



Hampshire Learns (ACL) Newsletter

Winter Term 2023 – Number 11



Welcome to the Hampshire Learns Winter Newsletter



As we approached the end of 2023 it felt a perfect time for our team to stop and reflect on the past few months. Before enjoying our end of term ACL Team Christmas Party, the ACL Development Manager **Claire Allen**, Coordinators **Susie Higgs** (Elf) and **Peter McNulty** (Santa) carried out an exercise to find out what our tutor team had felt had gone well in 2023, what could have made it better, and what next for 2024? You will find some of these ideas in this newsletter.

The team initially shared their sense of pride following our Hampshire Achieves **Ofsted** visit that took place from 7 - 10 November 2023. The inspectors noted in their report that learners (and apprentices) are '*motivated to succeed*' and '*value the support and care that tutors provide highly so they can achieve their goals*'. Please click on the link below to read the post-inspection **Press Report** released by Hampshire County Council:

[Ofsted inspection brings 'Good' news for learners with Hampshire County Council | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://hants.gov.uk/news/2023/11/14/ofsted-inspection-brings-good-news-for-learners-with-hampshire-county-council/)

To read the full Ofsted Report 2023, please click the link below:

[Ofsted Report 2023.PDF \(participationandlifelonglearning.co.uk\)](https://participationandlifelonglearning.co.uk/Ofsted-Report-2023.PDF)



The ACL tutors reported that they worked well together in a happy and collaborative team, with tutors feeling a strong bond. They stated how much they valued the team help and support with subject ideas, expertise, and digital skills. There was shared pride at the increased achievement rates in English functional skills, excellent progression data for learners on our employability courses, exceptional learner feedback and the increased diversity in our courses and learner groups.

Tutors also felt that they were included in decision making, have the autonomy to be creative practitioners and appreciate the ongoing high-quality, professional

development provided for our tutor team, including an excellent **Hampshire Achieves Teaching & Learning Conference** organised by our Quality Team in October 2023.



ESOL & Functional Skills English Update

It has been a busy term with new face-to-face ESOL courses taking place across the county, alongside our online offer. Courses start at *pre-entry level* (for individuals with very little or no English) to *advanced level* for learners wishing to study towards the IELTS test.



Our ESOL team **Anna Winiarska**, **Sarah McHardy** and **Rekha Gupta** have worked exceptionally hard to write high quality, interesting and engaging ESOL lessons to enable learners to improve their English skills, so they can live independently, secure employment, and access essential services in the UK such as health and transport.

Their enrolment numbers, especially by word of mouth, provides evidence of their professional skills, warmth and popularity with learners.

For more information about our ESOL courses, including eligibility criteria, learning levels and a link to our useful course finder, please visit our new ESOL webpage here:

[English for Speakers of other Languages \(ESOL\) | Education and learning | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://hants.gov.uk/education-learning/esol)

Alongside our ESOL offer, our English tutor **Marian Salisbury** has been offering six week *Develop your English* courses for individuals wishing to brush up on their speaking, listening, reading and writing skills. Learners then have the option to progress to an accredited *Level 1 / Level 2 English Functional Skills* course.

We continue to work collaboratively alongside our partners in the **Multiply Team** to provide numeracy courses from taster sessions up to *Level 2 Maths Functional Skills*.

ESOL / English Courses - What Next in 2024?



We are delighted that we are currently recruiting a dedicated **ACL Business Support Officer** to provide a back-office role in 2024 with processing our enrolments, responding to queries, and sending out course completion certificates.

We are exploring how we can work effectively with employers to provide in-house training for staff to develop their English skills to enable them to work safely and effectively in their workplace. We are piloting this offer in the New Year at an HCC adult residential and care home, but if you have more than six employees who are keen to develop their English skills, then please contact our team to discuss training at: Hampshire.learns@hants.gov.uk.

We are also currently exploring a range of *accredited ESOL courses*, so please watch this space for further updates as we plan courses for the new academic year 2024.

Finally, our team are also looking at '*Preparing for UK Citizenship*' courses to prepare adults in Hampshire age 19+ to sit the '*Life in the UK*' test.



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Preparing for Higher Level Apprenticeship Courses – What Next in 2024?

Following on from collaborative working during 2023 with the HCC's Apprenticeship Levy Team, Hampshire Learns, and the University of Winchester, we developed and delivered courses to adults preparing to start their BA (Hons) Social Work Apprenticeship. We are hoping to build on the success of the previous cohort.



