

Literacies Workers' and Managers' views

Practitioners' annual self-evaluation against the quality framework, Literacies in the Community, showed that quality has been maintained. Progress with improvement plans will continue through 2005-2006.

(End - Year Report to Scottish Executive 2004-2005)

Literacies Awareness Raising

Learning for ALL is committed to raising awareness of the impact of literacies on people's lives and on how to get help in the Scottish Borders.

We do this with partners who refer and support literacies learners, with learners and in all project areas.

We use leaflets, information sheets, posters, local radio and press, discussion, training and information sessions and networking activities. Our Radio Borders Action Week successfully presented literacies issues from a learner's, volunteer's, practitioner's and manager's point of view. We targeted Peebles, Innerleithen and Walkerburn as new project areas as well as selected employers to support workplace development.



Photo from digitalpic

This year we sponsored a Literacies Award at the Borders Adult Learners Awards and gift book tokens for all nominees.

Learning for ALL is linked to the national awareness raising campaign - the Big Plus.

Anyone in the Scottish Borders using the Big Plus freephone helpline will be transferred to Learning for ALL. We send callers a DVD/Video and leaflets that help them see what the project can do for them.



BALSA - A Learners' Forum

BALSA achieved charitable status in 2005 and some independent funding from Direct Grants and Awards for ALL. They represent learners' concerns on several planning and monitoring groups including the Borders Learning Partnership Literacies sub-group. Learning for ALL and BALSA worked in partnership to carry out focus groups with literacies learners to find out more about learners' experiences and the impact of learning on their lives. The information gathered helps us to respond to what learners need and has given us useful feedback on the quality of the services we provided in 2004-2005. A BALSA Committee member also won the Voluntary Sector Award at the Borders Adult Learners Awards and was Overall Borders Winner at the National Adult Learners Awards.



BALSA can be contacted through Neil Gunn on 01896 755110 or BALSAscotborders.gov.uk They also have a website: www.balsa.org.uk

Staff and Volunteer Training and Development:

Our strategy for improving quality and building capacity is to offer free training to partners and volunteers. This year we achieved authorisation to accredit PDA:ITALL, an SQA Professional Development Award - Introductory Training in Adult Literacies Learning and we ran two 40 hour courses. Nine volunteers and fifteen staff from five different organisations attended.

In partnership with Careers Scotland, literacies staff received Frontline Guidance training.

The main focus of Learning for ALL staff training was Using ICT for Literacies, supported by a grant of £9,801.00 to buy laptops and the gift of two digital cameras from Learning Connections. Eleven literacies workers attended Abilitynet training to help them respond to the needs of learners dealing with disability.

Individual workers are also training in Dyslexia and ESOL and attend national forums to bring specialist information, research and training into the partnership to support learners with additional needs.

The Partnership

Learning for ALL partners work together to support and refer learners to access a range of quality, relevant tuition and guidance provided by the two main delivery partners: Scottish Borders Council (SBC) Community Learning and Development and Borders College. The main partners are: SBC Community Learning and Development; SBC Library Services; SBC Social Work; Borders College; Careers Scotland; Scottish Enterprise Borders; Borders Forum of Councils for Voluntary Services; Jobcentre Plus; Apex Scotland; NHS Borders; Healthy Living Network and BALSA.

Learning for ALL welcomes the recently published Scottish Borders Compact, which will strengthen further joint working with the voluntary sector.

Learning for ALL outcomes contribute to the aims of New Ways and are integrated into the Scottish Borders Community Learning and Development Strategy 2004-2007 and the Scottish Borders Community Guidance strategy. Learning for ALL also contributes to the achievements of the Healthy Living Network and Bright New Futures (a strategy for Children and Young People in the Scottish Borders).

The Future

Our Plans for 2005-2006 are detailed in the Learning for ALL Action Plan 2004-2006. Learning for ALL is holding several planning events in October 2005 that will inform a new action plan for 2006-2008.

