

Blackpool
Council Adult
and Community
Learning
Service

Blackpool Heritage Learning Champions project will recruit, train and empower local people to celebrate and share learning about Blackpool's heritage. Blackpool is aspiring to be a World Heritage site and wants to involve its citizens in championing this ambition. The Heritage Service with partners such as Blackpool Civic Trust has started work on documenting, preserving and opening up access to Blackpool's heritage leading to many opportunities for informal adult learning. A recent project by Blackpool Civic Trust and the Heritage Service involved running Open Days for Heritage week in September 2009. This programme was nationally recognised as best practice. We wish to build on such initiatives by recruiting and training Heritage Learning Champions who can support such work, informing and involving others. The project will take a broad view on heritage and will develop related strands that are personal or local for Champions to include researching local or family history or community history. This will enhance local community involvement and the development of communities of learning.

The use of technology will underpin this project with Champions supported to develop information on a web-site in order to share information and knowledge between themselves and to support recruitment. Close links with community and voluntary groups involved in heritage, local and family history will further support access to heritage and informal adult learning.

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<p>CSV (Community Service Volunteers)</p>	<p>By recruiting a large pool of volunteer Community Learning Champions CSV Action aims to reach vulnerable and socially isolated people in Plymouth and encourage them to take up learning again, either through a new hobby such as singing or cooking, or through getting online or learning French at a college.</p> <p>CSV will work with the Plymouth and Cornwall Air Cadets, starting in 2010, to add an intergenerational element to the Community Learning Champions. The Air Cadets will visit groups to spread the word about local opportunities, provide volunteers for new learning groups, and help put on a one-day extravaganza event in Plymouth which will offer taster sessions and signposting for all the citizens of Plymouth.</p> <p>CSV's long-standing partnership with BBC Devon will enable all the citizens of Plymouth to have access to information about new and existing learning opportunities and will encourage people to join in who would not traditionally take up learning opportunities</p>
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Wirral Council
 for Voluntary
 Service

The Learning Revolution comes to Wirral

A Wirral wide community based volunteering project starting in December 2009, managed by Wirral CVS. Working at a grass roots level, encouraging local people and communities to access information about informal adult learning, opportunities and progression routes, and to engage, or re-engage, in informal adult learning.

The project will in particular focus on recruiting volunteers who can link or already have links to specific communities most disengaged from learning; people in areas of multiple deprivation, long term unemployed, lone parents, people with low or no qualifications, women in BME communities, adults with learning difficulties and disabilities including mental health service users, homeless and social housing tenants.

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<p>Q Training Ltd</p>	<p>As a commercial training provider our activity is limited to that which our client base will pay for. We are seen by our learners, staff members in care providers, as a source of advice about learning both formal and informal but we do not have the resources to address the latter except in the briefest possible way.</p> <p>These environments provide services to thousands of service users.</p> <p>Both groups have limited access to learning opportunities outside those offered by the Care provider which are formal learning to meet statutory requirements.</p> <p>We have developed our provision of on site and mobile ICT equipment to support learning in Care homes and for individuals.</p> <p>We will build on our existing formal learning and IAG activity and create added value as learning champions by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1: Providing a referral, signposting, guidance and facilitation point for informal and developmental learning opportunities to staff in Care providers (Care homes, home care agencies and supported living for example.) 2: Provision and development of a library of free learning and advisory materials to support informal learning. These will be both traditional “text and picture based” as well as on line or VLE based (E Learning). 3: Expanding our current provision of ICT equipment and internet access in Care environments to support 2. above. 5: Expanding our current provision of mobile ICT equipment and internet access for learners to support 2. above 5: Engaging service users in participating in learning. 6: ultimately providing service users with the same service as carers.
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THE LEARNING REVOLUTION COMMUNITY LEARNING CHAMPIONS SUPPORT PROGRAMME

The Cooke e-
Learning
Foundation

The Cooke e-Learning Foundation will collaborate with other voluntary and community organisations in Leicester to deliver the 'Link up to Learn' project as part of the national Community Learning Champions programme.

With the help of staff employed through the Future Jobs Fund scheme we will identify and train key people in different communities to become local Learning Champions, who in turn will link up with other residents from their own community and encourage them to engage in various types of informal learning to develop different interests, acquire new skills, improve their employment prospects or take their first steps towards eventually gaining formal qualifications through Leicester College, the Adult Learning Service or other training providers in the city and county.

This project will help residents from the more socially and economically deprived areas of the city, who often do not have the self belief and support to overcome different barriers to learning and need encouragement to think more positively about themselves.

The Foundation will work with various partners to organise neighbourhood events to meet residents and encourage them to get involved in informal learning opportunities in their local areas. Mentors will be allocated to each group to support the Community Learning Champions who are registered on the scheme. The Champions will then encourage local people to join them in new learning experiences or to develop their own special interest courses.

Each member of this partnership will bring a different range of knowledge and skills to this initiative. We are confident that this scheme will recognise and reward influential individuals from each community who are able to inspire and support others to learn new skills and develop hidden talents.

