

Skills for Life Devon

This project is managed by Devon County Council on behalf of Productive Skills for Devon and a wide ranging partnership of agencies and training providers in Devon, Plymouth and Torbay.

It aims to deliver Skills for Life (SfL) programmes in the workplace in a way that meets the needs of both individuals and employers, to improve communication and productivity at work, and enable a larger group of employees to benefit from further Level 2 training in areas of identified skills shortages.

Changing rules for Train to Gain (T2G) for the coming year have required a significant and time-consuming adjustment to the above project, from one of providing *complementary* programmes to providing *enhancements* to T2G.

Anyone enrolling for SfL up to the “functional” level will be eligible for the significant enhancement funding the project provides. The funding for non-accredited programmes (to engage employers and employees), programmes that are not eligible for T2G but are stepping stones to that, and the generous enhancement available to each learner enrolled on a T2G-eligible qualification, when targeted at those who really need it, will enable a high level of achievement.

These programmes will be focused mainly on Entry Level achievements in Numeracy, and both Entry Level and Level 1 in Literacy and ESOL, and will partly support people who are either already engaged in other work-based training (including that funded through Train to Gain), or preparatory to this. The project will help employees who are struggling with Level 2 training, or are not ready for it, because of their lack of functional skills.

This will be done through:

- Building a strong partnership of providers to deliver the goals of the project alongside Train to Gain (T2G), providing any necessary training or capacity building
- Developing links with sector skills agencies and projects in order to maximise recruitment
- An initial assessment of potential trainees, to identify Skills for Life needs and any enhancements or preparatory training needed to help them achieve a SfL qualification;
- Offering enhancements to T2G SfL programmes, such as mentoring, additional tutoring, payment of expenses or replacement costs
- Offering preparatory (non-accredited) modules to help learners prepare for T2G programmes (see below) and adapting the modules to the needs of businesses
- Marketing this menu to employers with the help of the TUC, trade unions, Train to Gain (T2G) brokers, Peninsula Enterprises, employer organisations, sector support agencies and local media
- Monitoring enrolments, retention and achievement brought about as a result of the project funding
- Providing matrix-accredited progression interviews for learners on course completion or achievement of their qualification (where it hasn't already been provided)
- Reviewing success, with learners & employers, focusing on productivity and the value of the learning to the business, and on the progression of the employee on to other learning.

Menu of items which can be included as Non-Accredited Preparatory Programmes

(The funding payment assumes courses are 20 guided learning hours)

1. English @ Work: a foundation ESOL programme developed with local discretionary LSC funding under Productive Skills for Devon, with the support of the TUC and the Workforce Development Group for Exeter & Heart of Devon. It is a 20 hour programme, focused on employer needs, to improve basic communication skills leading directly into the other ESOL qualifications listed below. This is accredited with a Partnership certificate and the employer gains a Partnership Award; success will be measured by those completing, those progressing, and impact on the business.
2. Modules mapped to the Skills for Life curriculum, used as a spring board for further study for qualifications. These will have objectives particularly relevant to employers or to those seeking work: e.g. Health and Safety, Customer Care, Food Preparation, Personal Development.
3. Skills for Life "taster" programmes, perhaps tailored to the business

Menu of items which can be included as Accredited Preparatory Programmes

- ESOL Speaking and Listening at Entry levels 1 – 3, Level 1
- ASDAN Workright Certificate at Entry Levels 1 to 3
- ASDAN Certificate in Personal and Social Development Entry Levels 2 and 3
- ASDAN Foundation Training certificate entry level 3
- ASDAN Certificates in Employability Entry Level 3 and Level 1
- NPTC Certificate in Life Skills Entry Level 1
- NPTC Certificate in Skills for Working Life Entry Levels 2 and 3

Qualifications eligible to be enhanced through project funding

Below functional level:

Entry Level 3 ESOL at Work certificate

Entry Level 1 ESOL National Certificate

Entry Level 2 ESOL National Certificate

Entry Level 3 ESOL National Certificate

Entry Level 1 National Certificate in Adult Literacy

Entry Level 2 National Certificate in Adult Literacy

Entry Level 3 National Certificate in Adult Literacy

Entry Level 1 National Certificate in Adult Numeracy

Entry Level 2 National Certificate in Adult Numeracy

At functional level:

Level 1 ESOL at Work Certificate

Level 1 ESOL National Certificate

Level 1 National Certificate in Adult Literacy

Entry Level 3 National Certificate in Adult Numeracy

Project targets until December 2010**Number of Learners**

Non-accredited learning, eg English@Work.	372
Qualifications not eligible for T2G: eg ASDAN, Speaking & Listening.	212
Enhancements for qualifications eligible for T2G: below Level 1 Literacy/ESOL or below Entry Level 3 Numeracy.	212
Enhancements for qualifications eligible for T2G: Level 1 Literacy/ESOL or E3 Numeracy.	1010

Partnership Arrangements

Each partner will be contracted to deliver a set number of outputs to contribute to the overall success of the project. These outputs will be profiled monthly in line with the overall project profile and reviewed on a monthly basis. If a provider is not achieving against profile then there will be flexibility within the project to allocate those outputs to another provider who can demonstrate capacity and ability to deliver.