



Active
Citizenship
National Event

Learning for active citizenship

Thursday 18 March 2010

Maple House, 150 Corporation Street, Birmingham B4 6TB

It is often stated that in Britain we face a 'democratic deficit' with fewer people voting in elections, the membership of major political parties in decline, and an increasing dissatisfaction with politicians.

Many people are disillusioned with the current political structures which seem to be impervious to everyday concerns and fail to serve the public interest. However, this is not the same as saying that people aren't interested in politics.

Learning for Active Citizenship seeks to engage constructively with political processes, and will develop new skills and educational approaches to change society for the better.

This national event aims to:

- raise the profile of learning for active citizenship
- share materials, experience, skills and methods
- identify, develop and increase opportunities and resources for learning for active citizenship
- build a national network of active citizenship educators/ facilitators.

Audience

- Practitioners, organisers and managers in further education, adult, community and workplace learning
- Local authority managers with responsibility for building stronger communities, in particular, engagement in civic participation and influencing local decision-making.

The Workers' Educational Association (WEA) is the largest voluntary sector provider of adult education in Britain and provides learning opportunities for over 80,000 people each year. It operates in all nine English regions and in Scotland, and employs over 3,000 part-time tutors.

The WEA creates and delivers courses in response to local need, often in partnership with community groups, local charities and other organisations. The WEA believes that education is life-long and should continue beyond school, college and university in order to help people develop their full human potential in society.

The WEA has always been committed to democratic practice in its teaching and learning, planning and governance. It values the experience and interest of its learners and sees its historic commitment to an educated democracy as very relevant to modern British society, communities and individuals.

Programme

- 10:00 Arrival and registration (tea/coffee available)
- 10:30 Welcome and Introduction
- 10:40 Opening quiz
- 11:10 What is citizenship?
- 11:25 Keynote speaker:
Bob Fryer, Chair, Campaign for Learning
Questions and answers
- 11:55 Workshops (Please indicate your choices on the application form)
- i. Get Heard! Exploring how to get your message over - creative approaches
 - ii. Does Politics Need Parliament and Why Vote?
 - iii. Digital Democracy
 - iv. Food, Fashion, Famine, Fear (global issues)
 - v. Building the Base - Active Citizens, Active Educators (training the trainers)
- 13:00 Lunch
- 13:45 Welcome back
- 13:55 Second workshop session (repeat of above)
- 14:55 Learners' voices
- 15:10 Next steps
- 15:45 Close of National event



Event information

- Arrival and registration is at 10:00am for a 10:30am start. The event will end at 3.45pm
- Attendance is free (includes lunch, tea/coffee)
- Completed and signed application forms must be faxed or posted to NIACE by the closing date. Reservations by telephone cannot be accepted
- Application forms are individually acknowledged by e-mail. Joining instructions, including map and directions, will be e-mailed out one week before the event
- Participants should be prepared to take their own notes as there will not be handouts for all sessions
- If you have not received an e-mail confirming your attendance and joining instructions 4 working days before the event please contact:

Gurjit Kaur

Tel: 0116 204 2833

Fax: 0116 254 8368

Minicom: 0116 255 6049

E-mail: gurjit.kaur@niace.org.uk

Application conditions

Event: Thursday 18 March 2010

Closing Date: Thursday 4 March 2010

- Substitutions are to be advised **5 working days** prior to the event
- A **10 working days** notice period is required for provision of electronic note-takers, sign language~ interpreters and transcription to Braille.

Allocation of places

- Application forms will be recorded in order of receipt
- The WEA reserves the right to reject applicants who are not from the target audience list
- To achieve a regional spread at the conference some applications will be added to the waiting list and/or declined.

For more information, to download an application form or to reserve a place online, visit the NIACE website:

<http://www.niace.org.uk/events>

Enquiries to Gurjit Kaur, NIACE Events Team - Tel: 0116 204 2833 / E-mail: gurjit.kaur@niace.org.uk
NIACE, Renaissance House, 20 Princess Road West, Leicester LE1 6TP

The Learning Revolution

The Learning Revolution is a Government White Paper, published in March 2009. It was preceded by a wide-ranging consultation and a series of policy roundtable meetings involving many different organisations – including plenty that did not initially see themselves as being involved in adult learning. *The Learning Revolution* describes a new vision for informal learning for the 21st Century and sets out what Government will do to help informal adult learning flourish. It can be downloaded at www.dius.gov.uk/learningrevolution

