

# NEWCASTLE FAMILY LEARNING STRATEGY

## VISION FOR FAMILY LEARNING

The purpose of Family Learning in Newcastle is to contribute to-

- Raising achievement and aspirations;
- Regenerating and building strong communities;
- Fostering a culture of learning and life long learning;
- Widening participation

Family Learning applies to a diverse range of planned learning opportunities where "family members" can come together to work on a planned activity at the same time, in parallel groups or where adults are engaged in activities that will support their children's learning. These activities simultaneously engage parents to be more active in their children's learning, enhance adult skills and offer opportunities for further learning. " What begins with the motivation of parents to participate for the sake of their children is quickly succeeded by the development of new personal constructs for themselves". M. Lochrie, Family Learning: Building our Futures

Family Learning involves parents, grandparents, carers and guardians, foster carers and other family members to reflect the range and diversity in family experiences. It is both universal and targeted to areas of greater need.

## IMPACT OF POLICY AND PLANNING

1. Newcastle's Family Learning Strategy has developed in response to a number of key national policy and planning initiatives that have been introduced since 1998.

It continues to evolve in response to the most recent, government policies-:

- The Skills for Life Strategy- the national strategy for improving adult literacy and numeracy skills in which parents constitute one of the target groups and family learning is recognised as method of engaging these parents
- The Green Paper Every Child Matters where greater parental involvement is a recurring theme
- The development of Sure Start, local programmes and Children's Centres
- Putting people at the Heart of Public Services (DFES2004) and the development of Extended Services through Schools and engaging parents and communities in schools as part of this
- Schools Standards- the newly developed strand within the DFEs Primary Strategy that focuses on engaging parents in their children's learning
- Social inclusion and Neighbourhood Renewal policies

## 2. Embedding Family Learning in local Planning Processes and strategies.

- Newcastle Council's Education and Training portfolio plan, targets and balanced scorecard for 2005-6 recognises the role of parental involvement in children's learning within a range of its objectives
- The Council's Three year Development for Lifelong Learning recognises Family Learning as an important strategy for raising achievement, widening participation in learning and promoting community regeneration.
- Family Learning is embedded in the Newcastle Plan through Service Plans for
  - Adult Education,
  - Childrens Service's- through Early Education and Childcare, Children's Centres, School Improvement Service and Extended Services through Schools Plans and Strategies,
  - as well as contributing to the Learning Partnership's Basic Skills and ACL Strategies .

## CONTEXT FOR FAMILY LEARNING

The LEA's Adult Education Service plays a leading role in the development and delivery of continuing education and training provision for adults in the City. Family Learning is an integral part of this service and along with Basic Skills and ESOL is one of the three priorities. In Adult Education, Family Learning

- contributes to the Adult Skills Agenda through recognising that families/parents have a key role in raising aspirations and attainment and
- contributes to the Skills for Life Agenda - with the recognition of the need to provide families with low levels of Adult Literacy /Numeracy with the skills to develop their potential.
- Contributes to the widening participation agenda
- Contributes to the portfolio of Strategies to support Adult Education Service.

The Family Learning Service has responsibility for the delivery of Family Learning within the LEA and for overseeing the development of the family learning strategy.

## PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships and the contribution of a range of stakeholders are fundamental to the delivery of Family Learning in Newcastle.

- Family Learning involves a range of practitioners in schools, adult education organisations including the Libraries Service, community settings including Sure Start areas and Children's centres and Voluntary organisations.
- A multi agency Family Learning Advisory Group (**FLAG**) meets termly to provide strategic advice and support and ensures the involvement of a range of stakeholders and the partners in the design and delivery of Family Learning. Partners include other LEA Services and agencies including Sure Start, Children's Centres, Schools, Adult

Education providers including Basic Skills Service, Libraries Service, School Improvement Service, Early Education and Childcare Service, Newcastle Learning Partnership and voluntary sector representation including CSV and Newcastle Literacy Trust. FLAG partners have also direct links to colleges, universities Trade Unions and the workplace.

