

Case Study:**Enabling learners with learning difficulties to take part in cross college activities**

'Assessment and learning: involving the learner'. LSC funded project.

**The context:**

The Foundation Learning Department (FLD) at Northumberland College specialises in working with learners aged 16-50+ who have moderate to severe learning difficulties. It is 1 of 18 departments within college and delivers full and part time courses in Preparation for Life and Work programmes.

The challenge:

Learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities (LDD) are taught within the FLD and access vocational tasters according to the course they are on. However, staff felt that it was important for learners from the FLD to feel a greater sense of belonging to the college and to take part in activities that learners without LDD are able to access.

What we did:

Northumberland College provides an Enrichment programme which offers a wide range of social and leisure activities for learners to engage in.

- FLD Course Team Leaders and Learning Support Assistants enabled learners with LDD to participate in this programmes by supporting them to register for and to physically take part in the activities.
- Other departments were offering the opportunity for learners in college to take part in outdoor pursuit activities. FL Head of Department and Course Team Leaders promoted these activities to FLD learners who were very keen to take part in them and this resulted in the learners undertaking rock climbing and abseiling.

The outcomes:

- Learners from the FLD integrate more on a regular basis with learners from other college departments. Therefore, there has been a breaking down of barriers between learners and an increase in inclusiveness.
- Learners are taking part in a wide range of enrichment activities including Pilates, street dance, football, cake decorating, stage effects make up workshops and attending a social club at the local YMCA.

The impact:

Taking part in the cross college activities has

- Raised learners' levels of confidence and self esteem
- Given them a greater sense of belonging and identify more strongly with other learners within college.
- It has also raised the profile of FLD learners within college, and other departments' learners and staff are more proactive in engaging with the learners.
- The FLD staff will continue to encourage and provide opportunities for learners to engage in intra-college and inter-college activities.



For further information contact:

Veronica Assadi
Head of Foundation Learning Department,
Northumberland College
(01670) 841200

veronica.assadi@northland.ac.uk

Julie Alexander
Additional Learner
Support Area Assistant,
Northumberland
College
(01670) 841200

julie.alexander@northland.ac.uk