



Adult & Community Learning Service

Mission Statement

To promote Community Learning on the Isle of Wight by providing learning opportunities for adult and children and by encouraging and supporting the development of links between individual learning, the family, the local community and social and economic regeneration.

'Life is for Learning – Learning is for Life.'

Family Learning Strategy

2004-7

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Introduction

Family Learning is taken to mean any planned activity in which adults and children come together to work and learn collaboratively.

(Family Learning: a survey of current practice, Ofsted, 2000)

In its broadest sense it refers to activities undertaken by parents/adults/carers, which are planned, purposeful and progressive. They are designed to enhance both adult and child learning in traditional educational settings and also other community venues. It may involve learning about roles, relationships and responsibilities including parenting education. In this sense Family Learning has a strong association with the concept of citizenship.

Central to Family Learning are the key agendas of raising achievement in the local community, Improving attitudes to learning and offering accreditation to parents in their locale.

There are two distinct areas of work: Family Literacy, Language and Numeracy Programmes which aim to raise basic skills achievement within families and Wider Family Learning which aims to bring families together in a learning experience for a wide range of outcomes both learner and provider driven.

National Context

'A Manifesto for Family Learning' produced by the Campaign for Learning, 2000 outlined a strategy for how government should work with a range of partners to establish a coherent support framework for Family Learning in all its forms. This has been further enhanced and strengthened by 'Skills for Families' research supported by the Basic Skills Agency and the LSC, 'Every Child Matters' and the Extended Schools programme in current development.

These frameworks encourage multi-agency working and emphasise the need for Education, Health, Leisure, Environment, Social Services, Housing Services, Job Centre+ and other services for families to include Family Learning within their statutory planning framework. This should reflect wider Family Learning issues, from access to play & leisure facilities, to the provision of formal education. This work also connects with, and supports, strategies of Workforce Development and Education Business partnerships.

The range and scope of Family Programmes delivered are influenced not only by LSC guidance but also by national policy developments. The DfES Strategy for Primary Schools 2003 'Excellence and Enjoyment' states that one of the keys to making the strategy a reality is "... Partnership with parents (which is)...vital in helping children to do as well as they can, and making wider links with the community." The government's five-year Strategic Plan for Children & Learners, 'Birth-Three Matters' and Foundation Stage Curriculum all impact on the work of Family Learning.

The national framework for Family Learning Programmes is 'Walking Ten Feet Tall' by Jeanne Haggart (NIACE). Currently work is being undertaken by NIACE on the development of occupational standards for Family Learning and Working with Parents (Parenting Education & Support).

Relationship of Family Learning within the Local Strategic Framework and Partnerships

Family Learning supports inclusion but it is also central to raising achievement, community learning and best value.

The Island Futures Community Strategy themes of Developing Learning and Skills, Supporting Jobs and the Local Economy, Promoting Equality, Improving Access to Services and Facilities and Guaranteeing the Quality of Life and Sustainability are all supported by Family Learning activities.

Family Learning supports the Isle of Wight Council's Corporate Plan objectives (2002-5), which aim to raise education standards and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all, and the Council's Corporate Commitments to improve community focus and excellence in service delivery.

Family Learning supports a number of key priorities in the Education Development Plan (2002-7)

- Raising standards of literacy and numeracy across the key stages
- Promoting parental and community involvement in literacy and numeracy
- Improving Lifelong Learning Provision and Achievement

Challenging Public Service agreement targets have been set for the Family Learning Service to achieve around raising accreditation amongst adults and improving Key Stage 2 literacy results. The Learning Partnership Business Plan and the Basic Skills Action Plan include targets for the Service. Regular update reports are provided to the Adult and Community Learning sub-group of the Learning Partnership.

Family Learning is a key priority of the Isle of Wight Council Adult and Community Learning three year development plan (2004-7) seeking to develop increasing opportunities for accredited provision in a wide range of venues.

The Early Years Development and Childcare Plan (2004-6) highlights the need to involve parents and carers in their children's learning as the child's first educators. They seek opportunities to encourage participation and involvement by parents in early years provision, child development and well being, understanding schemas and supporting early learning.