The Transformation Fund

The Transformation Fund is a new £20m fund to support informal adult learning in all its guises and support our collective challenge – how to make the best use of all that's on offer and join up what's currently disconnected. Through the fund we want to:

- build partnerships, strengthen capacity and encourage knowledge transfer between sectors
- improve connections between different kinds of learning experiences, to encourage people to broaden and deepen their interests
- encourage more and different people into learning, especially those who would not usually participate
- open up access to learning in new places, in new ways and at more flexible times
- support people to drive their own learning through self organised groups and learning clubs
- widen choice, by developing and sharing innovative content
- make better use of broadcasting and technology to stimulate and support learning
- support the new culture of informal adult learning, including sign-up to the Learning Revolution principles, pledge and Open Space Movement.

NIACE is managing the Transformation Fund on behalf of the Department. To date, over three hundred projects have been awarded grants through the fund, they include an Opera company, Community Radio stations, a boat club, FE and HE organisations, Community TV, a local history group, prison families education and dance projects.

The WEA Yorkshire and Humber region were successful in gaining a grant from the fund, a short summary of the project is included below:-

Active Citizenship Education Project (ACEP)

The Workers Educational Association (WEA) Yorkshire & Humber region are leading a project to develop new active citizenship courses, to engage council staff in learning about Parliament and the new local government duties, to develop a regional active citizenship alliance and to share practice at a national event.

The project has the following elements, all of which are designed to build capacity in this curriculum area and to help develop a sustainable network and programme for the future:

1. Develop a strategic network of those engaged in active citizenship education across the region
2. Work with partners to deliver day courses for council staff on the duty to promote democracy and the link between local government and Parliament
3. Write a series of 5 hour courses, supported by short pamphlets, and made accessible on-line;
4. Pilot some of the courses.

Partners include: WEA, Communities & Organisations Growth and Support (COGS), Take Part, TUC, Parliamentary Outreach, Sheffield, Rotherham, Doncaster, Barnsley and York Councils.

To find out more about the transformation fund please see our website:- <http://www.transformationfund.org.uk>

Please complete the application in **BLOCK CAPITALS** (Attendance is free)

My organisation has authorised my attendance on **Thursday 18 March 2010, Birmingham** (Closing date: 04 March 09) c1957/0310

Participant's details

Title _____ Full name _____

Job title _____ Organisation _____

Daytime tel No. _____ Mobile No. _____ Fax No. _____

Please provide an email address that is your own and regularly accessed as this will be used to send you joining instructions.

E-mail

Please indicate which sector you work in: _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

This is my Home address Work address

Joining instructions will be sent by e-mail, if you would prefer to receive these by post, please tick this box

Participant's requirements

<input type="checkbox"/> I have no special requirements	<input type="checkbox"/> I will require a hearing loop
<input type="checkbox"/> I will need support for my visual impairment	<input type="checkbox"/> I will need wheelchair access
<input type="checkbox"/> I will need an electronic note-taker	<input type="checkbox"/> I will need facilities for an assistance dog
<input type="checkbox"/> I will require a sign language interpreter (please specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> I require event materials in a specified format (please specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> I have the following dietary requirements (please specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> I have further additional requirements (please specify)	

We require a 10 working days notice period to make arrangements for electronic note-takers, sign language interpreters and transcription to Braille.

Workshop attendance

Please rank your choices from 1 to 4 in order of preference. If your first or second choices are full, you will be allocated your third or fourth choices

- Workshop i Workshop iv
 Workshop ii Workshop v
 Workshop iii

Agreement - I accept the Event Information and Application Conditions

Signature	Date

Data Protection Act

The National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE) is registered under the Data Protection Act 1998 (Registration Number Z7412510). Personal information supplied to NIACE will be stored securely and used in relation to NIACE's work. Full details of the purposes for which NIACE processes personal information is in our Data Protection Register entry, which can be found on the Information Commissioner's website www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk. At no time will we divulge personal information to third parties without your express consent. Participants may be contacted by letter or e-mail with details of future events and publications organised or promoted by NIACE which may be of interest to you. Database mailing update forms are sent out periodically. These provide you with the opportunity to have your details amended or deleted from the database. If you wish to receive such further information please tick this box