



WEST YORKSHIRE
LEARNING CONSORTIUM

WYLC end of year report 2010 / 2011

West Yorkshire Learning Consortium has had a very busy and challenging year, not least by the occurrence of three external assessments in the autumn of 2010, coinciding with the delivery of two major events to celebrate the work of WYLC partners in delivering Community Grants.

Training and project delivery

We are delighted that WYLC successfully registered as an ILM centre in October 2010 with approved delivery status in Team Leading Level 2, First Line Managers Level 3, Effective Managers Award at Level 3 and Management Level 4.

In partnership with Voluntary Action Sheffield, 39 learners have successfully completed NOCN Volunteer Managers Courses in Leeds and Wakefield, developing confidence in policies and procedures to safeguard themselves and volunteers.

In a partnership project with Swarthmore Education Centre, WYLC delivered the Think About It LSIS CPD project, with 16 students exploring innovative ways of engaging learners using social media, including text walls and Moodle.



West Yorkshire Learning Consortium

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Train to Gain

Our providers ATL, Digitalife, Anissa, and Acorn deliver NVQs in Business Administration, Customer Service, Information Technology or Childcare. 86.7% of learners have gained an NVQ qualification.

Providers also successfully helped WYLC to achieve a grade 3 from OFSTED (more below).

Sadly due to funding cuts the ACORN centre has now closed.

Community Grants



In March WYLC completed the delivery of the popular Community Grants fund. 35 Community and Voluntary organisations across West Yorkshire delivered learning activities to participants in predominantly deprived areas who faced exclusion from the labour market.

Learning opportunities included CV writing, confidence building, multimedia projects, song writing and recording, art and sculpture and debt counselling.

The Learning and Skills Improvement Service (LSIS)

With Voluntary and Community Sector providers increasingly looking to deliver public funded programmes, WYLC identified a need for formalised quality systems that are easily manageable, and easily benchmarked with other providers. WYLC

successfully applied to LSIS to develop uniform quality systems for VCS learning providers. Pilots were implemented with a core group of providers in the autumn of 2010, developing a framework focusing on two key areas:

1. Standardisation of processes and paperwork.
2. A strategy for increasing learner involvement.

Having successfully piloted the programme we are now implementing the process with our Train to Gain providers and encouraging learner involvement strategies through a series of events.



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Other courses delivered by WYLC in the last year include: 'Bid Writing' with Fit 4 Funding, 'Making your Learning Sparkle' and 'Project Management'.

In February 2011 WYLC began delivery of its first ILM course, a Certificate in First Line Management. With 16 learners, the course is progressing well.

Events

WYLC team co-ordinated the Modernisation Event, The Good, the Big and the Ugly in November 2010, in partnership with WYLDA, Fit 4 Funding, PERS and WYCAS. With guest speaker Craig Dearden Philips, the event created an arena to discuss the Big Society and developing partnerships and skills with the sector.

WYLC held two celebration events in Leeds and Bradford, also in November, to showcase the excellent work undertaken by the 32 community groups funded by Community Grants, bringing unemployed people from disadvantaged groups closer to the jobs market.



'This project has been wonderful to do and we've seen a change in so many people. We've given our volunteers lots of training and ... their confidence has rocketed.'

Janet Pike, Northcall

External assessments

Like buses, our external assessments seemed to arrive all at once! WYLC was delighted to achieve Investors In People reaccreditation, and our Customer First renewal assessment was also successful, in September 2010.

'WYLC has a very positive culture ... supported by strong leadership ... empowering the team to overcome issues with existing projects, develop meaningful working relationships with key stakeholders and establish a vision for the future which is motivational for all.'

IIP September 2010



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WYLC was inspected by OFSTED 29th November – 2nd December 2010 and achieved Grade 3 Satisfactory. The report noted:

- learners develop good work-related skills and many gain relevant employment
- WYLC provides qualifications flexibly to meet learners' and employers' needs
- assessors provide good support that promotes learning and motivates learners

Areas of improvement were also noted, and WYLC has developed an action plan to implement changes to continue to improve systems and the learner experience.

Staff

In the last year WYLC has welcomed Philip Pollard as Project and Finance Administrator, and Laura Black as Project Administrator.

Volunteers

WYLC is grateful for the hard work and dedication of its volunteers in the last year, including Holly Strickson (many of her posters are illustrated in this report), Jana Zdenkova (creator of our eye catching poster below), and Laura Black. A special thanks to Olga Waite, who recently left WYLC after almost two years volunteering; we wish her well for the future.

Our event Get Learner satisfaction in May 2011, focusing on increasing learner involvement and satisfaction, concludes an eventful year.

The future???

Like many support and development organisations, West Yorkshire Learning Consortium is facing an uncertain future. However, we remain committed to working for, and with, the Voluntary & Community Sector to promote high quality learning and skills across West Yorkshire.