'Every Child Matters' and the Island's response 'The Preventative Strategy' 2004 seek to encourage a multi – agency approach to family support in its widest sense.

Integral to the Family Learning Service offer over the next five years is the development of Children's Centres offering encouragement and support for parents who wish to consider training (including basic skills and/or parenting classes) and employment and Extended Schools offering services for families co-located in neighbourhoods.

Raising Awareness of Family Learning through partnership working – locally and nationally

The LEA is a member of the National Family Learning Benchmarking Network sharing good practice with mainland colleagues. The community education organization: 'ContinYou', Campaign for Learning, English Heritage, Parent Education and Support Forum and NIACE support the development of the Isle of Wight Family Learning Service through training opportunities and specialist information, advice and guidance.

Regionally, the four Family Learning managers of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight LSC region meet regularly together with LLSC colleagues to share best practice in a 'Skills for Families' forum.

The Isle of Wight Family Learning Service recognizes the importance of raising awareness at local and national level of Family Learning and supports this through membership of the ACL sub group of the Isle of Wight Learning Partnership and the Basic Skills Network.

The Family Learning team works with a range of partners to develop a wide range of programmes. These include the Local Education Authority, the Childcare and Early Education Service and other local authority departments, the local Learning and Skills Council, The Isle of Wight College, Isle of Wight Learning Partnership, Education Business Partnership, local writers and artists.

From October 2004 the Family Learning Service within the Adult & Community Learning Service is based in the Cultural and Leisure department of the Adult & Community Services Directorate.

Key Funding Streams

The local Learning and Skills Council, Local Authority and The Isle of Wight College currently fund core Family Learning on the Isle of Wight. The current core programme is unable to be developed without substantial additional funding.

Public Service Agreement targets have been achieved this year which will enable funding to be drawn down from central government to support the development of Family Learning within middle and high schools.

Additional short term Single Regeneration Budget has been accessed to enhance the Ryde area programmes. Project funding is secured wherever available for pilot work in community regeneration, parenting education and/or work with specific target groups e.g. men & boys

Local Context

Family Learning has developed over the last 12 years on the Island from an initial pilot course delivered by the Isle of Wight College funded by the Basic Skills Agency in 1992. Single Regeneration Budget funding supported the development of a dedicated Family Learning Centre in one of the Island's primary schools in a deprived area, to provide widening participation opportunities for families in their locale. Learning and Skills Council and Isle of Wight Council funding now supports a further nine schools with combined intensive FLLN Programmes and the Share programme.

As the Island had had small scale input Family Learning before this time and few, if any providers offering progression routes for adult learners it was decided to stay in schools for a period of two years in order for staff awareness, adult learner progression, school governor input and exit strategies to be built in for the schools to continue offering Family Learning at the end of the intensive support.

From 2001-3 ten Island Primary schools were selected to receive the first intensive input as part of an eight-year plan to give intensive support to every Primary school on the Island. The need was judged on school context, SATs results, ward information and discussions with school inspectorate and primary literacy/numeracy consultants. Two dedicated Family Learning teachers and learning support assistants (who had themselves benefited from FL programmes) were appointed to offer this specialist support in schools.

The Isle of Wight Family Learning Service works in partnership with the Isle of Wight College to deliver the specialist basic skills support to parents enabling them to take national literacy/numeracy tests to support the national Skills Strategy. A member of Isle of Wight College staff is seconded to the service part-time to co-ordinate the Share programme which offers schools the opportunity to offer supported Family Learning sessions and accreditation for adults.

In 2003-5 a further nine primary schools were selected for intensive support. The first cohort of ten schools is supported by the Family Learning team who offer action planning, training and information on other learning opportunities and funding streams available.

From 2005-7 following changes to funding arrangements within the LSC the service will continue to support priority schools in clusters through FLLN programmes and Share but will also offer a variety of programmes in Children's Centres, Extended Schools and with other community led initiatives including Pan Estate regeneration.