- Families too are key partners in planning, delivering of services and are consulted in a variety of ways including the recently established focus groups.
- In addition the LEA Family Learning Service is part of the regional Skills for Families Partnership and contributes to other local, regional and national partnerships as appropriate

## **PROMOTING FAMILY LEARNING.**

The Family Learning Strategy will promote the diversity of family experience and the potential for every family to develop confidence and competence in learning. A wide range of media will be used and appropriate access and distribution points will be established to ensure that families receive accurate and helpful information about learning opportunities. Family Learning week in October plays a major role in increasing awareness of family Learning Opportunities and has grown from a weekend of activities in 2003 to a successful week of high profile and local events in October 2004

## **A CURRICULUM FOR FAMILY LEARNING**

The Curriculum for Family Learning Strategy is focused around programmes that are designed to

- help parents/carers know more about their children's learning, and physical and emotional development
- provide opportunities specifically for parents/carers and their children to learn together
- provide a range of opportunities to improve adult skills so that parents/carers can help their children learn or even lead to new employment opportunities
- provide opportunities for families to link to local regeneration and capacity building initiatives.

Examples of programmes can range from first Step learning non accredited opportunities to accredited provision in a range of learning areas including-

- Literacy, language, numeracy and ICT including ESOL (Skills for Life)
- Children's developments
- Health and nutrition
- Foundation and key stage developments
- Practical skills for families including Family finance,

- Skills and knowledge linking families to local regeneration and capacity building initiatives.

(see appendix for examples of LEA delivery)

## **PROGRESSION**

While Family Learning is not simply about skills, parents do need to be able to obtain advice and be signposted to other agencies where needed. FLAG meetings and specific meetings with adult education providers provide an opportunity to discuss progression.

Family Learning provision is committed to signposting, supporting and complimenting other Adult Education provision and has regular meetings , updates with adult education providers.

## **ACCESS FOR ALL**

Family Learning provision meets with the Newcastle City Council Equality Policy.To support families to access learning and promote achievement and be involved in what we do, we will particularly focus on:

- Developing inclusive learning environments;
- Extending the provision of childcare;
- Addressing learning needs;
- Addressing language needs for minority communities;
- Developing structures and processes to enable families to be active partners in planning, delivering and reviewing provision.

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

Family Learning provision must comply with Newcastle Council's health and safety procedures. Family Learning Staff and school/Children's Centres/community staff must ensure that risk assessments have been carried out and acted upon appropriately and have a clear understanding of the health and safety requirements for Family Learning provision for both parents and children.

## **CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

The Family Learning Service will continue to promote development opportunities for staff and organisations involved in family learning provision by:

- Developing a programme of in-service training opportunities as evidenced through the skills for Families Phase 1 project;
- Drawing on the expertise and experience of all its partners;
- Disseminating good practice;
- Supporting appropriate networks and working parties

## **QUALITY ASSURANCE**

To ensure continuous improvement of Family Learning provision, the Family Learning Service

- has developed robust internal systems in line with the Adult Education Service Quality Procedures to continually monitor, evaluate and recognise achievement in LEA funded Family Learning provision and engages external systems where required;

- promotes strategies for assessing all aspects of achievement for both adults and children involved in 'Family Learning';
- ensures that FLAG is advised of the annual self-assessment and engaged in monitoring the development plan process ;

## **FUNDING**

Family learning within the LEA is currently resourced using a range of funding from the Learning and Skills Council.

Other sources of funding available to stakeholders include Sure Start, DFEs, Single Regeneration Budget; European Social Fund, School budgets, Children's Trust, Parenting Fund etc

The Family Learning Service through FLAG, will work to ensure that resources are maximised by encouraging collaboration and co-ordination amongst providers.

