

Skills for Life Improvement Programme

Helping you improve your learner success rates

LSIS LEARNING
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IMPROVEMENT
SERVICE





The Skills for Life Improvement Programme helps you and your organisation improve learner success rates through a whole organisation approach to embedding literacy, language and numeracy.

Support is available to you if you are an education or training provider and wish to develop your literacy, language and numeracy provision. The 2008-09 programme has a particular emphasis on numeracy to reflect this national priority.

Over the last year the Improvement Programme, has supported 660 education and training providers and reached over 8,000 managers, teaching and support staff. An independent survey of the 2007-08 Programme found that 99% of providers were satisfied with the support provided through the Improvement Programme, with 84% of them considering it to be excellent or good. Additionally by providing over 200 new programmes the Improvement Programme was able to increase the number of qualified teachers of literacy, language and numeracy. Over 2,000 teachers are currently participating in these courses.

Benefits of a whole organisation approach to embedding Skills for Life

The support focuses on helping you to develop a whole organisation approach to embedding Skills for Life, where literacy, language and numeracy (LLN) is central to the whole organisation at all levels, ranging from strategic leadership and management to delivery practice.

Providers who took part in the Improvement Programme in previous years have told us that a whole organisation approach to embedding Skills for Life has led to:

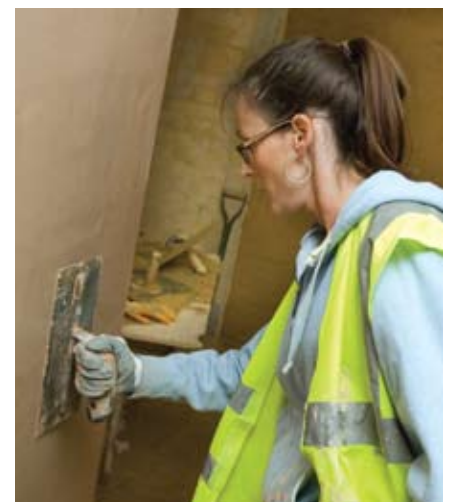
- improved learner retention
- better success rates
- staff teams who are more confident in developing learners' skills
- learners gaining skills and confidence, who are better prepared for life and work.

The benefits for you and your organisation include:

- Working with other organisations to learn, share and transfer good practice across your sector
- Accessing one to one support for self-improvement in specific areas identified through the inspectorate and national research
- Gaining a real understanding of the professional development needs of all your staff in line with the new teacher education reforms
- Participating in in-house or locally organised continuing professional development for managers and teams
- Enhancing knowledge of how to improve learners' experience and achievement by taking advantage of the specialist expertise of development advisers.

*"The whole procedure has been **helpful** in bringing many parts of the organisation together, particularly strengthening bonds between prison staff and external contractors. I recognise that we still have a long way to go, but we are slowly getting there. A very **useful** exercise and one that will be reflected in all things that we do to improve teaching and learning in the future."*

HMP Foston Hall



What kind of support can you expect?

Support for providers consists of five elements tailored to your organisation's needs and current stage of development of a whole organisation approach:

Initial consultancy visit to define exactly what your organisation's needs are and help assess priorities as well as access the full scale and focus of the consultancy support that can be offered.

Ongoing consultancy support where the focus for support will depend on your organisation's stage of development and could include strategic planning; development of structures, systems and processes; professional development planning; and planning and delivering literacy, language and numeracy teaching and learning.

Peer working groups made up of an average of five other local providers from similar settings, who share your priorities for development. Meetings will be facilitated by a development adviser who will normally be supporting all providers of the peer working group.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD) training in a broad range of in-house CPD courses will be available to providers. Your development adviser will support you in your selection. Sessions will be tailored to your needs and delivered in-house or hosted by members of your peer working group.

Final consultancy visit to evaluate the support, assess impact and identify next steps.

"Through peer working with other organisations in the Improvement Programme, we have kept in touch, including writing a joint bid to work collaboratively. All of this wouldn't have happened without developing quality systems supported by the SfLIP."

People for Learning Ltd



Workforce development

Developing the knowledge and skills of teachers and managers

The Improvement Programme sets a high priority on developing the knowledge, skills and experience of teacher educators across the regions. In 2008–09 the Improvement Programme will strengthen and develop integrated teacher education programmes for adult literacy, numeracy and ESOL in regions where limited provision is available through:

- four regional professional exchange networks, with scope for special interest groups, professional development and consultancy support
- a special focus on numeracy, with complementary activities to enhance the capacity and expertise of teacher-educator teams.

For workforce development the Improvement Programme offers:

- support for teacher education programmes – creative routes to qualification as LLN specialists
- training the teacher trainers – opportunities for experienced teachers to become teacher trainers and for professional development for experienced teachers trainers
- mentoring for teacher training programmes and those involved in mentoring teachers – opportunities for LLN specialists to develop their skills for mentoring and reflective practice.

"In the past we knew that we needed to move forward but didn't know how. Support from the Improvement Programme has given us a focus and an impetus for improvement."

**Assessment Centre Manager,
Four Seasons Healthcare**

How to become part of the Improvement Programme

For further details of the areas of support, the benefits for you and your organisation, criteria for participation and to complete the online application form, please visit the website www.sflip.org.uk or email sflipinfo@cfbt.com or telephone **0118 902 1920**.

Register for regular updates

If you would like to subscribe for regular updates email sflipinfo@cfbt.com with the words 'Subscribe' in the subject line.

The Skills for Life Improvement Programme
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The National Institute of Adult Continuing Education

National Research and Development Centre for Adult Literacy and Numeracy