

inclusivelearning

e-bulletin/June 2019

Hello.

In this edition, we learn how a workshop on hate crime organised by Lincoln UNISON branch helped to recruit hate crime ambassadors and raise awareness about issues related to it.

You can also read about the value of how learning agreements and partnering with universities are effective negotiating tools ULRs can use to support joint learning initiatives with employers in workplace. They can make all the difference to equip people for any changes they experience in their lives.

For more information about the functional skills reforms webinar, please email Oreleo.



JESS HURD/REPORTDIGITAL.CO.UK

Martin Russo, Inclusive Learning Project Manager

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LOOK OUT FOR NEW LAOS WEBINAR ON FUNCTIONAL SKILLS REFORMS

Learning and Organising Services (LAOS) is currently planning a webinar to help UNISON learning reps (ULRs) and lifelong learning coordinators (LLCs) get to grips with the reforms to functional skills qualifications arriving in September.

The changes will affect workplace learners and apprentices, who make up around 80 per cent of people enrolled on English and maths functional skills courses.

Many elements of the current curriculum remain unaffected by the government's reforms: for example, the qualifications will still be graded on a pass/fail basis.

But the reformed qualifications will now include much more specific common content to reduce the variation between the knowledge and skills covered by different awarding organisations.

There is also a new emphasis on the assessment of underpinning skills in the

English and maths qualifications.

In English, this involves a sharpened focus on spelling, punctuation and grammar without dictionaries or computer aids, with Entry Level teaching now including phonics (the teaching method that helps learners identify the different sounds used to make different words in English).

For maths, this involves a greater emphasis on the underpinning knowledge and skills required to solve mathematical problems, using times tables and working with (and without) calculators.

In light of the reforms and changes to content, the Department for Education (DfE) is increasing the guided learning hours for functional skills qualifications from 45 to 55 hours.

To find out more about when the webinar will take place, please email O.DuCran@unison.co.uk

For further information contact: 020 7121 5116



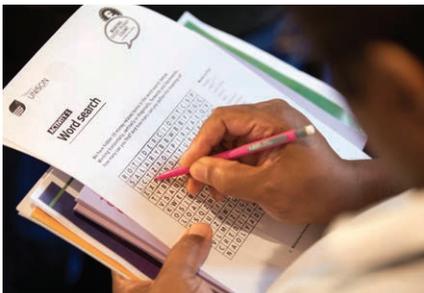
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Job skills

Taunton Deane & West Somerset branch has helped about 80 manual workers at the south-west local authority prepare for major restructuring at the council with a successful series of employability workshops.

The council has laid on training to help staff prepare for the wholesale transformation process. But the branch recognised that the in-house plumbers, carpenters, electricians and other manual workers would need additional support, since many of them had little previous experience of recruitment procedures.

With the help of the learning and wellbeing agreement it signed with the employer a year ago, the branch arranged eight half-day workshops in January to help participants identify their skills and communicate them in a job interview.

“A lot of people were able to identify their skills, were able to articulate them and went into the process with more confidence – that was the prime objective of that course and people said you’ve done that for us,” says Branch Education Coordinator Mark Leeman.



Tackling hate

Lincoln UNISON Branch has organised a successful one-day workshop to promote awareness of hate crime, attracting members from several local branches as part of the Learning Lincs county-wide learning programme.

Delivered by JUST Lincolnshire, the single equality organisation in the county, the workshop helped participants sharpen their understanding of hate crime and how to tackle it in the workplace.

The April workshop, held at Lincoln City Hall and attended by seven members, was organised by ULR Andrew Smith, who is also the branch’s equalities coordinator and a hate crime ambassador for City of Lincoln Council, where he works.

“The people who attended gave us lots of positive feedback, everybody seems to have got something out of it and some of them are going to become hate crime ambassadors to promote understanding of hate crime in their workplaces,” Andrew said.

Andrew successfully applied for a Kickstart grant from Learning and Organising Services in order to provide lunch for all the participants.



HE workshop

Birkbeck, University of London is hosting a free afternoon workshop to help ULRs promote higher education (HE) more effectively to union members later this month.

Held on the Bloomsbury campus on Wednesday 26 June, the workshop will help ULRs learn and practise a simple coaching technique to help them talk to members who are interested in progressing to degree-level learning.

Birkbeck’s Careers and Employability Service will also be advising participants about how to pitch HE to employers and the career benefits of doing a degree, while Linking London will run an interactive session about HE qualifications.

Participants will also have the chance to contribute their feedback on the toolkit Birkbeck is developing with unionlearn to help ULRs with supporting learners into HE at Birkbeck. The event will finish with an optional campus tour for those who are interested in exploring further.

The event is free and refreshments will be provided. To book your place, visit: <https://bit.ly/2vNtNT4>

For any queries, please contact union-learning@bbk.ac.uk

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