

# ADULT LITERACY & NUMERACY STRATEGY

Scottish Borders Progress Update 2006



learning for  
**ALL**



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In Scotland today, to be literate means to be able to read, write and use numeracy to carry out everyday tasks and be part of everyday processes that involve handling information, expressing ideas and opinions, making decisions and solving problems.

We all do these things everyday as part of our personal, family, working and community lives.

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

Providing literacies learning is part of the New Ways Community Plan for improving the quality of life in the Scottish Borders.

The project is called Learning for ALL: Adult Literacies Learning





### What is being done in the Scottish Borders?

- Learning for ALL aims to do the following:
- Make literacies issues and provision visible in targeted areas
  - Direct financial and staffing resources to identified areas of need
  - Support 460-470 individuals per year to achieve their learning goals
  - Maintain and raise the quality of provision
  - Train partnership staff and volunteers

The project is linked to the national awareness raising campaign, the Big Plus. Borders residents who phone the free helpline 0808 100 1080 are connected to the Learning for ALL Co-ordinator and supported to get local provision.

So far we have supported 1,083 new learners. We will continue to help about 460 new and continuing learners per year to use their literacy and numeracy to support and shape their lives.

Our strategy links to the Borders Community Learning and Development Strategy and contributes to achievement through learning for adults, young people and through capacity building.

It supports the Scottish Adult Literacy and Numeracy Strategy and reflects the importance of making people aware of the impact of literacies on people's lives; how to get local provision; linking organisation of learning and individual learning to people's everyday needs, and supporting staff and volunteers to respond to a developing field.

The Scottish Adult Literacy and Numeracy Strategy is currently being refreshed. Borders' learners, practitioners and partners are involved in its development.



FREEPHONE  
0808 100 1080

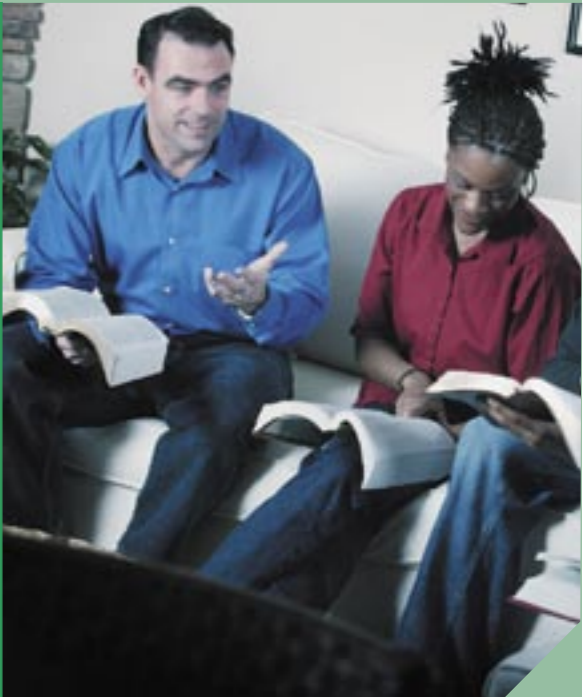
### How is it funded?

National funding from the Scottish Executive is supporting the development of adult literacies in the Scottish Borders.

Action Plans / Spend

01/04	£225,594
04/06	£358,492
06/08	£437,805

This is in addition to staffing and in kind contributions from project partners, who work together to improve the quality, quantity and range of adult literacy and numeracy provision.



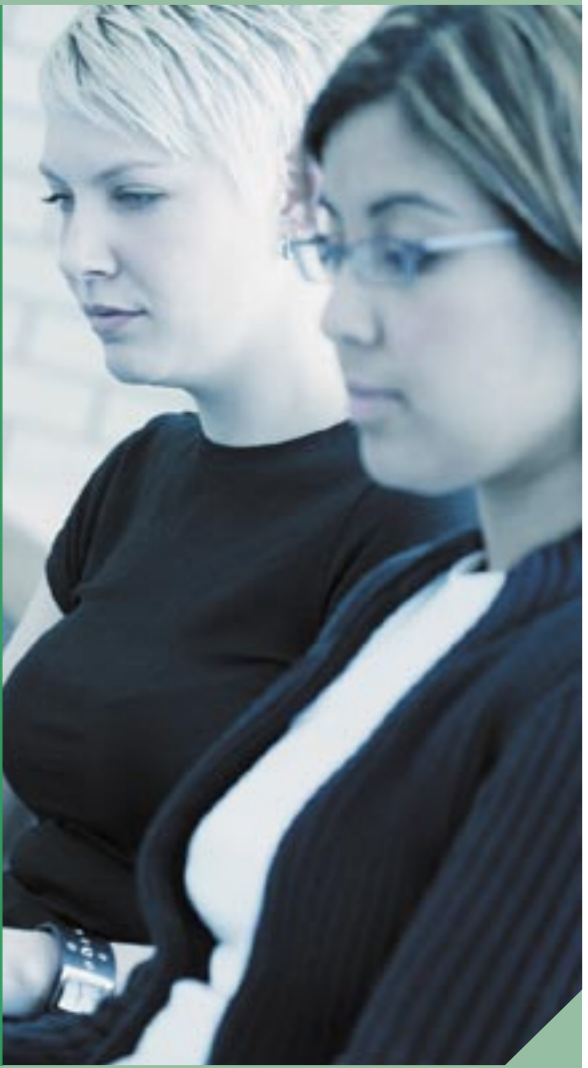
### Who is involved?