## **Appendix 1 and 2**

### **Newcastle Family Learning Service Curriculum Delivery**

#### **Family Literacy Language and Numeracy (FLLN)**

A dedicated team is responsible for Family Literacy, Language and Numeracy Courses and activities that contribute to the Skills for Life agenda. Family Learning staff work alongside teachers in schools and Children Centres to deliver a range of programmes to parents and children from Early Years to Key Stage 3 and to particular groups of learners including bilingual families. Joint programme planning for programmes between tutors and teachers is comprehensive and courses are customised to meet the needs of the school.

On long courses learners are encouraged to achieve a discreet Basic Skills qualification on course while shorter programmes embed literacy/language or numeracy skills

The Service has always offered Basic Skills Accreditation in FLLN Programmes in Jan 04 it introduced national tests in literacy and Numeracy.

#### **Wider Family Learning**

Another team is responsible for Wider Family Learning opportunities and activities, which are offered as first step/widening participation programmes to raise achievement and aspiration in adults and children.

Opportunities range from those that have specific links to the children's learning and development or curriculum including Helping your Child with SATS, to ICT, Languages , Share , StorySacks, and Arts and Crafts and those that focus on adult skills such as ICT courses for parents. Most of this provision is non accredited . Opportunities are customised to meet the specific needs Schools/settings /target group and learners are encouraged to progress their learning in the range of Adult Learning provision available in the city including FLLN programmes .

These opportunities are also offered in schools, Libraries or other Community settings including Sure Starts.

## FAMILY LEARNING PROGRAMMES 2004- 2005

COURSE	COURSE DETAILS Intensive Courses (60 hours):		Every child Matters Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Family Literacy</li> <li>Family Numeracy</li> </ul>	Raises standards of Literacy & Numeracy for both parents and children, extends parents' skills in supporting their children's developing literacy skills.  (Delivered jointly by teachers and tutors)	KS1 KS2	Enjoy & Achieve
COURSE	COURSE DETAILS Short Courses (30 hours):	Key Stage	Every child Matters Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Early Start (Adults only)</li> </ul>	Enhances language development from 0-3 years old, helps parents and carers explore ways of playing and talking with and listening to their children and enhances early language development.  (Delivered by adult tutor only or can be delivered by a member of your own staff with the support of an Adult tutor)	F	Enjoy & Achieve  Be Healthy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Playing with Language (For adults and children aged 3 to 5 years)</li> </ul>	Helps parents understand, develop and use language interactions that have been researched and shown to be useful, prepares parents/carers for their child's entry to school.  (Delivered jointly by teachers and tutors)	F KS1	Enjoy & Achieve  Be Healthy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Family Literacy</li> </ul>	Raises standards of literacy for both parents & children, extends parents' skills in supporting their children's developing literacy skills.  (Adult tutor only delivery)	KS1 KS2 KS3	Achieve Economic Well Being  Be Healthy  Enjoy & Achieve
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Family Numeracy</li> </ul>	Raises standards of numeracy for both parents & children, extends parents' skills in supporting their children's developing numeracy skills.  (Adult tutor only delivery)	KS1 KS2 KS3	Achieve Economic Well Being  Enjoy & Achieve
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Family Finances</li> </ul>	Provides opportunities for parents with school age children to	KS1	Achieve

