

<b>MEETING:</b>	Dearne Area Council
<b>DATE:</b>	Monday, 16 May 2022
<b>TIME:</b>	10.00 am
<b>VENUE:</b>	Room 2, Goldthorpe LIFT Centre

## SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

4 Adult Skills and Community Learning - Caroline Oxley (*Pages 3 - 12*)

IAG Presentation

To: Chair and Members of Dearne Area Council:-

Councillors Bellamy, Bowler, Cain, Coates, Danforth and Gardiner

Area Council Support Officers:

Paul Castle, Dearne Area Council Senior Management Link Officer

Claire Dawson, Dearne Area Council Manager

Rachel Payling, Head of Service, Stronger Communities

Peter Mirfin, Governance Manager

Cath Bedford, Public Health Principal - Communities

Please contact Lynne Belli on email [governance@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:governance@barnsley.gov.uk)

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**BARNSLEY**  
Metropolitan Borough Council



# Employment & Skills



# Adult Skills and Community Learning



- Based in Wellington House in Barnsley, we offer courses and employability support to all Barnsley residents aged 19 and over. Whether people want to gain skills, get a qualification to help them secure employment or improve their wellbeing, whatever the reason for returning to learning we can help.
- Our courses are all delivered in a supportive and friendly environment, and we cater for all levels from beginners through to advanced. Most courses are provided in Wellington House, some are online, and some are provided in the community.



# Skills Courses



- **Maths** - We offer Functional Skills and GCSE qualifications and it's free if you don't already have A\*-C or grade 4-9 GCSE.
- **English** – We offer Functional Skills and GCSE qualifications.
- **ESOL** – These courses are suitable for learners for whom English is their second language.
- **IT & Digital Skills** - The new national digital entitlement fully funds adults (19+) with no or low digital skills to undertake a new qualification called Essential Digital Skills (EDS). Learners are supported to use digital devices like tablets, smart phones and laptops to perform everyday activities like how to navigate the internet, send an email and make online payments. We also offer courses to help develop skills with Microsoft applications Word, Excel and PowerPoint.
- **Working with Children and Young People** – We offer a range of courses from Level 1 to Level 3 for those who want a career as a Teaching Assistant, in Early Years and related areas.
- **Health & Social Care** - Our courses from Level 1 to Level 3 help to develop the knowledge and skills needed to work with some of the most vulnerable people, including the elderly, children and adults with learning disabilities.

# Wellbeing Courses

Our wellbeing courses allow people to improve their mental health, gain confidence, and move towards further studying and employment.

- **Positive Thinking** – Helps learners to discover some simple techniques to improve their positivity.
- **Positive Changes** - Supports to identify small changes that could have a big impact on their life.
- **Creative Wellbeing** - Explores how creativity can help to improve wellbeing. Taking the time to develop creative skills can be a great way to boost confidence, build a sense of purpose and connect with others. We provide... drawing, painting, sewing, digital photography, wire work, glass painting, baking, sugarcraft and calligraphy.



# Courses for adults with learning difficulties and/or disabilities

- Our popular courses for learners with learning difficulties and /or disabilities (LLDD) are designed to help develop skills for independent living, gain an understanding of working life or improve wellbeing.
- All our courses are delivered in a supportive and friendly environment. Our tutors help to plan the learning journey to make sure it meets the individual's needs.



# Statutory Courses for Businesses

We offer the following courses, all accredited by [Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance](#):

- **Food safety**
  - Level 2 Award in food safety (1 day course)
  - Level 2 Award in healthy foods and special diets (1 day course)
- **Health and safety**
  - Level 2 Award in health and safety in the workplace (1 day course)
  - Level 2 Award in principles of manual handling (1 day course)
- **First aid**
  - Level 3 Award in emergency first aid at work (1 day course)
  - Level 3 Award in paediatric first aid (2 day course)



# Employability Support

Our advisors can support local residents on a 1 – 1 basis to overcome multiple barriers, so they can access education, training and employment, through our ESF programmes. We can work with those who are employed and unemployed. Support provided includes...

- CVs, job search, job applications, interview skills.
- Deciding on a career path and course of action.
- Sourcing and paying for appropriate courses from any suitable provider.
- Help to arrange and pay for childcare.
- Help to apply for benefits.
- Refer to other services eg IAPT, Citizens Advice, foodbanks etc.
- Arrange 2 weeks work experience to try out specific jobs eg in care, construction, manufacturing.
- Pay for interview and work clothes, and provide the first month's travel pass when they start work.
- Regular appointments can be over the phone, in Wellington House or in the community.



# Pre & Post COVID

- We continued to work hard & offer alternative learning in addition to personal support for learners, with increased personal contact, support for mental health, referral to food banks etc
- We found that coming out of COVID, the higher level learners and those who can self serve were returning to us
- We want to encourage those with low/no skills or qualifications to return to learning.

# Our Community Plan

- We want to proactively reach the lower skilled and most vulnerable members of the public, rather than wait for them to come to us
- We have a new team of Curriculum Information and Support Officers who are working out in the community and are happy to speak to any potential learners who are interested in doing a course, want to receive employability support, or just want to discuss their options
- We're connecting with all the local area teams and proactively connecting with other organisations eg schools, Family Centres & other support services
- Our aim is to attend local groups and take time to build trust with relevant people of working age
- We will provide holistic IAG, support these people through their journey and identify their barriers
- We are hoping to engage with people, raise their aspirations, help them to see the benefits of learning and move closer or into work. This is sometimes a very long journey.
- We are encouraging people to come into Wellington House, but we are also identifying demand where we can put courses on in the community.

# How to get in touch

You can read about our courses and contact us via our website  
<https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/adult-skills-and-community-learning/>  
email: [adultlearning@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:adultlearning@barnsley.gov.uk)  
or call reception on 01226 775270.



If you know anyone who may be interested in our service, please pass on my contact details, or let me have their name and contact number so I can arrange to have an informal discussion over the phone or out in the community. My contact details are below.

- **Dearne and South Area Teams**

Caroline Oxley  
[carolineoxley@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:carolineoxley@barnsley.gov.uk) Tel: 07831 164903

- **North and North East Area Teams**

Rachel Smallman  
[rachelsmallman@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:rachelsmallman@barnsley.gov.uk) Tel: 07787 039731

- **Central and Penistone Area Teams**

Catherine Wood  
[catherinewood@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:catherinewood@barnsley.gov.uk) Tel: 07801 890071