We aim to work with 600 learners each year. Our strategy will be to raise awareness of the issues and impact of literacies, to provide free, local tuition and to work and train in partnership. We will do this in consultation with partners and learners and our plans will be responsive to local and national research.

Financial capability will be a new area of concern for the project. Workplace literacies and providing for young people and ESOL learners will continue to be areas for development.

The newly published Adult Literacy and Numeracy Curriculum Framework for Scotland and TQAL - Teaching Qualification: Adult Literacies will impact nationally and locally from 2005 onward and support the continuing professional development of the field and the quality of learning programmes for learners.

Contact: Claire Stewart 01896 755110
cstewart@scotborders.gov.uk
www.scotborders.gov.uk

Literacies workers in local areas:

Learning for ALL has 10 part-time workers in 11 locations. We also support a bank of sessional and volunteer tutors.

You can contact local workers directly to get help with reading, writing or numbers.

For information about the project and training, contact the Literacies Co-ordinator.

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Claire Stewart 01896 755110

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Eyemouth
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Jessie Harrington 01450 377799

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Workplace Literacies
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The Big Plus
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**Annual Report
2004 - 2005**

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Learning for ALL is the Adult Literacies Learning project in the Scottish Borders.

It is a partnership project, which links existing services provided by partner agencies to new provision funded by the Scottish Executive to improve the quality, quantity and range of adult literacy and numeracy provision in Scottish Borders.

The project provides:

- Adult Literacy and Numeracy Tuition
- Literacies Awareness Raising
- Support for BALSAs - a Learners' Forum
- Staff and Volunteer Development and Training

We work with adults who have limited initial education and are:

- Unemployed/facing redundancy
- In low skilled jobs on low incomes
- Speakers of other languages
- Living in disadvantaged areas
- Dealing with disability

We support people to develop their skills and use language and number in their everyday lives.

To be literate is to be able "to read, write and use numeracy to handle information, to express ideas and opinions, to make decisions and solve problems, as family members, workers, citizens and lifelong learners." ALNIS Report (2001).

We support people to gain confidence and skills through their learning.

When people feel confident in their literacy and numeracy, they also feel confident to take part in their communities, get the jobs they want, support their families and exercise their rights and responsibilities as citizens.

Literacies learning supports people to learn throughout their lives, in ways that shape the lives they want to live.

This is what some learners have said

"English helps my beauty course. I have learnt how to communicate with clients. Now I don't have to translate in my mind. I am not as scared as I was before coming here." (ESOL learner).

"It has given me a lot more confidence and I now know what I have to do to reach my goals."

"I feel confident going in to do the work because you are not made to feel stupid. You get loads of encouragement from the tutor"

Why now? Why Literacies?

Ministers have outlined "a vision of a modern, vibrant Scotland, all of whose citizens are equipped to fulfil their potential." (ALNIS 2001).

Literacy and numeracy are essential for the health and wellbeing of individuals as well as economic prosperity. (Changing Lives: Adult Literacy and Numeracy in Scotland, 2005).