Many innovative courses/workshops/sessions have taken place involving an extensive curriculum for families covering Health, Law and Order and local history. Whilst the majority of Family Learning work takes place in schools, a considerable variety of learning activities are also provided through libraries museums, Arts and other cultural services.

Aims of Family Learning

To raise the profile of learning in the community of the Isle of Wight

To help raise achievement in schools by presenting learning as a family activity

To build the skills level of the local community to assist in regeneration

To provide 'first step' opportunities in schools and community environments on the Isle of Wight for families to learn together

To provide professional information and advice to parents/carers on how their children learn and how they can best support their child's learning

To provide professional parent support in the areas of behaviour management parenting skills and emotional intelligence

To build confidence and self esteem within the family

Objectives

- To offer a range of family literacy, language and numeracy courses in schools and community environments
- To support schools in developing in-house Family Learning through training and support e.g. SHARE (Literacy, Numeracy, Science, IT and Health activities for parents at all Key Stages)
- To develop and deliver wider family learning courses and workshops in the community giving opportunities for families to learn together in a variety of settings e.g. Community based Family Learning activities in partnership with libraries, Ventnor Botanic Garden, Museums, Arts Unit and English Heritage.
- To support the development of Children's Centres and Extended Schools by offering dedicated Family Learning provision within communities, a range of courses, workshops and services e.g. East Cowes Family Learning Centre based in a Primary School in an area of deprivation on the Island
- To develop, deliver and support parenting education and related family programmes e.g. Share Plus Programme, Dads and Lads Football Days
- Work based Family Learning, Employability scheme, Work Experience opportunities and Enterprise Learning to support strategies to promote work related learning

In addition the Isle of Wight participates in the national Family Learning Week and 'Bring your Parents/Grandparents to School Days'. These are annual events supported by the Campaign for Learning and raise awareness of activities available on the Isle of Wight for families to enjoy learning together.

Family Literacy, Language and Numeracy Programmes

Schools are selected to host intensive Family Literacy, Language & Numeracy courses taking into account school context, SATS results, recommendation of link inspectors and consultants and specific requests from schools.

All families are invited to attend introductory taster sessions but in addition families are targeted by the school based on knowledge of intergenerational lack of basic skills.

All schools involved in the delivery of the Family Learning Programmes are supported to develop Family Learning within their School Development plans. The Family Learning Teachers attend Governors meetings to inform school planning and future development of Family Learning within the school. It is recommended that schools appoint a Family Learning Governor and /or lead member of staff to oversee Family Learning within the school to ensure the learning needs of families are addressed.

Parents and children complete initial learning assessments and attitudinal questionnaires. This identifies starting points for learning and preferred learning style. They also set their own learning outcomes on individual learning plans. The Isle of Wight College tutors working in partnership deliver the basic skills element of the programmes to the adult learners. Attendance, retention and course content and methodology are recorded and this data is presented in an annual report to schools and the LEA.

The curriculum has been developed from the Basic Skills Agency model LSC guidance and is mapped to the Adult Core Curricula for Literacy and Numeracy.

Sessions for adults on supporting their child's learning are linked with adult basic skills. Joint sessions with children are mapped to both adult curriculum and the National Curriculum level, as appropriate.

Sessions involve making resources to support children's learning, evaluating educational resources and developing attitudes and behaviours, which support the learning process.



Wider Family Learning

Sessions in wider family learning are not necessarily designed to address the basic skills needs of the adult or child learner. As such this curriculum tends to be more learner led. Opportunities are offered for adults to learn about how their children learn, to engage in learning alongside their children or to develop their own skills to better support their families.

On the Isle of Wight programmes have been developed for OCN accreditation namely Law and Order for Families looking at the Youth Justice Service in response to interest from families. Health programmes can link to the Healthy Schools Award Scheme. Local History programmes and Arts based work have been developed and link with regeneration and citizenship agendas.

