

# Practical help for Skills for Life teachers and trainers: new adult core curriculum makes its debut on Excellence Gateway

This month sees the launch of a new support tool developed by the Learning and Skills Improvement Service (LSIS) to help all those who deliver Skills for Life learning. Available via the Excellence Gateway at [www.excellencegateway.org.uk/sflcurriculum](http://www.excellencegateway.org.uk/sflcurriculum), the newly revised adult literacy, ESOL and numeracy curricula and pre-entry curriculum framework offers guidance and examples of embedded learning in action, relevant to anyone teaching in the post-16 sector

Following an extensive review with teachers and trainers, the new and improved guidance, created by LLU+ and LSIS, demonstrates progression between levels, provides integrated examples and is easily accessible and user friendly.

One of the most beneficial aspects of the curriculum's new online presence is interlinked material, allowing practitioners to access relevant information like Access for All and resources such as embedded learning materials in a couple of clicks. Users can also download specific sections to their own personal portfolio, and bookmark useful content.

A number of enhancements have been made to the content itself. The language has been simplified across all curricula, there is an improved glossary of definitions, diagrammatic overviews and tips on teaching the curriculum in context.

## Right time to update materials

Rob Pheasant, Programme Development Manager for Skills for Life at LSIS said: 'The adult core curriculum has supported Skills for Life teachers and programme

The screenshot shows the Excellence Gateway website interface. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for Home, My Excellence Gateway, EG Community, Programmes & Services, Resources, News, Job Search, and Events. Below the navigation is a search bar and a breadcrumb trail: Home > Skills for Life > Skills for Life Core Curricula. The main content area is titled 'Skills for Life Core Curricula' and features five interactive tiles: Numeracy, Literacy, ESOL, Pre-Entry, and Embedded Skills. Each tile includes a small image and a link to the respective curriculum. Below the tiles, there is a welcome message for the new interactive Core Curricula tool (beta version) and a list of features: Promotes flexible and creative use of the curricula content; Enhances content and resources with additional guidance, exemplification and vocational material; Provides tools and features that will enable practitioners, including the wider embedded-learning audience, to create effective personal learning experiences; Provides an online community where ideas and innovation can be shared and developed.

managers since 2001. As more vocational tutors turn to the curriculum for guidance, the time was right to update the materials. As well as providing new content, the online version on the Excellence Gateway offers improved accessibility and links to other supporting material. It provides examples of embedded learning in practice to open up the Skills for Life curriculum to all further education professionals.'

Here are just four examples showing how the new online core curriculum is set to support all practitioners. It:

- informs assessment decisions, providing clear descriptions of component skills
- supports embedded learning, with a range of suggestions, materials and tools
- supports the development of ILPs, by giving information about levels and component skills

- supports programme planning, with ideas, tips, suggestions and background information.

Apart from the new curriculum, the Excellence Gateway incorporates some 50 education websites and a resource bank comprising more than 75,000 pages, and 12,000 separate pieces of content. Registration is free: visit <http://excellence.qia.org.uk>.