Our Work in 2004-2005

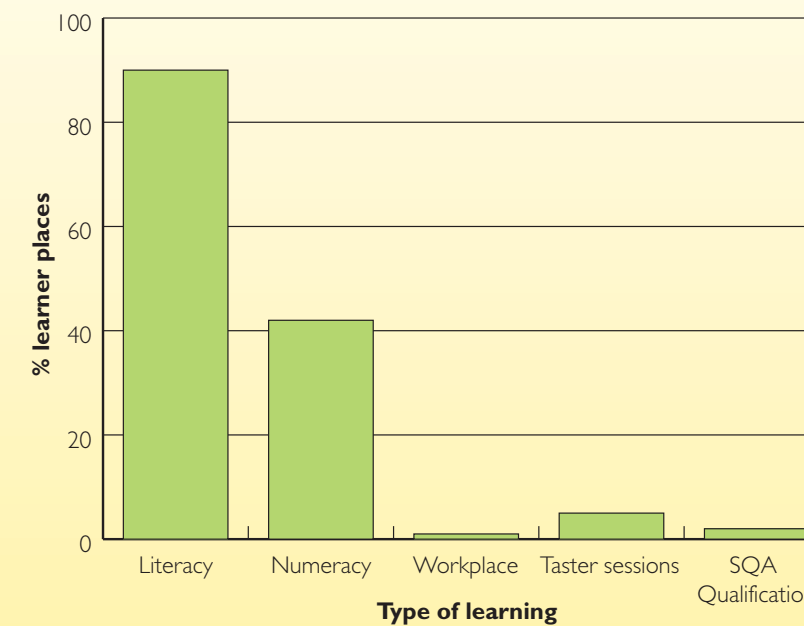
Adult Literacy and Numeracy Tuition

All learners get free tuition. They make an individual or group learning plan that outlines literacies learning that is about their needs, interests and purposes. This plan guides the learning that they do. It helps them see the progress that they are making and plan what they want to do next.

How many learners and what did they do?

We worked with 547 learners and provided 607 learner places. Most learners worked on literacy, many also worked on numeracy and a few learners worked on SQA qualifications.

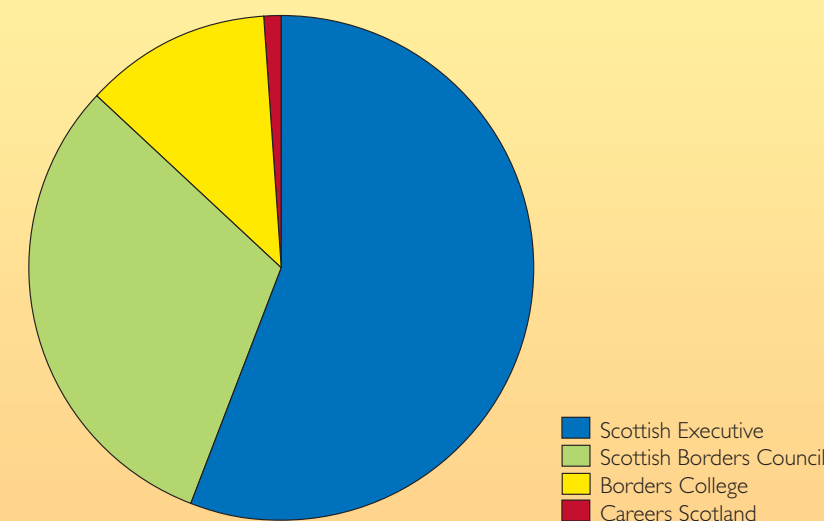
Learning opportunities taken up by learners



What did it cost?

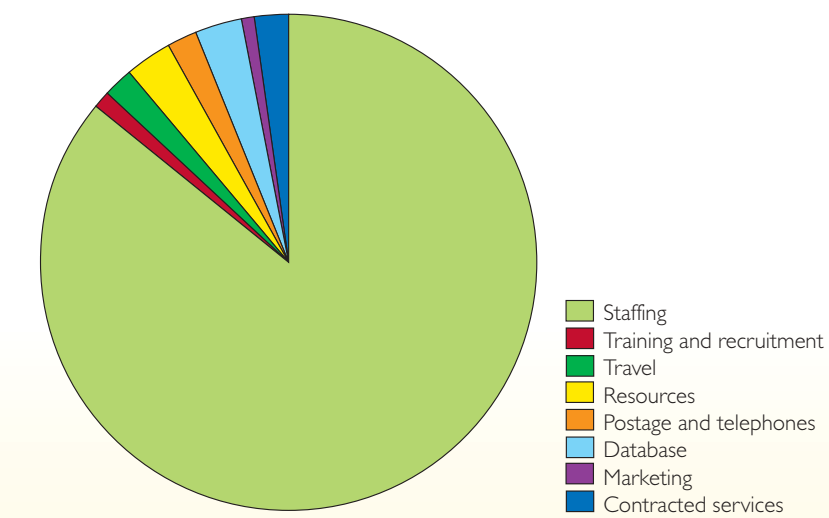
Total funding: £296,323.77

% Funding from different sources



How was funding used?

