

“By 2020, Scotland’s society and economy will be stronger because more of its adults are able to read, write and use numbers effectively in order to handle information, communicate with others, express ideas and opinions, make decisions and solve problems as family members, workers, citizens and lifelong learners”

Adult Literacies in Scotland 2020: Strategic Guidance(ALIS)

Falkirk CLDS Core Skills offer is consistent with the ethos of ALIS 2020 & the Adult Learning in Scotland Statement of Ambition: CLDS will work with targeted young people & adults in a group setting to build their core skills, knowledge, understanding and confidence in order to be more effective in their personal, family, community and working lives. Central to this process is the voluntary engagement of the Individual.

In Falkirk, adult literacies provision operates with 2 models of delivery: dedicated and integrated. This report summarises performance of dedicated provision; a learning environment that offers people, who have expressed an explicit need to improve skills in relation to reading, writing and using numbers, the opportunity for a personalised curriculum with a social practice approach.

AIM: Deliver a literacy provision that recognises the aspirations and educational needs of learners.

METHOD

- Initial assessments carried out to establish best fit for learners’ lives and learning needs
- Small group settings offered in locations within easy reach by public transport: Central Falkirk, Camelon & Denny
- Staffing is provided by 2 CLD Workers & 3 CLD Support Workers with experience, training and qualifications in the field of adult literacies
- 13 trained volunteers provide one-to-one support
- Learners work with CLDS staff to produce contextualised individual learning plans that reflect their learning goals
- Learners are offered advice, guidance & signposting to other services, agencies and opportunities as appropriate

ACHIEVEMENTS

- 41 adults participated in 7 dedicated literacy groups
- 4 learners participated in a Monthly Writers Group
- 10 learners attended literacy Summer programme
- All learners report that their learning experience has made a positive impact on their lives eg safer, healthier, more skilled, confident, and independent (FIG 1 & CASE STUDY 1)
- 7 adults working toward/achieving SQA Core Skills units (FIG 2)
- Literacy learners assisted with creating resources for an outdoor story telling session as part of a Family Literacy programme

NEXT STEPS

CLDS will

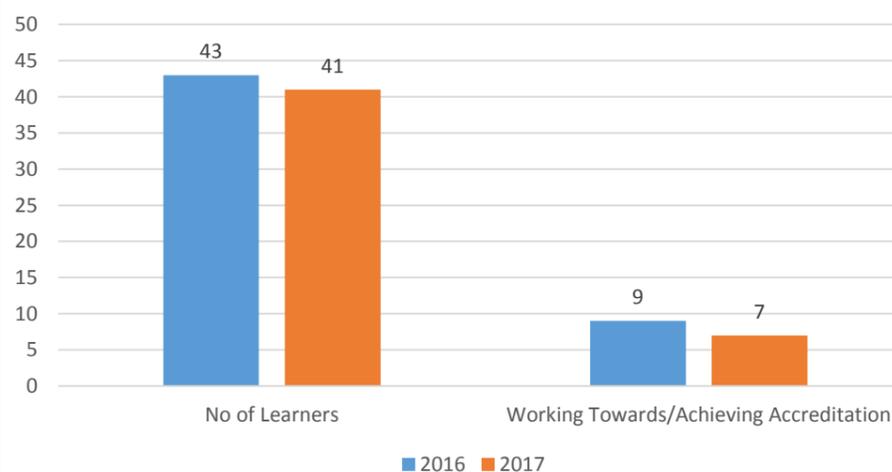
- Introduce a blended learning environment to better meet the needs of learners and reflect the changing digital & economic landscape
- Increase CPD opportunities for staff and volunteers to support developments in literacy provision
- Continue to work with CLDS staff & partners to develop pathways for access and progression

RESULTS

FIG 1 2017 Impact of Dedicated Literacies Contributing to Single Outcome Local Delivery Plan



FIG 2 Comparison of Learners Participating in Accreditation



CASE STUDY 1

Ian first came to us through a referral from the Citizens Advice Bureau in 2014. He was very nervous on that first day in the group and looked like he was going to cry. He said he wanted to work on his writing but couldn't articulate any specific goals.

After a long conversation trying to tease out more information I discovered that he enjoyed going on a day out on the train and walking in the countryside so I asked him to write a couple of lines about the last time he did this.

The look of panic on his face told me he wasn't ready for that yet so we decided I would ask questions, write his answers and he would copy them .

After coming to the group for a few weeks, Ian began writing short paragraphs.

Once I got to know him I found out he lived alone, didn't work, suffered from anxiety, had no support network and a very limited routine without much human contact. He didn't even switch on his mobile phone unless he wanted to make a call as he didn't feel confident speaking on the phone.

Over the course of the next 2 years he has achieved so much

- completed his first ever certificate: SQA level 3 modules in reading and writing
- learned to use a computer and ipad
- started using his mobile phone
- began volunteering
- started working on his numeracy.

He was like a different person. His confidence had grown and he was able to use his new skills to help him change the way he lived his life.

He learned to measure for carpets tiles and blinds in his home. Before joining the group, he would have paid extra for someone to come out and do it.

He learned to use the calculator on his phone so he could add up his shopping quickly and discreetly to make sure he had enough money when he got to the checkout.

Sadly, Ian's dad died several months ago and it was Ian, who dealt with all the funeral arrangements and helped his mum sort out her bank account and paperwork. He was even able to take his mum to the lawyers and explain everything to her.

Ian's family have noticed the change too. His brother commented that he didn't know that Ian could do all those things or talk the way he does now.

Knowing that his brother sees him in a new way as made Ian feel very proud of himself. He says that before coming to the literacy group he would not have had the confidence or the skills to do any of the things he has done and it made him feel great being able to help someone else for a change instead of them helping him.

CLD Worker