Hampshire Learns are proud that we have been asked to offer this fantastic programme again in spring 2024 as the result of positive post-course follow up and feedback.

Wellbeing Courses



Hampshire Learns offers a variety of courses that aim to develop the skills, confidence, motivation, and resilience of adults of different ages and different backgrounds to help them to progress towards formal learning, improve their health and wellbeing, and develop stronger communities. Our team are always happy to discuss any unmet local need and develop learning programmes to engage some of the most vulnerable adults in Hampshire.

Our wellbeing and employability tutor **Victoria Passee** has been working across Hampshire with **Age Concern** in the autumn term to provide **Seated Yoga** courses to develop and maintain learners' posture, balance, and flexibility; thereby reducing the risk of falls.

We have kindly been given permission to publish the photos with the following feedback from participants and staff at one of our Hampshire Age Concern Wellbeing Centres:

- *"I have really enjoyed the gentle movement and learning more about the benefits of yoga. I feel better for it."*
- *"Every part of the course has been great. I always feel so good and relaxed afterwards, thank you."*
- *"I have enjoyed moving my body in new ways. It's been a lovely experience."*
- *"I really enjoyed the whole course - especially the deep relaxation at the end, Victoria has a lovely way about her."*
- *"I enjoy the breathing. It makes me feel calm and helps my asthma."*



As well as online confidence & self-esteem for employment courses, Victoria has also been providing bespoke courses to women who have experienced domestic abuse to develop their employability skills, confidence, and resilience in 2023.

Wellbeing Courses - What Next in 2024?

We wish to continue to develop further partnerships so we can aim to reach adults in Hampshire who are most in need of our wellbeing courses. To discuss new partnerships or course ideas, please email our team at: Hampshire.learns@hants.gov.uk.



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Sector Based Employability Programmes – What Next in 2024?



Delivering our popular Sector Based Employability Programmes to prepare people to work in Childcare & Schools, or Public Sector & Customer Service settings will continue in 2024.

Our professional, experienced tutor **Helen King** continues to receive positive feedback and progression for learners into full or part-time employment, volunteering, or full-time education.

Many of the learners in the autumn term have also progressed onto our ESOL or English and maths functional skills programmes to prepare them for working in the UK.

We are thankful to our partners in the HCC Childcare Development Team and the IBC Transactional HR, Pay & Finance who kindly offer to deliver presentations to our learners, interviews, and progression opportunities, such as work experience placements. Also, our colleagues from the Apprenticeship Hub, Multiply Team and Hampshire Achieves Apprenticeship Team, who speak to our learners in their final week and help to inspire our learners when they are considering their next steps and career options.

We are always keen to invite employers with vacancies in childcare, schools, public sector or customer service environments to work with us, so please get in touch with our team to discuss getting involved with our employability programmes at:
hampshire.learns@hants.gov.uk.

Hot off the Press

We are also pleased to announce that we will soon be welcoming a **new ACL tutor** to work across our English, ESOL and Employability programmes in the spring term. Please watch this space for more details in our next **Spring 2024 Newsletter**.

"My tutor was friendly and inviting. I like the different background and variety of roles she has accomplished and shared with us. This helped with understanding the topic in relation to real life. This course helped me to gain the knowledge of how childcare settings run in the UK and get to know and hear other people's feedback and stories of what they have experienced. I have increased my confidence surrounding interviews and CVs."

**Childcare & Schools Sector-Based
Employability Programme December
2023**



To view our latest **HL Course Flyer** with dates, times and locations for all of our available ACL learning programmes, please feel free to download a copy at:

[Hampshire Learns - Adult Community Learning Programmes](#)

To find a specific course, including those provided through our sub-contracted ACL providers, please check out our useful course finder site at:

[Hampshire Learns Course Finder](#)

To be added to our mailing list and never miss the latest edition of our **HL Course Flyers** and **Newsletters** then please email your request at:

hampshire.learns@hants.gov.uk

To discuss any ideas for courses, gaps in provision or to request to speak to a member of our team, please email us using the address above and include your contact details.

Our team are also happy to attend career fairs, health & wellbeing / promotional events or attend partnership team meetings to discuss who we are and how we can support adult learning in Hampshire.

Please contact our team by email and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

How to Enrol on our ACL Programmes



It's simple! We have an online application process allowing efficient enrolment on our courses. The online forms allows work coaches, housing support officers, social prescribers, refugee support workers and referrers to complete applications with their customers or forward it to their personal email address to complete at home.

The links are:

[Hampshire Learns \(ACL\) Application](#)

[Hampshire Learns ESOL Application](#)



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