



Nottinghamshire
County Council

Adult and Community Learning Service Tutor News March 2008

Welcome to the March 2008 of the ACLS Tutor Newsletter

Adult Learners Week – ACLS learners will have a high profile as part of the ALW Awards 2008 as 13 nominations have been sent to NIACE. We'll know how successful they've been when the results are announced in May.

As you will know, for the last 3 years ACLS has organised an event at County Hall to celebrate the achievements of learners, providers and tutors. This year we have been asked by NIACE to host and organise the East Midlands Regional Event. As a result of this exciting opportunity we will not be holding our own discrete ACLS award ceremony this year. However, any ACLS learners who have been nominated for a NIACE award will receive an invitation to the event.

To enable more ACLS learners to have their achievement recognised we have decided for 2008 to run a series of smaller district based events.

We do hope you will be able to support the District events, more details of which will be issued at a later date.

Family Learning

I'm Alison, standing in for Suzie whilst she is on maternity leave. I'm passionate about Family Learning and the benefits it can have for the carer and the child. I have spent the last two years designing and delivering Family Learning courses in Primary and Secondary schools and I am committed to promoting Family learning in new arenas and to reach new audiences. I come from an arts and media background, working in print, video and design, before moving into education where I have taught in Secondary, Further and Higher Ed.

Bringing Learning to Local
...Communities

I have done teacher training for ceramics and I have a Sfl specialism in ESOL. I still teach now.

Family Learning is doing really well and there are still funds to develop new and exciting courses for anyone with any energy left!

We are planning some proactive and worthwhile training and best practise sharing. I would welcome your input and requests in order to put together a programme for delivery at the curriculum team meetings that you want.

Currently on the menu is;

- Dyslexia training.
- Qwizdom curriculum delivery.
- Development of a rarpa based initial assessment.

New partnership – ACLS is supporting Family Learning with Foster Carers and The Probation Service.

We hope to extend these opportunities to develop future Foster carers to engage in this fruitful learning course for supporting them in their role and gaining the required qualifications for the job that they now are required to have.

These clients may require specialist knowledge and training and it is anticipated that tutor training will follow to support this delivery.

Celebration Event - ACLS held a Family Learning event in the Assembly Rooms at County Hall on Friday 8th February. The event was organised to celebrate the achievements of those participating in Family learning throughout Nottinghamshire. Approximately 50 adults and 40 children attended.

Councillor Steve Carroll (Cabinet Member for Culture and Regeneration), welcomed the learners and their families, congratulating them on their achievements. BBC RAW donated books from their Max and Lara series, aiming to encourage families to read together. Max and Lara also made a special guest appearance that went down well with the children. Those attending were also able to take part in arts and crafts activities, music or play games from times gone by.....who remembers skipping?

For information about Family Learning please contact Alison Barros on 0115 977 2181

On-Course – The first edition of 'On-Course' was published in January 2008. It focuses on individuals and the impact learning has had on them. The January edition has been widely circulated and feedback has been extremely positive with David Ewens (from NIACE) saying "some really affirming stories here-balm to the soul in these challenging days for adult learning".

You can view 'On Course' by visiting the ACLS webpages at:

<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/acls-oncourse2008january.pdf>

E:learning

Qwizdom - Is an interactive voting system, which operates a bit like 'Ask the Audience' in 'Who Wants to be A Millionaire'.

It operates through PowerPoint on a laptop or pc and the audience (learners) can be set a series of questions. They respond by pressing the appropriate button on their handset keypad. The questions can have True or False or multiple choice answers. Additionally, dependent on the handset, word answers can be sent using an alpha/numeric keypad.

Tutors design the questions to suit the lesson that they are delivering. Learner responses provide valuable data to inform initial assessment and progress. Individual learner responses are only known to the tutor, so eliminating any potential uneasiness on the part of learners

ACLS has two qwizdom packs, each with a dozen handsets, one set of which has an alpha/numeric keypad, particularly useful for courses with a literacy/numeracy content. E:Guides will be delivering training in their use through E Learning workshops.

On the subject of E:Guides, two more ACLS team members, Alison Barros and Richard Sample, have done the first two days of E:Guide training, so after the third day (in April) they'll be able to join the other E:Guides in delivering E Learning workshops.

The role of E-Guides is to support colleagues in the application of e-learning practice to improve the quality of teaching and learning.

ACLS will be running a series of E Learning workshops for tutors, and details of dates and venues will be available shortly. If there are topics you would like to see covered, please contact us.

Informal Adult Learning - shaping the way ahead - John Denham, Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills, has opened a debate about the future of adult learning.

Details can be found at:

www.adultlearningconsultation.org.uk - ACLS would urge tutors to view the details, and talk to their employer about the proposals to help formulate a response. This important debate will affect current and potential learners.

ACLS Tutor Conferences – Planning has just begun for the 2008 Conferences. The dates are Wednesday 10th and Saturday 13th September.

Last year 96% of those attending reported that they found the range of activities excellent or good. To help us plan for this year, please let us know if there are any topics you would like to see covered by emailing us at acls@nottsc.gov.uk

Data – As at March 3rd 2008, there were 3496 learners registered on the ACLS database as having enrolled on courses against a target for the year of 7775.

This figure is somewhat lower than would be expected at this time of year. Anecdotal evidence seems to indicate that the introduction of fees may be a causal factor.

The Service will very shortly be undertaking a review of the Tuition Fees Policy, seeking feedback from providers, stakeholders and learners.

Lesson Observation Report 2007/08 - A total of 48 lesson observations have taken place so far during the 2007/2008 academic year. These observations were completed either by members of the ACLS lesson observation team or provider's staff.

OTL outcomes to date are:

Grade	Number observed
1	6
2	28
3	14
4	0

The target, across all Sector Subject Areas, for lessons to be awarded a grade 1 or 2 is 66.7%. With the current OTLs undertaken the actual % at grade 1 or 2 is 67% - well done.

Finally,

Thank you for your continued commitment to the service and to the learners who participate on our courses. As 98.59% indicate they are satisfied and 79% feel more confident we really are making a difference.

Contact ACLS:

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Visit: www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adultandcommunitylearning