

Write-up from adult learners' workshop 18th June 2012

This workshop was held in response to a request from the Scrutiny Sub-committee to hold an additional session as part of the earlier series of meetings held with learners and partner providers.

Attendees were asked three questions:

1. What did you want to get from your course?
2. What is helping you to meet your needs and what impact is it having?
3. Is there anything else that would help meet your needs?

10 people attended

What did you want to get from your course?

- Lots of new skills
- To learn to develop new skills, to be part of an ongoing learning community
- To have a space to produce art and explore my creativity
- A new career in crafts
- A creative outlet, mental well-being, new skills, new friends, a place to belong
- Friends with mutual interest in sculpture
- Support and encouragement in singing, knowledge of techniques for helping voice, increase in musicianship
- A few years ago I did a cabinet making course and that enabled me to go on to do work in that area
- Continuity, progression, ability to come here

What is helping you to meet your needs and what impact is it having?

- Excellent teaching
- I am more competent at writing – enjoy the classes
- Excellent tutors, meeting other people and sharing skills
- New direction, good for mental health, community growth
- Excellent teaching, community spirit, care and support, disability access (previously) affordable fees, help with developing career
- Having an excellent tutor
- Only one class so far but enjoyed it. Supportive and encouraging teaching. Enjoyed being with other learners.

Is there anything else that would help meet your needs?

- Stop repeat fees
- Promote classes better
- Abolish unique learner system
- Accountability in the adult learning service
- The fee structure means I can only do one course for one term which debars me from developing and being part of a learning community
- Change the fee structure and get rid of repeat fees
- The prices are too high, the fee structure is unfair – I need to learn skills for more than one term – I cannot afford the repeat learner fee. After attending various courses in Southwark for 25 years I now no longer attend one because of cost. The courses provided me with a valuable space in my week to concentrate on something that was very important to me and I miss it very much
- If I could take on more courses such as carpentry and still afford it on jobseekers, and if I felt this was a place I could progress in – basically remove the repeat fees, as I can't afford it but really want a new career
- Better promotion of courses
- Stop repeat fees
- Abolish unique learner
- Learner reps on the Education Committee and within the service
- More accountability
- I would like to see the centre developed as a real community service
- I would like to see accountability in terms of a community/ student representative on the Thomas Calton Management Board and the scrutiny committee
- Stop repeat fees

- Opportunity for progression
- Better publicity for what's on – only came across the brochure by chance
- Piano/ keyboard needed if music and singing is to be taught
- Give information about adult education on the Southwark Council website
- Change/ review fee structure
- Publicise courses, more courses, make centre more open
- I want to get access to more woodworking/ creative/ arts courses – be able to build and develop my skills. At the moment this centre is not available to me because of repeat fee structure.