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Hull City
 Council Skills
 and
 Employability

The My Hull Champions project will run alongside the showcase My Hull project funded by the Learning Revolution Transformation Fund. The My Hull Champions project will 'recruit' 30-40 volunteers as Learning Champions commencing in January 2010 to work alongside a wide range of existing partners. The role of the Learning Champions will be to act as role models to promote the benefits of informal adult learning to their communities and encourage more adults to participate. We will work with our partner organisations to recruit Learning Champions to work in a wide range of settings to promote the value of adult learning and to signpost adults to the wealth of informal adult learning opportunities available across the city. Areas already identified for placement of learning champions include the Hull City Centre jobshop, museums, libraries, extended schools services, the new local history centre due to open in January 2010 together with a wide range of voluntary and community groups. The benefits for both adult learners and the volunteers themselves will be exposure to different types of learning, choice of learning activities and venues which in turn will impact positively on wider social agendas such as community engagement and cohesion, improved mental health, better employment prospects and learners themselves will have a voice to influence the type of learning provision with which they would like to engage. Learning Champions will gain experience in volunteering and mentoring and will be supported through a recognized training scheme, local support network and become part of the national Learning Champions register.

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<p>One KX, a community operation of Central YMCA</p>	<p>The King’s Cross Community Learning Project aims to improve the well being of individuals and the community in King’s Cross by increasing access to informal learning opportunities for adults through a network of Community Learning Champions. We will focus particularly on those we know are currently not involved, namely black and minority ethnic women, adults with learning difficulties, unemployed people and those on low incomes, people with poor physical and/or mental health and older people. Over the lifetime of the project and beyond, we will develop and support a network of at least 30 local volunteers, who are representative of the target groups, and are prepared to act as Community Learning Champions. They will each recruit an additional 30 learners. In this way we aim to engage 900 new adults in informal learning. King’s Cross is a densely populated and culturally diverse area where there is significant social, health and economic deprivation. The project will be lead by One KX (an operation of Central YMCA), a vibrant and welcoming community centre located in the heart of King’s Cross. We provide a range of physical and other activities focused on helping local people to be healthy in mind, body and spirit, whilst promoting a strong sense of community. Together with our partners including the Mary Ward Centre, the Camden Society, and Holy Cross Centre Trust we will create supported pathways to a wide range of imaginative and informal learning activities designed to stimulate participants’ curiosity and creativity and build their confidence.</p>
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Lancashire
Adult Learning

Lancashire County Council will engage with at least 30 VCF organisations across Preston, Burnley, Pendle and Hyndburn to identify community learning champions and participate in informal learning activities. Activities such as invited speakers, interest/hobby led talks, canal walks/heritage, cooking demonstrations, guided tours and museum visits will be held to entice people into learning through interests and enjoyment. Additionally, following on from activities delivered during the Learning Festival, informal sessions in libraries and museums will be held to continue with the excellent partnership work across the sectors and encourage greater participation. Participants will come from a wide range of backgrounds and will include older people, BME groups, people not engaged in formal learning, education or work, people with disabilities or health conditions, carers groups and single parents. Participation will be encouraged through the interest of the community in the activities held. Consultation with their community by the Community Learning Champions will ensure that the informal activities delivered will be in an area that will be well received by the participants providing an enjoyable experience for all. Community Learning Champions will have access to free training, raised profile for their organisations as well as the opportunity to access further funds. Following on from participation in informal learning, VCF organisations will be encouraged to deliver activities that progress participants on to engagement activities designed to promote further interest and learning enjoyment.

