

Broadening the curriculum with embedded English, ESOL and maths

TaylorITEX Community Interest Company



Variety of provision

TaylorITEX Community Interest Company (CIC) was formed in August 2010. The company is based in Boston, Lincolnshire but is offering training around the county. There are currently four offices based in Boston which, between them, offer provision under Lincolnshire County Council's Personal Community Development Learning contract (PCDL); UK Online; a Next Step contract (where learners are offered information, advice and guidance sessions as well as having support with preparing CVs and applying for jobs) and access to IT for e-mails, job search and basic IT courses.

The majority of our learners are unemployed; some are employed and looking to enhance their skills and we also offer bespoke training for companies. In addition, there are quite a lot of retired learners and people using the courses to get 'back on track', after illness or a break from the workplace.

Our improvement aim

The company is facing the challenge of broadening the curriculum by providing English, maths and ESOL learning whilst maintaining the interest of current learners. As far as possible, this is going to be embedded into the current programme of studies. Our staff needed to develop their knowledge and understanding of embedding these subjects, and identify available resources that could be used within existing curriculums.

Improved interest and retention

"By joining the programme it was thought that the scope available for learners would be broadened and that by offering a wider variety the retention of learners would be increased".

- Julie Mitchell, Director of Skills and Training

Supported provider

TaylorITEX CIC:

- Julie Mitchell, Director of Skills and Training

Improvement partner

Careers Exchange

Our action plan

The main aim of the support provided by LSIS has been to analyse methods of embedding English, maths and ESOL into current programmes. We also needed to find out what materials and programmes there already are to aid delivery and to make the whole learning process more beneficial for the learners. The key elements of the action plan were to complete the [health check](#) and to use the [starter kits](#) available on the Excellence Gateway website. We also decided to research and analyse the different initial and diagnostic assessment tools that are available.

Progress so far

We are currently at the developmental stage of analysing resources available and incorporating them into the learning process for a limited number of learners. By doing this, the intent is that the new processes can be formalised prior to being used for delivery on a wider scale.

Currently the [Move On](#) materials are being incorporated into sessions and the embedded learning portal is being used to develop new resources.

Outcomes

We anticipate that the impact on learners will be that they will be encouraged and motivated to take small steps with their learning, and use this as a platform to go further. Initial response from learners is positive. They are able to see the relevance of English and maths to what they are studying. They have responded well to embedded sessions, and confidence is increasing.

Time will be allocated for staff training and meetings to allow tutors to share materials and to prepare resources to incorporate English, maths and ESOL into a broader spectrum of training and courses. Further staff training and development needs can then be identified. Feedback and evaluation of embedded sessions, which will include feedback from learners, will take place. This will inform future improvements and developments to the curriculum.

Catalyst

“The support of our improvement partner provided staff training discussion and encouraged staff members to incorporate English, ESOL and maths into their general sessions. It was beneficial for the training to be delivered by an outside party. The knowledge provided and the offer of on-going support made all the team aware that the time taken to develop and incorporate new materials will eventually result in higher learner motivation and, hopefully, higher retention rates in the future”.

- Julie Mitchell, Director of Skills and Training

