

## My Education

### Governor / Stakeholder Training & Seed Funding Delivery

*In January 2016, NIACE and the Centre for Economic and Social Inclusion  
merged to form the Learning and Work Institute*

**Learning and Work Institute**

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## Seed Funding

Following a review of these training sessions, the project was widened and developed to include an additional seed fund of up to £1,000 for each school to develop a family/adult learning intervention. Two schools were added to the network, St Martin's School, Caerphilly and Lewis School, Pengam.

The first three pilot schools were revisited with additional sessions developed to assist them in the planning of their seed funded project.

Participants from St Martin's and Lewis took part in the Governor/Stakeholder Training sessions and were encouraged to map their seed funding project plan at each session.

## An overview of the activity developed with seed funding:

Following the training and planning session participants agreed an action plan for developing and delivering a family learning/parental engagement intervention.

## Willows High School

On 29 September 2016, Willows hosted an Open Evening for parents in association with STAR Communities First cluster. The Open Evening was timed shortly after the opening of the **Learning Lounge** a dedicated space created for adult and family learning opportunities. A mix of activities and opportunities were planned for the evening – a range of adult learning opportunities as well as creative workshops for families, information stands and a pop up café.

Local providers included;

Organisation	Offering
Cardiff and Vale College	Course info and sign up
Cardiff Met	Course info and sign up
Cardiff University	Course info and sign up
Neighbourhood Learning	Course info, sign up and taster sessions
WEA	Course info, sign up and taster sessions
Open University	Course info and sign up
Cardiff Met Complimentary therapies	Taster session and massage
Willows High School	Info and sign up to currently running courses
Willows High Science Dept	Sign up to science for parents course
Moorland Primary school	Sign up to current courses and parent info
Stacey Primary	Sign up to current courses and parent info
Adamsdown Primary	Sign up to current courses and parent info
Communities First	Sign up to courses, info and community engagement
Communities 4 Work	Info on FE,HE, into work and CV writing and job application support
Sova	Engaging and supporting parents back into training or work

Communities First- Health and Wellbeing	Eat well plate demo and information
Switched On Team	Info and awareness raising
Cardiff Dietetics	Awareness and info sessions
Throw away music	Recycled music instrument workshops for children
St John Ambulance	Sign up to first aid courses, demos and general info
Eastmoors Youth Centre	Sign up to DofE, invitation to youth provision, information sharing and support to NEET young people
Spice Time banking	Offering sign up and awareness of volunteering and volunteering opportunities
Nicky Condon	Jewellery making workshop
Marmalade	Pop Up café with free refreshments
STAR volunteers	Face painting and children's crafts

114 people came to the event and accessed information and advice, have-a-go sessions, local adult learning providers and staff from Willows were on hand to engage and make contact. There was also a demonstration of the Family Science project which the school has delivered, supported by York University.

Feedback from providers was positive – many reported parents signing up to many different courses but not enough to run full courses. Some providers suggested they might trial some of the courses which had most interest in the evening.

The Learning Lounge is now a well-used resource for the community. Many parents from the Open Evening have regularly attended courses and workshops. The school is reporting a positive impact on parental engagement and attendance at school events because of the relationship building through the courses at the Learning Lounge.

Courses delivered have included; IELTS with 8 people attending, Working with Children with 8 people attending, Cake Decorating with 8 people attending, 7 of these individuals have gained a qualification from completing the course. A follow-on course has started with 15 people attending, The Open University sessions "People and Society" had 6 people attending, Welsh for Families with 15 people attending, Basic Maths with 10 people attending, all of whom should achieve an accreditation, Breaking Taboos, 6 people attending, Parent Nurture Programme with 12 people attending. There is also a weekly coffee and information morning, which hosts the monthly 'Meet the Head' session. This group is regularly attended by up to 20 people.

The Learning Lounge and the activities it offers are fully supported by the Senior Leadership Team, who see the value in this resource, and the positive impact it has on other areas of home-school relationships. They also promote the ethos of the school being the heart of the community, for support, help and guidance through an open-door policy and access into learning opportunities for the whole community.

A follow up engagement event was supported for Adult Learners' Week, June 2017 co-ordinated by Communities First in partnership with Willows, the event reached 123 people – many from the local feeder primary schools.

### **Participant attitude/ participants' achievements**

The participants to the event enjoyed it, with many signing up for courses that are due to start in September. It provided an opportunity to try things that had they had never tried before whilst not being forced to commit to it.

### **After the event**

The event was very rewarding in the sense that it provided an opportunity to strengthen community links between the local schools. It provided an opportunity for many of the primary school pupils and parents to see the high school.