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<p>The Learning Trust</p>	<p>Hackney Learning Champions (HLC) will be the first large scale, borough-wide initiative in Hackney wherein Learning Champions volunteer their time to promote the value of learning to others, pass on the positive experience of learning and provide peer to peer mentoring and support to new learners throughout their learning journey.</p> <p>HLCs will be recruited from existing learning initiatives, such as the Personal Best 2012 Olympic volunteer training programme; Family Learning programmes, where they would have gained a range of first steps and keys skills that are pre-requisites of community learning champions. In addition, all learning champions will be offered a 5 day training programme to equip them with the coaching, mentoring, advice & guidance skills to prepare for their roles as community learning champions.</p> <p>HLCs will be supervised and supported by a team of qualified and experienced Information, Advice & Guidance Advisers within the Adult Learning Service, The Learning Trust. The learning champions will spend a large part of their time mentoring and supporting adult learners, who are on the first rung of the learning ladder and they will also promote and raise awareness of informal adult learning opportunities to potential learners in community centres, estates, health centres, children centres and schools.</p> <p>30 HLCs will be recruited to the project and trained. Each will engage 30 new learners on to informal adult learning programmes and also contribute to high retention rates through learner support and mentoring.</p> <p>All volunteers will be offered childcare support and volunteer expenses</p>
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<p>Sandwell MBC, Extended and Lifelong Learning Services</p>	<p>Sandwell's Extended and Lifelong Learning Service will build on the existing good practice and partnership with the Reach and Discover Consortium by further developing the integrated partnership approach to improving access and creating demand for delivery of fun, informal adult learning opportunities between Third Sector and Mainstream partners.</p> <p>Mainstream partners such as Children's Centres, Family Information Service, Adult and Family Learning, UK Online and Learndirect will work in partnership with quality assured Third Sector Delivery partners to create extra demand and enhance delivery of existing informal adult learning opportunities currently funded by a cocktail of funding streams.</p> <p>Additional locally recruited Community Learning Champions (CLC's) will provide the crucial personal touch to encourage 'hard to reach' local people into local centres, with seamless progression onto a variety of engagement 'tasters' and informal, fun, adult learning programmes, history trails, family history, ghost hunts etc.</p> <p>Developing the local workforce of CLC's by 'growing our own' via a structured Staff Development Framework will assist with capacity building and sustainability with our Third Sector delivery partners. It is proposed that a part time CLC Co-ordinator will manage a team of 6 part time CLC's, one based in each of the 6 towns of Sandwell. This will establish effective infrastructures to ensure consistency in outcomes, monitoring, sharing of resources, skills and good practice.</p>
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<p>Trescom Research & Consultancy Limited</p>	<p>The project is a unique partnership between Trescom, an ethnic-minority led community based research and training organisation and Artworks Creative Communities, combining our grassroots contacts into communities most in need with an exciting arts-based learning engagement strategy which does not rely on any specific language, ability, background, skill or knowledge. Trescom and Artworks are working together to support local people to improve their lives.</p> <p>A team of 30 Learning Champions and local artists will support, through the innovative use of arts-based creative activities, 600 disadvantaged men and women aged 19-years and over to develop their self-confidence, motivation and learning capability.</p> <p>We will enable 600 local men and women in Bradford through our team of 30 dedicated learning champions to join others to develop their self confidence, motivation, and to show them what is possible. Through the innovative use of a wide range of arts based activities we can overcome the initial barriers to participation and support people through learning to progress further to realise their ambitions in life.</p> <p>Through a range of exciting and interactive arts based activities which will include, for example, visual arts, confidence building and self-esteem using voice & movement workshops, music and rhythm, and a rap workshop we want to target men and women of all backgrounds who are most disadvantaged for a number of reasons. This includes people who have disabilities, ethnic minorities, ex-offenders, and from white workless households.</p>
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<p>The Broughton Trust</p>	<p>Salford Community Champions will actively encourage and support their family, neighbours and other community members, to engage in and benefit from informal learning.</p> <p>Some will be employed in the community and some purely voluntary, but all will be committed to the principles of The Learning Revolution. They will be people who recognise from their own experience, that informal learning is fun, and good for mental and physical well-being, and that it capitalises on everyone's capacity to develop and be fulfilled.</p> <p>The Champions will be made up of six teams, each supervised by a key voluntary sector learning provider, in six of Salford's key deprived areas. The creation of the teams will be supported by the use of PCDL Community-based funding. (Personal Community Development Learning ie non-examined short course. They will help ensure these funds are directed towards activities valued by residents. They will help residents progress, where they wish, into learning funded by other income streams, or into other informal forms of learning such as self-help groups and learning circles.</p> <p>Each lead organisation has specialist interests in, and is a major contributor to, the informal learning programme in Salford. The Learning Champions have a crucial role in making sure the PCDL programme reflects and connects to the needs and interests of local people.</p> <p>The proposal will make the Learning Champions powerful advocates for informal community learning and in turn contribute to the empowerment and personal fulfilment of a large number of residents within each community.</p>
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<p>Voice UK</p>	<p>Inspiring adults with learning difficulties to participate in learning activities involving discovery, activity, interdependence and well being.</p> <p>This is a national project which will be co-ordinated from Derby. Voice UK also has regional workers in the West midlands, Devon and Greater Manchester. Community Learning Champions will be recruited in each of these places.</p> <p>Voice UK employ two project workers with learning disabilities whose jobs involve delivering training nationwide to people with disabilities and professionals. This project will allow Dan and Claire to spearhead a national campaign supported by a team of volunteers and co-ordinated by a project worker.</p> <p>The project will involve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruiting a national team of disabled community learning champions who will inspire adults with leaning difficulties to participate in informal learning through presentations, dramas, podcasts, digital mentoring and publicity • Co-ordinating informal learning activities for adults with learning difficulties around keeping safe, keeping well and getting work • Distributing information about additional local informal learning activities to the hundreds of adults with learning difficulties which Voice UK interacts with throughout the year across the country • Supporting informal learning providers to make informal learning activities welcoming for people with learning difficulties and ensuring that any barriers to participation are removed <p>The Community Learning Champions will be recruited, trained and deliver informal learning activities between January and March 2010. After March, the volunteers will continue to promote opportunities and inspire other learners in their own localities.</p>
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<p>Cheshire West and Chester Council</p>	<p>Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWaC) will facilitate an exciting programme for local residents to develop their skills as Learning Champions and in turn help regenerate their communities through supporting engagement in learning.</p> <p>The Community Learning Champions (CLC) project will build on current best practice, particularly the Learning Champion scheme run by West Cheshire College in the west of the borough and work to maintain the momentum and interest generated in informal learning by The Learning Revolution.</p> <p>The project will recruit a Coordinator who will also deliver two accredited CLC courses in Northwich and Winsford, providing 20 places to attend a 20 week course to qualify as a CLC. Participants will be recruited from learners already engaged with us or our partners, had some success in learning and are now keen to share their experiences with others and encourage and support them to also engage in learning. Participants will gain skills and knowledge relating to adult learning; the providers, their programmes and potential progression routes in their locality.</p> <p>The CLC project is fully supported by our community and voluntary sector partners to ensure quality referrals into the project and to offer sustainability through ongoing support of the CLC's after completion of the accredited course.</p> <p>This CLC project will fund the creation of two paid part-time CLC posts, this offers progression to employment for two course attendees with the possibility of a further three opportunities of paid part-time employment in association with Job Centre Plus and the Future Jobs Fund Initiative</p>
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Nottingham and
Nottinghamshire
Voluntary and
Community
Sector Learning
and Skills
consortium t/a
Enable

