

## **New skills for community involvement**

Karla is a single parent living on the Lache estate in Cheshire. Although she did all her exams at school, she feels she should have stayed on at school.

She first took part in informal English and scrapbook courses followed by a series of non-accredited courses such as jewellery making, scrapbooking and sewing. This led on to family craft engagement sessions with her two daughters at their primary school. Karla was offered a Share Plus Parenting course as a progression opportunity, but instead chose to take advantage of other community learning courses. She followed a mixture of non accredited adult courses and wider family learning courses. She is now taking part in a Childcare Education course at East Cheshire college and is also doing a L1 numeracy course leading to the national qualification. Her future plans are to become a teaching assistant, and this is the route that is taking her there.

The effects of Karla's learning have benefited her children as their attendance at school is greatly improved. Karla values her role as a parent in the education of her children, and sees herself and her family as active members of the community. She encourages others to join the adult based course at the primary school and is now doing her work experience in the Reception class on a regular basis.

Learning has become a vehicle for community cohesion with the community. There are effective partnerships in place between the school, Further Education college and County Family Learning and Parenting team with regard to planning programmes to maximise progression opportunities. An ability to make different funding streams work has only improved the learner experience.

Cheshire County Council Family Learning and Parenting Team