



Workplace Learning Advocates (WLAs) and Workers' Educational Association (WEA) are delighted to announce that they have come to an agreement which safeguards the future training and support of WLA volunteers. From January 2016 WEA will start to take over the role of leading the Workplace Learning Advocates initiative.

WLAs play an important role in encouraging and supporting workplace learning, providing information and advice to colleagues to help them access learning opportunities in workplaces where there is no union organisation.

[Workbase Training](#) and [The Johnston Partnership](#) recognised the gap in learning opportunities for non – unionised employers and initiated, piloted, tried and tested the WLA role. They led the development and support of WLAs which began with the training of the first advocate in Cumbria in 2004.

Recently, as the efficacy of the WLA role was proven it was planned to pass over to a national organisation. In passing over the brand they were determined that the receiving organisation should demonstrate the same commitment and ethos. The WLA approach has been successfully improving workplace learning by using the experiences of [UnionLearn](#) (the TUC's learning and skills organisation) ULRs and [Community Learning Champions](#) (CLCs), both of which are already supported by WEA.

The WEA is a charity and the UK's largest voluntary sector provider of adult education. WEA works with a wide range of community partners and employers from small community organisations to large organisations including Lloyds and Scottish Widows. We are committed to volunteering and support for volunteers – we currently support 3000 volunteers many of whom are directly involved in organising education through our 325 branches.

Chief Executive Ruth Spellman said "we are honoured to have been given the opportunity to continue and develop Workplace Learning Advocates and excited by the considerable potential to augment our offer to employers."

Employers are invited to encourage Workplace Learning Advocates to transfer their registration to the WEA by visiting the [WEA website](#). You can continue to use the [WLA website](#) during this transition period but you will receive a confirmation email and regular updates from the WEA once you are registered with us. For more information contact Pearl Ryall (pryall@wea.org.uk)