- We propose to establish a co-ordinated countywide project that would operate within Nottinghamshire's most deprived communities.
- 30 Learning Champions would be employed part-time by local VCS organisations through the Future Jobs Fund.
- 1200 people will take up informal learning as a result of the Learning Champions activities.
- The Community Learning Champions Support Programme Development Fund will enable a co-ordinated approach thereby providing support for local delivery partners, establishing a high countywide profile and 'buy in' from relevant strategic partnerships and stakeholders.
- The Learning Champions will be local residents who have experienced or are experiencing disadvantage e.g. they will have been long term unemployed or have had a health condition or disability. They will understand the barriers faced by the individuals they engage and will be able to speak positively about their experiences of learning.
- Whilst the project will focus on the needs, aspirations and interests of the individual beneficiaries it will very substantially focus on promoting the value of informal learning and enabling local people to access it, recognising the important role it plays with regard to the health and well being of individuals and communities.
- The Learning Champions will also act as advocates and facilitators. Liaising with agencies regarding local needs and bringing local people together to organise their own informal learning activities.
- The Development Fund would be used to provide countywide co-ordination, support for the development of local projects and the development of a sustainability plan.

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<p>Birmingham Ethnic Education Advisory Service</p>	<p>What: To recruit 30 Learning Ambassadors</p> <p>Who: Women from the South East Asian and African communities</p> <p>Where: In inner city Birmingham, particularly Handsworth, Aston and Lozells</p> <p>How: By training 30 Learning Ambassadors with the support of 10 Community Mentors who will also receive training</p> <p>When: January to March 2010, with the Ambassadors empowered to continue beyond March 31st 2010</p>
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<p>Groundwork West Midlands</p>	<p>Learn & Share is an ambitious project taking a holistic approach to neighbourhood learning bringing together partners and participants to broaden access amongst the hardest to reach.</p> <p>Building on Groundwork and Orbit Heart of England's existing links to residents and groups within deprived neighbourhoods, social housing tenants and residents of sheltered accommodation we will identify and support 30 Community Learning Champions (including 4 from Orbit) to broaden the number/range accessing informal learning within our target groups. We will take advantage of existing local facilities and events and relationships to promote learning locally. Promotion will be large scale and high profile and generate a critical mass allowing Learning Champions to engage new learners. We will support Learning Champions and learners to use existing provision and to establish their own sustainable learning options.</p> <p>We will use digital/media technology to overcome barriers to accessing learning and to establish a digital platform to record learning, digitally map learners' journeys and encourage participants to share their experiences and expertise with other residents.</p> <p>In concentrating in key neighbourhoods, and generating a scale of activity, we will harness the power of informal learning to develop community infrastructure/capacity, providing real and virtual networking opportunities within and outside specific neighbourhoods.</p> <p>A three month intensive push using dedicated staff to recruit/support the Learning Champions and to up-skill partner staff will be followed by Learning Champion and partner activity rolling out informal learning to 900 learners leading to celebration and recruitment events as part of Adult Learners' Week in May 2010</p>
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<p>Voluntary Action North East Lincolnshire (VANEL)</p>	<p>The North East Lincolnshire Community Champions Support Programme will be operating in the Grimsby, Cleethorpes, Immingham and surrounding areas, where there are significant areas of low educational achievement. The programme aims to raise awareness of the value of learning towards the <i>personal development</i> of individuals, by encouraging people who experience disadvantage to access informal learning opportunities.</p> <p>A team of Community Learning Champions will be created, who will be ambassadors and advocates for learning and will promote the value of learning to community members, colleagues, friends, family and work mates, in fact anyone <i>within their communities</i>. Whilst all communities of North East Lincolnshire will benefit specific wards of highest deprivation and rural areas will be targeted. Again whilst all residents of North East Lincolnshire will benefit the specific disadvantaged groups targeted will be those with a disability, those within social housing or currently homeless and the elderly.</p> <p>The programme is managed by Voluntary Action North East Lincolnshire who will ensure the widest possible impact through its well <i>established</i> community and strategic networks. Importantly the Learning Champions will be <i>based in</i> and become <i>embedded</i> within public, private and voluntary and community sectors rather than be seen as external advisors. Therefore many of the Learning Champions will be volunteers recruited from within groups such as neighbourhood forums, the local forum for the over 50s, and the main local charities delivering to the blind, partially sighted, disabled and homeless. Other champions will be people currently working with or within the targeted groups and communities such as area development workers and regeneration officers.</p> <p>Therefore Learning Champions may be volunteers, workers or community members who see value of learning, or someone for whom learning has made a positive impact. A team of over 30 champions will be developed, trained and supported to be able to encourage over 900 new individuals in their communities to undertake some informal learning within the first year of the programme.</p>
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THE LEARNING REVOLUTION COMMUNITY LEARNING CHAMPIONS SUPPORT PROGRAMME

