

What do learners gain from participation?

The outcomes for individuals include:

- increased self confidence and esteem
- ability to help their children with homework
- moving into or sustaining employment
- addressing specific learning difficulties
- gaining nationally accredited qualifications
- progressing onto further education.

What Learners say

“ Since starting I have grown in confidence when handling money.

I'm 48 and they say it's never too late to learn. That is very true and thank goodness, I will be able to follow my kids homework.

I feel good about myself. I can recognise signs around the house and outside. I have always wanted to read and now I can.

I started numeracy to help my daughter with her homework when she starts school. I'm also hoping to go to college.”

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Literacies

Achievements 2001 – 2011

- 15000 people have participated in Literacies Learning Programmes in the last 10 years
- Last year, as a result of participation:
 - 82% of learners were more confident
 - 70% were more successful as learners
- Literacies learning programmes were delivered city wide in over 20 different learning centres
- HMIe report March 2011 rated the impact of learning as Excellent

DUNDEE
PARTNERSHIP

Learning and Culture Theme Group

Literacies – What are the issues in 2011?

Recent Scottish research indicates that approximately 1 in 4 (26.7%) of the working age population demonstrate a consistent weakness in their literacies skills; this group are more likely to:

- have a low income
- be in semi/unskilled employment, and

thus have constrained opportunities, which are likely to manifest themselves in a lack of confidence to tackle challenges in work or everyday life.

There is however another group - those with very limited literacies capabilities – approximately 1 in 28 (3.6%) of the population: this group can have extreme difficulties in their home and work lives. This could range from those that have considerable issues writing their own name and address or recognising the destination on the front of a bus to being unable to count their change accurately.

In summary the research findings indicate that a number of diverse social factors are associated with literacies abilities and that overall they are consistent in their effects. People with poor literacies skills are more likely to be:

- less engaged with literacy
- tend to earn less
- work in more routine occupations
- are unemployed or economically inactive
- live in deprived areas
- face health challenges, and
- have lower educational attainment.

It was found by the researchers that there are consistent relationships between key social factors and literacy scores.

How are we going to address these in 2011-2014?

The Dundee Partnership has drawn up a Strategic Literacies Action Plan which sets out that we will work with 1800 adults per year. The key actions include:

- target those who are vulnerable or excluded from key aspects of society
- support for parents to assist them to engage with and support their children's learning.
- literacies support for people needing assistance to gain, sustain and progress in employment
- partnership working with Dundee College to support people with literacies needs to access and sustain college courses
- target people from Community Regeneration Areas
- joint working with MCMC staff to fulfil 16+ learning agreements
- pilot work with NHS to develop the skills of their staff to offer a literacies sensitive health service which would improve engagement and enable self-care activities.

Literacies learning programmes will have at their core the development of confident and successful learners who are able to take responsibility for their own learning.

To read the full Strategic Literacies Action Plan 2011-2014 go to:
www.discoverlearning.org/staff_literacies_reports.html