	develop financial skills, enables parents to develop literacy and numeracy skills within a financial context. (Adult tutor only delivery)	KS2	Economic Well Being  Be Healthy
• Bilingual Families	This course has been designed for bilingual parents who do not speak English fluently or confidently to help them support their child's education and their own learning. (Adult only or delivered jointly by teachers and tutors)	KS1 KS2	Enjoy & Achieve
<b>Introductory Courses (9-12 hours):</b>  • Play & Language	Helps parents understand, develop and use language interactions that have been researched and shown to be useful, prepares parents/carers for their child's entry to school.  (Delivered jointly by teachers and tutors)	F	Enjoy & Achieve  Be Healthy
• KUC Courses Keeping up with the Children courses for Adults only 9-12 hours  Keeping up with the Children courses for adults and children together 9-12 hours	Extends parents' skills in supporting their children's literacy and numeracy (by understanding more about the school curriculum) and provides opportunities for parents to develop their own literacy or numeracy skills. (Delivered by a teacher within school or an external adult tutor)  As above (Delivered jointly by teachers and tutors)	KS1 KS2 KS3	Enjoy & Achieve  Making a Positive Contribution  Enjoy & Achieve Making a Positive Contribution
• Supporting Bilingual Parents	This course has been designed for parents to take part in activities that they can use at home to support their child's learning & general development.  (Adult tutor only delivery)	KS1 KS2	Enjoy & Achieve  Be Healthy
• Family E Learning	A 5 week course for parents/carers & children to work together learning skills to support children's learning including dealing in stocks and shares.  (Adult tutor only delivery)	KS1 KS2 KS3	Enjoy & Achieve
• ICT for Families	Introducing parents/carers to basic computing skills and exploring simple activities that they can do alongside their child.  (Delivered jointly by teachers and tutors)	KS1 KS2	Enjoy & Achieve
• Family Crafts/Storysacks/ /Digital Photography/Spanish/ Drama/Reading Together	Introducing a selection of 12 hour introductory sessions in a range of activities to encourage parents & children's learning.  (Adult tutor only delivery)	KS1 KS2	Enjoy & Achieve

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share Courses</li> </ul>	<p>An introductory course to our Share programme for schools &amp; pre-school settings which is designed to reach parents who want to help their child at home. (The longer Share programme will continue to be offered by the designated Share schools).</p> <p>(Adult tutor only delivery)</p>	F KS1 KS2 KS3	<p>Enjoy &amp; Achieve</p> <p>Making a Positive Contribution</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SATs Awareness for Parents</li> </ul>	<p>A short course for parents/carers to gain awareness of SATs and how to support their children's learning.</p> <p>(Adult tutor only delivery)</p>	KS1 KS2	<p>Making a Positive Contribution</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Family Football</li> </ul>	<p>A short course to raise fitness levels of parents and children and to encourage parents to gain an awareness of the appropriate skill level of their child and how that can be supported.</p> <p>(Adult tutor only delivery)</p>	KS1 KS2	<p>Be Healthy</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Family Dance</li> </ul>	<p>A short course to raise fitness levels of parents and children and to encourage parents to gain an awareness of the appropriate skill level of their child and how that can be supported.</p> <p>(Adult tutor only delivery)</p>	KS1 KS2	<p>Be Healthy</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Healthy Eating</li> </ul>	<p>A joint parent and child cookery course to encourage parents and children to eat and cook more healthily.</p> <p>(Adult tutor only delivery)</p>	KS1 KS2	
<b>COURSE</b>	<b>COURSE DETAILS</b> <b>Taster &amp; Workshops (2-3 hours)</b>		<b>Every child Matters Outcome</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Play &amp; Language Taster (Foundation)</li> </ul>	<p>Sets out the importance of play in early language development.</p> <p>(Delivered jointly by teachers and tutors)</p>		<p>Enjoy &amp; Achieve</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Family Literacy/Numeracy Workshop x 3 hours</li> </ul> <p>Adults only</p> <p>Adults &amp; children together</p> <p>(KS1 &amp; KS2)</p>	<p>Raises standards of literacy and numeracy for both parents and children, extends parents' skills in supporting their children's developing literacy skills.</p> <p>(Adult tutor delivery only)</p> <p>(Delivered jointly by teachers and tutors)</p>		<p>Enjoy &amp; Achieve</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Taster Workshops (KS1 &amp; KS2)</li> </ul>	<p>Introductory sessions offering opportunities for new learners to try new activities and develop new skills.</p> <p>(Adult tutor only delivery)</p>		<p>Enjoy &amp; Achieve</p>