<p>London Academy for Social and Economic Development</p>	<p>Brent Learning Leaders (BLL) is a London Academy for Social & Economic Development and Catalyst Housing Group partnership to encourage people in the London Borough of Brent who would not normally take up learning opportunities to take part in innovative informal learning. BLL targets adults aged 19+ who are normally classified as hard to reach and key target group for BLL will be people living in social housing.</p> <p>BLL builds on best practice to find innovative and exciting ways to engage with 30 Community Learning Champions (CLCs). Each CLC will build up their knowledge and confidence to the extent that they will themselves encourage and signpost at least 30 or their friends, neighbours and peers to take up informal learning opportunities.</p> <p>BLL delivery mechanisms includes: taster seminars, cookery classes, outreach, and business networking.</p> <p>BLL brings together the expertise and experience of the London Academy for Social and Economic Development, which brings fresh ideas and an entrepreneurial approach and is based in the heart of the target area. The other partner in the project is Catalyst Housing Group, which is one of London's largest and most progressive registered Social landlords, with over 10,000 properties across London. It has over 1,500 social housing properties in the Church End and Roundwood estates with 80% of tenants coming from BME communities.</p> <p>BLL offers an unique opportunity to galvanise and enthuse local people, business owners, faith leaders, community champions to establish a cohort of Learning Champions who will be inspired to continue to encourage informal adult learning in Brent or many years to come.</p>
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<p>Kirklees Learning Partnership Adult Learning Strategy Group</p>	<p>The Kirklees Learning Partnership, co-ordinated through Kirklees Council Adult Learning Team, recognises the importance of Community Champions in engaging with learners with few or no qualifications, living in disadvantaged communities. The funding will enable the expansion of the existing Community Learning Mentor network in Kirklees. Whilst being impartial in signposting learners, Champions will be based in community venues.</p> <p>The funding will allow the partnership to further develop the network in disadvantaged communities to eventually support a total of 30 staff/volunteers. The Community Mentors will be trained, equipped and supported to engage people into informal learning, identify new spaces for learning, identify specific support needs and broker specialist support through the Learning Partnership, supporting people to a wider learning offer.</p>
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Learning - Life

<p>Limehouse Project</p>	<p>This project is led by Limehouse Project on behalf of the Muslim Women’s Collective, a network of voluntary sector organisations operating throughout Tower Hamlets committed to enabling Muslim Women’s organisations in the Borough to overcome the barriers that have prevented BME women from realising their potential in the past and becoming a powerful force for good in the community. The Learning Gate’ aims to train and support 30 BME women in the borough to act as volunteer Learning Champions to promote increased involvement in informal community learning by at least 150 BME women currently not participating in informal learning.</p> <p>The Learning Champions are developing their skills and expertise to support and encourage their friends, neighbours and family members to not only access existing informal learning provision but also to identify the kinds of learning activities they want to be involved with and brokering the development of self-managed learning circles as well as new provision by existing providers.</p> <p>To do so successfully the Learning Champions work closely with a range of mainstream service providers including the PCT (health issues), Social Services (drug dependency issues) and Community Services (community safety issues) who they can call on to address the learning needs of the groups they work with.</p> <p>They are being supported not only by the professionals within the Muslim Women Collective and Tower Hamlets Adult and Community Services but also by accessing free training that is being delivered by the national co-ordinating body and local and regional events to support networking.</p>
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CSV Media
Clubhouse

The CLIC project will recruit 30 CLCs from the most diverse and disadvantaged communities in Ipswich to promote the value of learning to others and in turn support 900 people to engage in a wide range of creative activities. Because of our unique position in the local community and our embedded local networks we will be able to engage people in a wide range of informal and creative learning which will include: community radio, video, web design, music, photography and a wide range of artistic activity. Participants will also learn via volunteering at local community events such Music in the Park, Taste of Life and Refugee week. Learners will also be able to participate in Adult Learners' Week 2010 and Suffolk Year of Learning 2010.

The project will promote good mental health and diversity as well as engaging with disadvantaged groups through the innovative use of Community Media. These groups will include mental health service users and people from ethnically diverse groups including Indian, Kurdish, Chinese, Russian speaking, Portuguese, Afro-Caribbean, African and Polish communities

The project is embedded in community media with a strong focus on broadcasting to give people a voice and to narrow the digital divide currently present across groups within the community. As well as engaging people in fun learning in radio and video we will use these facilities to recruit CLCs in community media and promote further learning and engagement

THE LEARNING REVOLUTION
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South Tyneside
Council Adult &
Community
Learning
Service

The Informal Learning Partnership Group currently consists of a range of 30 different organisations from across South Tyneside who are involved in informal learning (membership is expanding and groups can become part of the partnership at any time). The project would look to establish a Community Learning Champion (CLC) within each organisation. Throughout the Partnership there is wealth of informal learning opportunities available across the community, voluntary, statutory and private sectors, to which potential learners can be signposted, they range from activities that they can participate in for personal fulfilment, intellectual, creative or physical stimulation to gaining accredited qualifications and developing work related skills. The infrastructure of the partnership also allows opportunities for people to progress at their own pace into other programmes, employment, and other opportunities such as volunteering.