% SE funding



What was the learners' experience?

We talked to groups of learners and supported other learners to respond to a questionnaire.

How easy was it to get tuition?

Most learners found it easy to get the tuition they needed. It helped them to get local support where they could speak to a tutor who listened, in a relaxed atmosphere.

Leaflets were seen as effective and useful. Most people found out about provision from other people.

What was it like?

Most learners thought that the tuition and guidance they got was very good or good. They value their learning plans and their tutors. Learners felt that they had a lot of say in what they learnt and most found their learning enjoyable.

Most learners wanted more learning hours and would like to take part in other learning.

Partners' views

"The quality of staff and their dedication to helping those with literacy difficulties is impressive."

"The tutor has provided residents with reading, writing, numeracy and ICT - this greatly helps the residents in practical ways and builds confidence. A great job done."

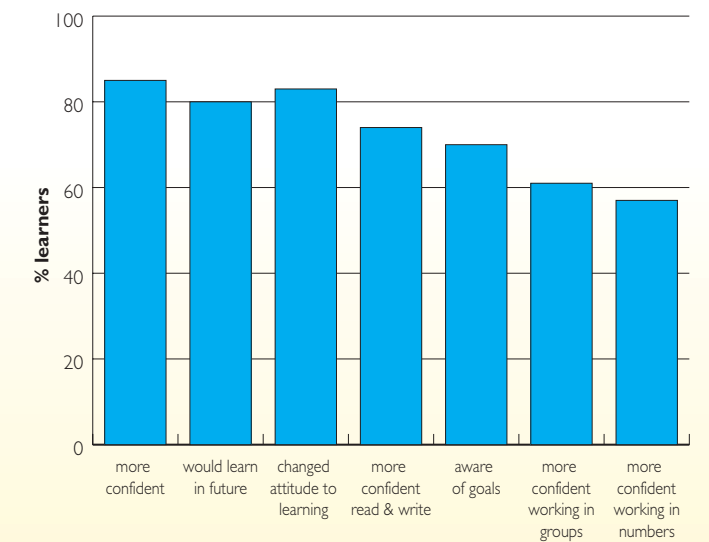
"Very person-centred, progressing well. Group members are all benefiting greatly".

(Partner evaluation questionnaire responses 2004 - 2005)

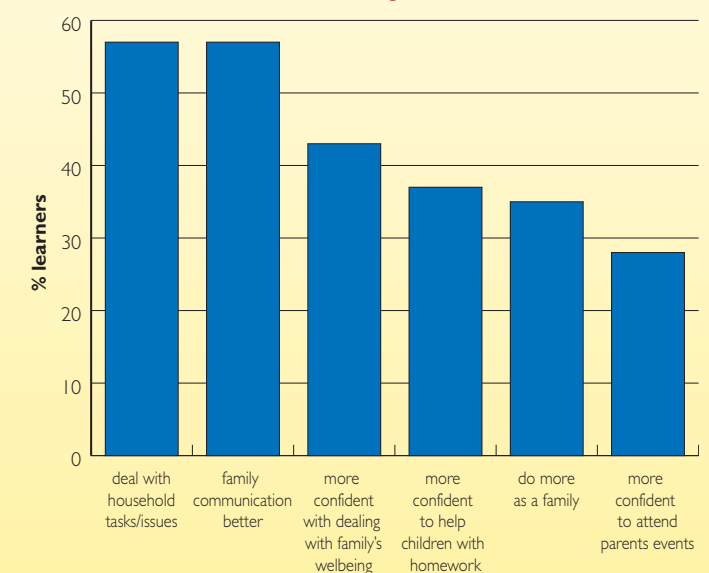
What did learning mean to learners?

Most learners saw changes in themselves as literacy and numeracy users as well as in their attitudes to learning. Almost all learners said that they were more confident as a result of learning.

Personal Life



Family Life



Working Life