The Island has a dedicated Family Learning Centre (see below) but additional activities often take place in libraries, museums, after school clubs and/or sports clubs. These tend to be dependent on project funding for development. Feedback from participants is recorded and used to develop the content of future workshops. Evaluation sheets are completed and photographic/video evidence is collected where appropriate.

It is hoped that these programmes may be expanded with the development of Extended Schools and Children's Centres, should funding become available.

The Family Learning Centre is open to all parents, adult carers, school and pre-school staff, and children of East Cowes community.

The centre's aims are:

- To provide facilities for parents and their children to learn together and/or separately.
- To be a centre for information about family life and education in its broadest sense.
- To enhance the life of the school and families in East Cowes who are part of the school, by providing services such as information about education, short courses for parents and/or children, opportunities for parents to obtain accreditation if required, legal advice, health advice, specialist advice on special needs and other educational issues
- To encourage parents to take an active role in their child's education both in pre-school, school, and at home.
- To lend materials to parents to enhance their child's learning and to help parents to make resources to enhance their child's learning.
- To enable school/care setting, home and child to be partners in education.

Termly evaluations and whole school attitudinal survey results together with school SATS and baseline results are recorded with an annual report presented to Governors, community leaders and the Local Education Authority.

Recognising Achievement and Progression

Recognition in Family Learning programmes needs to be given to both accredited and non-accredited gains made by families involved in introductory programmes, short courses, intensive programmes and workshops. Increased confidence in their own ability of both adults and children is a key outcome in these programmes. Involvement in community life, (including parent governor roles in schools), better working relationships with teachers and schools, increased knowledge of how best to support their children and health benefits in terms of advice and guidance on where to access support services can all be benefits of Family Learning Programmes. Additional benefits to children and schools can include increased attendance, improved behaviour and punctuality.

On the Intensive FLLN programmes parents/carers are able to access basic skills accreditation through the Isle of Wight College: City & Guilds National Literacy and Numeracy tests. The opportunity to gain Open College Network units through the Share programme is offered to adults as accreditation of the joint work undertaken with their children. Accredited behaviour management/parenting sessions are offered through the Share Plus programme.

Various community providers offer Health & Hygiene, First Aid certification and other courses/sessions suggested by learners. The Family Learning Service has also developed OCN accredited courses e.g. Law and Order: A guide for Families.

Children taking part with their parents/carers are awarded certificates of achievement to encourage their learning. Presentations of work and recognition of achievement take place at Annual Awards Ceremonies where key stakeholders, elected members, Council managers and school staff acknowledge the effort of the families undertaking Family Learning.

The Family Learning Service is accredited through the Guidance Accreditation Board having attained the Matrix Standard to give Information, Advice and Guidance to learners on further learning and progression opportunities open to them.

Equality & Diversity

Family Learning works within the Isle of Wight Council's Equality & Diversity policy, thus sessions are open to all unless otherwise stated; for example where funding requirements and the Adult Learning Plan specify target groups e.g. men and boys, families with basic skills needs and/or grandparents.

The team is trained to respond to learner need informed by initial and formative assessment and disclosure by the learner. Funds are available for specialist materials/equipment as required and materials are available in differing formats as appropriate. Learner support can be accessed for a variety of learners need including adults and children with English as an additional language.

Premises audits are undertaken to assess suitability for learners with programmes of work prioritised within available funding.

Currently, Family Programmes are fully subsidised by the Isle of Wight Council and learners can access funding for childcare/care of dependents whilst learning.

Quality Assurance

The Family Learning Manager co-ordinates and monitors the delivery and quality of core Family Learning activities. The team produces an Annual Self Assessment Report and Development Plan after consultation with learners and partners. The Quality Assurance Framework for Family Learning sits within the Adult & Community Learning QAF managed by the ACL manager.

The Adult & Community Learning Quality Officer on a termly basis undertakes contract Review and the Service is subject to LLSC Provider Performance Review and the Common Inspection Framework under the Adult Learning Inspectorate. The ACL Quality Improvement Programme offers training events for providers on a range of QA related themes, which members of the team attend on a regular basis.