The project will aim to:

- a) Develop Community Learning Champions within local organisations – the benefit of establishing them with local groups is that the CLCs can then be supported longer term from within the organisation and bring sustainability to the project – this also builds the capacity of the organisation.
- b) Provide funding for each organisation to hold an event / or a series of tasters to promote informal learning programmes
- c) Provide information to each Community Learning Champion on the spread of informal learning programmes across the Borough – to enable signposting of potential learners – the Informal Learning Partnership is currently mapping all informal learning within South Tyneside
- d) Record take up of informal learning programmes through the partnership group

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Sector Training
Alliance Ltd

The Somerset Springboard project is a voluntary and statutory sector partnership project working with local people in Sedgemoor and West Somerset. The partners include ViSTA, Somerset Skills & Learning, Sedgemoor and West Somerset District Councils, Somerset Youth Volunteering Network and Somerset Racial Equality Council.

The project will recruit and train 30 local volunteers as Community Learning Champions. Each learning champion will receive support and mentoring from the partners' staff to assist them in their role. The learning champions will be active in their neighbourhoods connecting their neighbours and friends with informal learning opportunities and information services.

Each of the Community Learning Champions will be supported to promote informal learning within their communities and to organise informal learning or leisure taster events and information sessions for their peers. The Community Learning Champions will be particularly keen to engage with unemployed young adults (19+) and women from black and minority ethnic communities.

The 3 voluntary sector partners will act as intermediaries linking the learning champions and the communities with learning providers and learning advice and guidance networks.

The statutory partners will form the Partnership Steering Committee and will provide assistance and resource to the project including access to "open spaces" for the taster events, information, advice and guidance services and access to progression opportunities for the initial and subsequent learning champions.

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<p>Great Yarmouth Borough Council</p>	<p>The partnership will recruit and support 15 Neighbourhood Learning Champions and aims to; increase the opportunities for local residents to influence decisions in their neighbourhood, raise the profile of informal learning and better coordinate the promotion of existing opportunities.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Learning Champions will be recruited from their local neighbourhoods and their work will be linked into one of three existing neighbourhood management programmes. These programmes provide coverage to all of the 14 Lower Super Output Areas in Great Yarmouth which experience employment deprivation rates above 20%. *</p> <p>*2007 Index of Multiple Deprivation</p> <p>As well as providing geographic targeting, Learning Champions will also support thematic targeting by providing reach to local housing support providers. This will ensure that the partnership reaches out to presently unengaged groups who experience a range of deprivations including; housing, employment and health. Local participation data confirms that these groups are more likely to experience disconnect from existing neighbourhood involvement offers.</p> <p>The partnership draws upon the experience of third and public sector organisations in supporting volunteers and community involvement, as well as reporting impact through the Stronger Communities Delivery Partnership of the Great Yarmouth LSP. The partnership will also maximise the opportunities for sustainability by developing a Social Return on Investment analysis and by linking into the wider Norfolk Supporting People Learning Transformation Fund initiative. Great Yarmouth Borough Council will also share best practice and lessons learnt with Norwich City Council by supporting Learning Champions to undertake exchange visits and to provide regular updates using Twitter</p>
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<p>HEALTHY LIVING NETWORK LEEDS</p>	<p>To recruit 30 local community members to a short four week course (one day each week) designed around experiencing informal learning and signposting learning opportunities for local disadvantaged communities in west Leeds. This would include taster sessions from the Introduction to Community Development and Health course and taster sessions from craft and arts based courses such as “Make Do, Grow and Mend”.</p> <p>The course would allow them to;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Experience the enjoyment and benefits of a variety of informal learning available to community members. This would be through our established provision and that of our network partners (we are a healthy living network organisation). 2. To share with trainees the knowledge and skills that would allow them to become advocates for a variety of learning opportunities provided by a host of disparate organisations in the local area and across the metropolitan district of Leeds. <p>The trainees would then become PICK’N’MIX LEARNERS who would be paid (through a set number of session hours) to then recruit 30 informal learners each and sign post them to a varied spectrum of informal and formal learning opportunities</p>
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<p>CSV (Community Service Volunteers)</p>	<p>CSV enables people to play an active role in their communities through volunteering. CSV's Retired & Senior Volunteer Programme creates opportunities for older people to volunteer. Our projects reach out to and benefit those most in need.</p> <p>Focusing on 50-75 age group, we will create informal learning opportunities for older people experiencing poverty and social exclusion in disadvantaged areas of south Camden and Islington. This project focuses on volunteering as a means of learning and of helping other people to access learning. We will empower older people to become volunteer Community Learning Champions, who will advocate and promote the benefits of learning to others.</p> <p>Informal learning by volunteering greatly improves well-being and mental and physical health.</p> <p>The project will include informal courses covering subjects such as herbal remedies, horticulture, arts, and communication skills for older people. There will be opportunities to volunteer on local projects, putting into practice what they have learned.</p> <p>We will reach out, with bi-lingual Champions, to the Latin American ethnic minority community, amongst other disadvantaged groups.</p> <p>We will provide training and materials specific to the local area, for the future roll out of informal learning by older people.</p> <p>We will broaden the appeal for learning by running taster-sessions and community learning information events in collaboration with other providers. Up to 4,000 older people will become aware of local learning opportunities through these events. This will include people over the age of 75 for whom there is very little learning provision, but who may be interested in activities that help retain their skills and community connections, eg knitting networks.</p>
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Nottinghamshire
County Council

Nottinghamshire Champions Learning' will establish a countywide partnership to develop a sustainable model to recruit and support Community Learning Champions. Led by both Local Authorities, the project will work with a wide range of partners who are committed to embedding Learning Champion practice within their service delivery.

