

## Network building

### Oldham Lifelong Learning Service



#### Who we are

Oldham Lifelong Learning Service (OLLS) is a local authority adult learning provider delivering a wide range of curriculum both under Adult Safeguarding Learning and Adult Skills budgets. Our belief in the importance of delivering only the best to learners drives continuous improvement – recognised by our Ofsted grading of “outstanding”. To achieve this we all know that sharing good practice and ideas in networks of similar practitioners is important, and this is encouraged.

#### Sustaining networks

OLLS started a family learning network a few years ago. We meet three times a year, and always in the same venue. The network started as a group of ten local authorities from Greater Manchester but it has grown through word of mouth to include representatives from local authorities across the region, with a typical meeting attracting about 15 participants. These local authorities have all signed up for the LSIS support programme, which has enabled them to have their individual support needs met too.

As part of the LSIS Support Programme we have been able both to sustain, and extend, our Family Lifelong Learning Network (FLLN) to cover all aspects of English, maths and ESOL delivery. We are able to access the wide range of resources and expertise that exists among our partners, and share these. For example, the Network explored the Employability Starter Kit and prepared their plans for embedding. While updating each other on progress, we discovered that one local authority, Blackpool, had their case study in the Employability CPD pack, so we were able to get ideas on developing provision at first hand. Another focused session was on the implementation of functional skills, and the readiness of providers to implement the necessary changes. This has led to participants requesting more opportunities to meet this year to share good practice. Testament to the importance that people put on having the opportunity to meet and share is that when someone misses a meeting they often phone to ask what they missed and if OLLS can send any information!

#### Much appreciated

“A real strength of the programme has been the generous and open sharing of good practice and resources across local authorities. This has been appreciated at all levels of the organisation – from managers through to teaching staff.. fantastically useful and informative..

- Miranda Clarke, Adult Learning Manager, Salford City Council

#### Supported provider

Oldham Lifelong Learning Service Family Learning Network:

- Mary Grainger

#### Improvement partner

Oldham Lifelong Learning Service:

- Caroline Ballard