Staff undertake continuous professional development and teaching teams and Isle of Wight College tutors plan and review together in dedicated non- delivery times in the term.

An external programme of Observation of Teaching & Learning takes place annually with additional internal termly monitoring visits made to all venues offering Family Learning courses and the SHARE programme. Internal verification procedures are also in place for the quality assurance of the SHARE and other accreditation offered through Open College Network.

External consultants on an annual basis carry out external evaluations of specific areas of work or for research purposes.

As part of the Community Development Directorate the Service is accredited by Investors in People.

The Family Learning Service also holds the Guidance Accreditation Board's Matrix accreditation for the quality of its information, advice and guidance for adult learners. This is the standard recommended for Further Education Colleges and Universities and the Service was the first on the island to achieve the standard.

Version 2 September 2004

Outline Proposed Development for Family Learning

2004-7

Aim	Objectives:	Proposed Date:	Funding
To continue to offer core FLLN activities and curriculum in areas of local authority and LSC priority	To support adults in First Steps learning Raising standards	2004 - 2005	Core LSC/IW Council ACL funding
To support the development of Children's Centres by offering broader range of FLLN programmes	To develop programmes to support Birth-Three Matters/Foundation Stage and Adult Core Curricula	Jan.-Mar. 2005	Additional LSC FLLN funding +
To offer FLLN programmes in Children's Centres as part of core offer	To deliver a range of programmes to support Birth – Three Matters, Foundation Stage and Adult Core Curricula To offer IAG to adult learners	Sept. 2005-July 2007	LSC CC Funding Stream
To support LEA Primary Strategy with FLLN programmes in partnership schools across KS2	To pilot e learning 'Streetwise' FL courses at KS2 To develop KS2 work undertaken through Ryde SRB	Sept. 04-Mar. 05 Sept. 2005-July 2007	TReACL funding Core LSC/IW Council ACL funding
To continue to offer wider Family Learning in Centres and expand to include the wider community	Family Learning Centre to be open to all families in East Cowes	2004	Core LSC /IW Council ACL Funds
To support the development of Extended Schools To support the 'Fresh Start' Weston Primary in developing Family Learning opportunities	To offer programmes at all key stages Roll out of developed Wider FL programmes including Share Plus - parenting	2004 2004	PSA funding IW Council
To develop the Share programme – increasing accreditation opportunities for adult learners	To offer Share as an exit strategy for FLLN two year support schools To offer two training events a year for Island school staff	Oct. 2004 Oct. 2004/ Feb 2005	PSA Funding IW Council
Creative Partnerships To develop the FLLN curriculum for children and or families with LD/D	OCN Accredited Storysack course with parents	Sept. 04-07	Arts Council
To use project funding as and when available to support the broadening and strengthening of the FL Curriculum offer			

“I feel that I have made real progress with my English. It is a challenge.”

Parent on FLLN programme

“The children’s confidence has increased. These programmes have impacted on their achievement this year.”

Headteacher



“My dad really helps me with my work. It is nice to have him in school. I feel very lucky.”

Year 5 child on Family Learning programme

Family Learning Team 2003-4

Adult & Community Learning Family Learning Team Responsibilities		
Sarah Teague	Family Learning Manager	Quality/Equality & Diversity
Christine Groves	Administrator	Communications
Christina Phillips	FLLN Teacher (Full-time)	FLLN Curriculum
Jane Popov	FLLN Teacher (Part-time)	Wider Family Learning links
Michelle Kirby	FLLN Teacher (Part-time)	Self Assessment
Helen Goddard	FLLN Teacher (Supply)	School Governor links
Chrissie Blow	Share Co-ordinator (Part-time)	Accreditation & Progression
Shelley Crutcher	Family Learning Support Assistant	E learning
Annette Whaley	Family Learning Support Assistant	ESOL
Kerry Baker	ACFL Development Officer	Work-based Family Learning
		Men & Boys
		DDA/ Learner Support
Sharon Kennovin Information	Family Learning Co-ordinator	Marketing & Management





Family Learning Service
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Cultural & Leisure Services
Adult & Community Services
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