A training programme will be established to support appropriate members of staff in partner organisations to become Learning Champion Mentors as part of their job role, (e.g. Learning Assistants in Libraries, Community Involvement Workers in Children's Centres, and outreach staff in FE Colleges). The majority of partners in the project will support staff members to be trained in this way, resulting in the establishment of a cross-county team of Mentors within existing service delivery capacity. The Mentors, already funded by their existing employers, will share good practice and cascade training through their organisation, thereby ensuring continuance of the project when funding ceases.

Once trained, the Learning Champion Mentors will recruit and support people from their communities to become volunteer Learning Champions. The partners already have service users / community members who are working in a voluntary capacity and are therefore well placed to encourage and support members of the local community to become Champions.

The Partnership for the 'Nottinghamshire Champions Learning' bid closely mirrors that established to deliver the successful Showcase Learning Transformation bid 'Nottinghamshire Loves Learning' and signals a commitment to implement an integrated, sustainable and cohesive approach to meet the ambitious agenda outlined in The Learning Revolution

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Stoke on Trent
City Council

Stoke-on-Trent City Council's Adult and Community Learning (ACL) team is part of the Employment and Skills Division and will recruit up to 30 local residents to work as volunteer Community Learning Champions (CLCs) within the City boundaries.

The ACL team has outreach workers attached to 5 neighbourhoods. It is proposed that the CLC scheme will be managed by a Senior Outreach worker with each Outreach Worker being responsible for 6 CLC's. Volunteers will be tasked to operate within their local Neighbourhood (groups of Super Output Areas).

Key Volunteer roles will include:-

- Engagement with a broad range of residents, focusing on those with no/low levels of learning attainment; or those with particular barriers to learning including NEETS; families with young children (especially lone parents); and women in BME communities
- Promote the value of informal learning, progression and attainment outcomes.
- Provide initial guidance and signposting
- Assist learners in planning to overcome barriers to learning
- Support learners in maintaining learning engagement
- Refer learners to their local community JET (Jobs Enterprise & Training) centre for work-focussed learning;
- Identify Informal learning opportunities and support the development of these in line with the learning revolution vision.
 - Each CLC will engage and support 30 learners each, with a total of 900 learners benefitting from this project.

The Volunteers will work with existing community networks (rather than create new ones), parent support groups, sports and leisure groups, voluntary organisations, in addition to direct engagement such as exhibition stands. The make up of the Volunteers will reflect the operational areas they will work in, and existing links with BME resident groups will ensure cultural representation

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<p>DACES</p>	<p>Bolsover Community Learning Champions Project aims to build on strong existing partnership working between local Derbyshire County Council Service teams and other local public and voluntary sector organisations to develop a sustainable Community Learning Champion Scheme.</p> <p>The key external partner initially will be the Derbyshire Primary Care Trust, which is already working with the Derbyshire Adult Community Education Service and the Derbyshire Library Service on a Community Learning for Health project which makes the connection between health improvement, health literacy, well being and adult learning.</p> <p>There is considerable evidence to support the link between positive adult learning experience and health, which encourages the partnership in seeking to develop a joint approach to creating a Learning Champion Scheme which will engage with schools, children’s centres, voluntary sector organisations and other local facilities where adults are brought together by common interests.</p> <p>There are striking similarities in the knowledge and skill required by paid or volunteer outreach workers in community education and community health settings. This project seeks to build the Community Learning Champion role into staff and volunteer training (complementing that offered by the National Programme), either as a recognised component of other training or as a fully fledged course in its own right for those who wish to specialise in promoting learning.</p>
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<p>Action in rural Sussex</p>	<p>Sussex Community Learning Champions is a partnership project involving several members of Sussex Voluntary and Community Sector Learning Consortium, a network of over sixty Third Sector organisations, delivering and supporting a wide range of adult learning and training.</p> <p>The project will recruit, develop and support 30 Community Learning Champions through community based organisations in Shoreham, Brighton, and Hastings & St Leonards. These are located in designated areas of deprivation, have strong local involvement in the development and running of their services, and provide a wide range of activities from their popular venues.</p> <p>Community Learning Champions will attract at least 900 new learners into informal learning, including on and off site group, individual and intergenerational activities of local and personal interest, such as oral history, allotment groups, IT, health, wellbeing & fitness and creative activities. Learners will be offered Information Advice and Guidance to assess needs, aspiration and potential, leading to the development of supported pathways in learning.</p> <p>The organisations provide a wide range of services and this means that learners also have the opportunity, now or in the future, to take up more formal learning opportunities, within these and other community based facilities, other FE and HE provision.</p> <p>The organisations will provide support for the Community Learning Champions. This will include: training, the option of gaining a qualification, peer mentoring, volunteer support, transport and crèche costs.</p> <p>Linked events and a combined project report, will enable all participants to celebrate their own and others achievements and disseminate information about the project</p>
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Bristol City
Council,
Learning
Communities
Team

Bristol City Council is applying for Community Learning Champion development funding to build the capacity of local Learning Champions to engage new and different learners in informal adult learning. We want to expand the current team of Learning Champions from 16 to 30. We also want to train all Learning Champions so they can use storytelling techniques to motivate more people to get involved in informal adult learning and to improve community cohesion across Bristol's diverse communities.

