gsi.gov.uk
hfielder.goem@go-regions.gsi.gov.uk

www.dfes.gov.uk/get-on

Learning and Skills Council
www.lsc.gov.uk

NIACE (National Institute for
Adult and Continuing Education)
www.niace.org.uk

LSC Local contacts

Basic Skills Agency
www.basic-skills.co.uk

Derbyshire
Eryl Prentice
Eryl.Prentice@lsc.gov.uk
0845 019 4183

DfES Lifelong Learning
www.lifelonglearning.co.uk

LearnDirect
www.learnirect.co.uk

Learning and Skills Development
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www.lsda.org.uk

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Gill King
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0116 228 1870

Lincolnshire and Rutland
Di Pudney
diana.pudney@lsc.gov.uk
01522 508547

National Literacy Trust
www.literacytrust.org.uk

Tony.raban@nottinghamshire.probation.gsx.gov.uk

Lincolnshire Probation clients MOVE ON

In the last edition we reported on how Lincolnshire Probation Service has been working with the Move On concept to deliver literacy. Now national, Move On consultants will work with the service to support the development of a numeracy model which will embed a 30 hour Move On Numeracy programme into offender's probation programmes, thus avoiding the problems of drop out between initial assessment and up take of provision. They are also working to embed basic skills into 4 vocational areas which will be delivered by Boston College on site once evaluated this is envisaged that this approach may be rolled out nationally. **For details contact Tricia O'Meara on 01522 781 696**
Tricia.o'Meara@Lincolnshire.probation.gsx.gov.uk

Creative Writing for basic skills learners

Life Long Learning Services, have been delivering a Creative Writing Course from the Kettering Centre for Unemployed People. This is producing an inspiring body of work from learners ranging from entry one to level one learners There will be an exhibition of the work in Kettering Library through out January 2004. **Details Alyson Lyon 01536 275860.**

Workbased Learning Provider to deliver funded Basic Skills Delivery

Northampton Industrial Training Association are to become the first Private WBL provider to be funded to deliver basic skills qualifications in support of young people on WBL programmes. NITAL. Are taking part on the National Pilot trial and are looking to deliver 50 Basic skills qualifications during the duration of the trial period.
Details sandie@nitaitainme.org.uk

Increasing Adult Dyslexia Support

Working in partnership with South Bank University and funded through Northamptonshire Learning and Skills Council's Local Initiative funds, Wellingborough Life Long Learning Services are running a course to increase the Countywide Dyslexia Capacity. Starting in January 04, the course will lead to the Certificate in Adult Dyslexia Support accredited at Level 3. **Details Pauline Bateman 01933 445830.**

ESOL for professionals

A new approach to helping refugees and immigrant professionals is being offered by Northampton Life Long Learning Services. A full time, 16 week

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East Midlands Development
Officer University for Industry
rkerr@ufi.com

Gill King,
Leicestershire Learning
& Skills Council
gill.king@lsc.gov.uk

Theresa Latham,
Regional Director,
East Midlands Basic Skills
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Andy Marsh,
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Di Pudney,
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Tony Raban,
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Tony.raban@nottinghamshire.probation.gsx.gov.uk

Karen Riley,
Regional Director
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Gordon Sergent,
Northamptonshire Learning
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National Research Development Centre
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0115 8720036

National Research Development Centre
for adult literacy, language and numeracy
www.nrdc.org.uk

Qualifications and Curriculum Authority
www.qca.org.uk

Ufi
www.ufi.com

intensive ESOL course will help people who enter the County with professional qualifications but limited operational English. **For details contact Anna Bridges 01604 708050**

Trade Union Learning Representatives to become National Test Recruiters in Northants

Continuing the successful partnership with the TUC Training services, 25 Learning Representatives from a wide range of companies across Northamptonshire are to attend a seminar run by Learn Direct and UFI staff. This will equip them with a sound knowledge of the requirements of the National Test and enable them to give advice to Union Members on achieving a National Qualification by taking the test.

Details from Gordon Sergent 01604 533031
[Gordon.sergent@lsc.gov.uk](mailto:gordon.sergent@lsc.gov.uk)

Northamptonshire Workplace Skills for Life Trade Union Project

This new nine-month project starting in November aims to increase the update of literacy, numeracy & ESOC provision by employees through the role of the Union Learning rep. A TUC Learning Services project worker will be supporting union learning reps to build workplace learning partnerships with employers and local providers to deliver learning to meet the needs of the workforce.

For further information on this project contact Chanda Parmar-Bonta on 0116 2623531. Or www.learningservices.org.uk

Northamptonshire Essential Skills Campaign Up date

A successful event at Weetabix on the 9th September launched a phone campaign aimed at encouraging 5000 companies in the County to engage in Basic Skills training for their employees. With 4 weeks to go, the campaign has had 57 positive leads for sales consultants to follow up and so the project is on course to contact its planned 100 target companies

For more information contact Gordon Sergent 01604 533031
[Gordon.sergent@lsc.gov.uk](mailto:gordon.sergent@lsc.gov.uk)

Basic Skills in Libraries

Leicestershire Learning Partnership is accessing Capacity Building funding to employ a Library Development Worker who will co-ordinate a Library Basic Skills Project across 2 authorities in Leicester City and Leicestershire County. The project will link Basic Skills learners and tutors to appropriate fiction and learning materials based in libraries, support librarians in terms of stock selection and train library staff to

Carol Taylor,
Director Read On Write Away,
Derbyshire
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Barrie Whittamore,
Head of Enterprise & Education,
Nottinghamshire &
Nottinghamshire Government
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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.

make libraries more welcoming and basic skills staff in the use of libraries for their learners. Eventually there will be a web site which includes a catalogue of every book which is appropriate to basic skills or ESOL learners and books and materials will be reviewed by tutors and learners.

For more information contact Colleen Molloy, Leicestershire County Council 0116 232 3232 cmolloy@leics.gov.uk

Resources

BBC Skillswise, the adult literacy and numeracy resource from the BBC is growing, with input from tutors working in the field. The materials have been developed for adults at level one and have been developed to tie in with the national curriculum. Check out the Skillswise website at

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise> www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise.

Alternatively, for use in places without access to the internet, Skillswise is offering a free CD-ROM, providing a taster of resources available online at the website. To order a copy online go to

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/tutors/>
www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/tutors/.

More qualifications approved by QCA and FENTO

The following have recently been added to the list of approved qualifications:-

Cambridge ESOL Examinations, UCLES

Level 4 Cambridge ESOL Certificate for ESOL Subject Specialists

City & Guilds

Level 4 Certificate for Adult Numeracy Subject Specialists

Level 3 Certificate in Adult Literacy Subject Support

Level 3 Certificate in Adult Numeracy Subject Support

Trinity College, London

Level 4 Certificate for Adult ESOL Subject Specialists

You can find a full list of approved qualifications at www.qca.org.uk

MoneyPower

The Basic Skills Agency has recently produced **MoneyPower** as a companion resource to Money-go-round. It focuses on levels one and two of the Adult Literacy and Numeracy Core Curriculum and the Developing and Extending levels of the Adult Financial Capability Framework.

There will be further opportunities to attend MoneyPower workshop events later in the year.

For details contact Catherine Singleton, email catherines@basic-skills.co.uk or telephone 0207 4407755.

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.