As part of the vision described in the New Ways Community Plan for providing a better service for learners, the development of literacies learning is managed and monitored by a partnership group linked to the New Ways theme team, the Borders Learning Partnership.

#### Literacies partners include:

- Scottish Borders Council Community Learning and Development and Library and Information Services
- Borders College
- Careers Scotland
- Scottish Enterprise Borders
- Jobcentre Plus
- Apex Scotland
- BALSAs (a learners' forum)
- Voluntary sector representation through BFCVS

We agree Strategic Action Plans outlining what we will do and how we will do it.



## What happened in 2005-2006?

### Awareness Raising:

- We produced two new leaflets to help learners and partners find out about learning
- We worked with agencies, businesses and organisations to raise staff awareness of literacies issues through training
- We sponsored a Literacies Award at the Borders Adult Learners Awards
- We developed a presence on [www.onlineborders.org.uk](http://www.onlineborders.org.uk) - the local community grid for learning and trained key staff to continue to update and develop this web presence

### Tuition and guidance

- CL&D and Borders College provided 629 places in 44 locations for literacy and numeracy learners.
- We supported and mainstreamed an online learning project : Help Yourself to Learning
- We funded the development of new partnership opportunities and approaches through our Development Fund
- We established a central resource base at the CPD Unit, Langlee, Galashiels
- We provided literacies resources for the Help Yourself and Big Plus collections in libraries , and software and mobile internet connection for partner providers
- We appointed a workplace development worker, explored the development of workplace literacies through a case study approach and provided a report to the Scottish Executive
- We achieved ESF funding for a Rural Adult Learning Project
- We asked learners what they thought of their tuition and guidance and identified areas for improvement



### Staff development

- We hosted a Literacies practice sharing conference: Good Practice; New Practice
- We trained partnership delivery staff and volunteers in the following:
  - ICT and Literacies Learning
  - Adult Literacy and Numeracy Curriculum Framework
  - Accrediting literacies learning
  - SQA
  - Dyslexia awareness raising
  - ITALL: Introductory Training in Adult Literacies Learning
- We identified training priorities for 2006-2008
- We self-evaluated the quality of our learning and organisation and identified priorities for improvement

### Planning in partnership

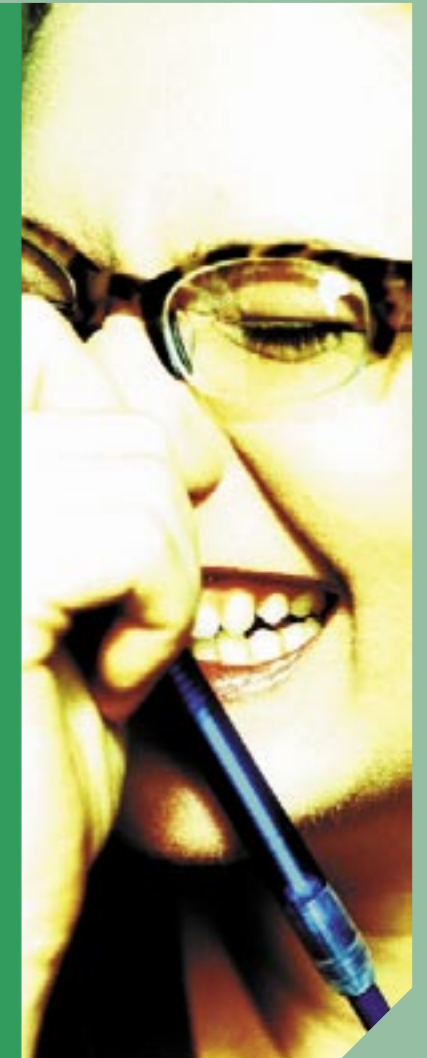
- We supported the participation of strategic, non-strategic partners and practitioners in re-visioning the strategic plan
- Our plan was successfully evaluated, resulting in a local outcome agreement and future funding for 2006-2008

### What next?

This year we evaluated the working and impact of the partnership: the partnership is seen as working well, with cross partnership capacity building, initiatives and staff development. Strategic outcome targets are consistently achieved. We will continue to work to develop understandings and adjustments that support partnership aims and mainstreaming of initiatives.

As well as ongoing tuition for learners, our new strategic plan will support the following projects in 2006-2008:

- Balsa Awareness Raising Project: Learners supported to tell their stories to community groups
- Learners' Microsite Project: Learners developing a microsite to create an online awareness raising resource and discussion forum for learners
- Youth Literacies: the development of Youth Literacies through training youth workers
- Workplace Literacies: continued support for the development of workplace literacies within 6-8 small and medium enterprises.



## What difference has learning made to learners lives?

We regularly ask learners about the difference learning has made to them.

This year BAlSA ran focus groups for learners on their experience of learning and the effect on their lives. Other learners also responded to a questionnaire.

There is evidence from these that learning is impacting on participation in home, family and work contexts as well as supporting personal development and confidence. Most learners noted positive changes in themselves: in their skills, knowledge and understanding; in how they use their literacies; and in their general confidence and perception of themselves as lifelong learners.

### Here is what some learners have said:

“I no longer have to ‘cover up’ at home.”

“I can now tackle things like banking, shops...everyday life.”

“My confidence has greatly increased and led to me looking for work.”

“I won an award - and felt proud.”

“I’m able to play darts with my son; learning numbers has made it a lot easier”



For information about the project, please contact:  
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