Through this project, existing Learning Champions will help us to recruit 14 new Champions from across the City. The whole team will then undertake a training course that incorporates storytelling and digital stories so they can tell their own story and record the stories of other local people. Through this process, Learning Champions will develop a bank of exciting and innovative digital story material which will inform and contribute towards the new Museum of Bristol, scheduled to open in 2011.

In February 2010, as part of national Story Telling Week, the Learning Champions will hold a launch event at the Watershed Media Centre to share their own stories, to engage more people in telling their own stories, and to generate a real buzz about informal learning through the new Museum and through other local cultural services and activities. This will be followed by an exciting programme of informal adult learning taster activities in a spread of communities. By the end of March, all activities will be captured in a final project report and on learning partnership websites

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<p>Uganda Community Relief Association</p>	<p>This project is led by UCRA on behalf of an existing network of voluntary sector organisations operating throughout north and north east London and committed to addressing the barriers hindering the integration of women into the wider community life.</p> <p>The project is training and supporting 30 BME women in Haringey and Enfield to act as volunteer Learning Champions to promote increased involvement in informal community learning by at least 900 BME women currently not participating in informal learning.</p> <p>The Learning Champions are developing their skills and expertise to support and encourage their friends, neighbours and family members to not only access existing informal learning provision but also to identify the kinds of learning activities they want to be involved with and brokering the development of self-managed learning circles as well as new provision by existing providers.</p> <p>To do so successfully the Learning Champions are working closely with a range of mainstream service providers including the PCT (health issues), Social Services (drug dependency issues) and Community Services (community safety issues) upon whom they can call to address the learning needs of the groups with whom they are working.</p> <p>They are being supported not only by the professionals within the partnership and Haringey Adult Education Service but also by accessing free training that is being delivered by the national co-ordinating body and local and regional events to support networking</p>
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<p>VOLA Learning Consortium</p>	<p>VOLA Learning Consortium’s Community Learning Champions Scheme will be based in the borough of Sefton, Merseyside. Sefton CVS employ the VOLA Management Team and are the Accountable Body for this scheme.</p> <p>Volunteer CLCs will be recruited and supported through Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector consortium members across the borough. The CLCs, recruited from their existing volunteers and/ or client groups, will encourage, signpost and support potential learners and link them to informal learning opportunities.</p> <p>Potential learners from a range of backgrounds will be targeted, including residents of disadvantaged wards and priority groups including older people, carers, young women/ parents, recovering drug misusers and their families, survivors of domestic abuse, social housing tenants, homeless and vulnerable young people aged 19+.</p> <p>The project will work with Volunteer Centre Sefton and wider partners including Sefton Council’s Adult and Community Learning Service and other service providers to ensure strategic links and ensure CLCs have access to up-to-date information on informal adult learning activities in the locality.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the project’s design, working with a range of established volunteer-involving organisations from across the borough, and the embedding of key strategic relationships will provide the basis for the ongoing sustainability of the scheme.</p>
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Learning

The Hidden Gems Project – Community Learning Champions

Two local authorities, County Durham and Darlington, are combining forces to locate their 'Hidden Gems' of adult learning. These Community Learning Champions will be invited to an event at Chester-le-Street in February 2010 to hear how they can bring their enthusiasm for learning to communities and workplaces where they are already known. We know that there are many Hidden Gems in our midst, some in paid work and some who are volunteers; all of them are ideally placed to spread the word about the enjoyment of learning and able to support others in finding learning opportunities suitable for them.

The Community Learning Champions will be offered training, support and information that will lead to sustainable networks for the future. Their own views and experience will be invaluable for sharing with others. Taking part in the project may lead them to become trainers themselves; some may decide to take up paid work in this exciting field.

We are looking for adults of all ages and backgrounds to come and hear about this opportunity, including those from informal learning, such as clubs, societies and community groups with a particular interest. All that is necessary is a passion for learning which they want to pass on to others.

Financial support to cover out-of-pocket expenses will be given, both for the event and the training and the event will be held in the afternoon and repeated in the evening.

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LLU+ London
South Bank
University

The *SAIL* (Southwark Adult Informal Learning) *Champions* scheme, based in the London Borough of Southwark, is managed by LLU+ London South Bank University in partnership with Southwark Libraries and Community Action Southwark.

It will recruit 30 volunteer community learning champions through interactive, fun sessions located in a variety of venues across the borough. The learning champions will be offered:

- training to support their role complementing the training offered by the national programme
- informal learning taster events for their potential learners and themselves to enjoy together
- a directory of informal learning opportunities in the borough
- information, advice and guidance on further learning opportunities for themselves
- local and regional networking events
- opportunities to feedback into Southwark's informal learning provision
- a celebration event

Each learning champion will be supported in assisting up to 30 potential learners to try out at least one informal learning activity.

The scheme is a partnership that brings LLU+'s extensive experience of training and support for small and large voluntary and community organisations, including faith groups, refugees, homeless people, offenders and ex-offenders. It also offers informal learning events for parents and carers, eg Museum Fun, Magic and Maths, as well as an annual celebration of learning for all family learning participants.

A library service that includes a wealth of resources on learning opportunities in Southwark, as well as a variety of informal learning activities across the borough contact with over 1600 voluntary and community groups through Community Action Southwark

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