



**STRENGTH
IN NUMBERS**



Workplace Learning Advocates National E-Shot – March 2015

Hi all

Welcome to the latest national E-Shot for Workplace Learning Advocates.

DEFINITION – Workplace Learning Advocates (WLAs) are employees who encourage formal and informal learning at work.

This is our second E-Shot with a special focus on numeracy and the National Numeracy Challenge (NNC) – the UK-wide drive designed to tackle low adult numeracy - <http://www.wlas.org.uk/national-numeracy-challenge-and-wlas>

You don't have to be an expert in numeracy or maths to get involved, just have an interest in promoting learning.

Don't forget there is a link at the end of the E-Shot to info on the usual training and support opportunities. Please share with colleagues, volunteers, clients, friends and family.

NATIONAL NUMERACY CHALLENGE & WLAs UPDATE

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AROUND THE REGIONS?

So far, nationwide, over 47,000 people have registered to take the Challenge Online and WLAs are adding to these numbers by using our WLA link - www.nnchallenge.org.uk/wla and their own dedicated links allowing them to monitor registrations (available from info@workbase.org.uk).

Here are some snap-shots of what WLAs have been doing and are planning to do to promote the Challenge Online.

DHL Deutsche Post Warrington – Linking NNC to NVQs - Kath Harrison is one of 3 WLAs supporting around 50 staff to engage with learning and the NNC. Staff at DHL are about to undertake NVQs in Business Admin, ITQ and Management & Leadership. The timing of this drive has worked well as some staff were nervous about the math's competency needed in NVQs. Using the Challenge Online has resulted in more than 13 people feeling much more confident and about to enrol on an NVQ Study Programme.

Kath says *“The National Numeracy Challenge is a fantastic tool, it builds confidence in our own abilities, it highlights our strengths but more importantly it identifies areas for improvement and then gives us the tools to remedy that.”*

Cumbria CVS – Sharing NNC with their networks - Mark Costello is the WLA for Cumbria CVS - <http://cumbriacvs.org.uk/>. They offer help, advice, training and support to third sector groups throughout Cumbria. Mark decided to send out an email about the NNC to his contacts. He also included info about the NNC on the CVS E-Bulletin so it would reach all member organisations and partners etc. As a result of this 10 people have already registered to give the Challenge Online a go. A great way to get the message out to more people. Remember WLAs can supply you with copy for emails and newsletters if this would save you time – info@workbase.org.uk

Eden Ladies Cumbria (Business Network) – Caroline Gunning is a WLA who runs her own business and also co-ordinates this network. The members of the network were introduced to the NNC at their meeting in February and it is hoped that they will take the info into their businesses and networks. We are hoping that other WLAs who attend business networks will share info about the Challenge Online at meetings and via social media.

The Longhurst Group Boston – Event for WLAs – This housing provider is a national pathfinder supported by WLAs and NNC. Alongside Lincolnshire Cooperative, they are piloting the scheme for the East Midlands. Longhurst WLAs are currently promoting the NNC via customised posters and on their intranet. The next phase is a NNC launch at an event in March for their staff, users and other local employers.

BG Futures – Lincs - Give it a Go Day - A drop in and taster day is being planned for WLAs, community groups and local people in July. The Challenge Online will be promoted and offered as a workshop or as a 'take the challenge' activity as a key part of the day.

These group events are a great way to encourage others in the local area to get involved. If you could organise an event for your staff or others then please get in touch – info@workbase.org.uk

Employment and Skills Board involvement – The board has links with WLAs and is part of the Greater Lincolnshire LEP. It is committed to numeracy, supports the NNC and is encouraging employers to get involved.

Oxford WLA Network – The start of 2015 saw the 2 day WLA Info & Advice Course being delivered in Oxford and the course included lots of info about the NNC drive. A network meeting in March will also provide more info. Network meetings have been delivered across the regions over the past few months giving lots of ideas of how to share the Challenge Online.

OTHER RESOURCES & TRAINING RELATED INFO

As this E-Shot has had a numeracy focus you may want to catch up with other learning/support opportunities. You can go to

<http://www.workplacelearningadvocates.org.uk/north-0> and you'll be able to click onto recent monthly E-News and look at the General Information sections which have lots of info on national opportunities.

Finally ... Remember ... If you have any info you want to share with other WLAs for future E-Shots then email it to Liz – liz@learningadvocates.co.uk

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