



We created a new way of learning life skills

The Citizens' Curriculum

From finding work to managing the family's finances, having good literacy and numeracy skills is fundamental. But current approaches to tackling our nation's skills shortfalls have fallen short.

Too often, an individual's skills gaps are looked at in isolation, and their needs made to fit with rigid qualification requirements, instead of what people actually need in practice.

We've taken a radically different approach. We developed the 'Citizens' Curriculum', a flexible programme that taps into what learners need and want, and gives them a grip on the basics. English (including 'English for speakers of other languages') and maths skills, digital, health, finance and civic capabilities are interlinked, so the learning package relates to people's everyday needs.

More than 160 learners took part in 16 trials where the programme content was co-developed with the learners themselves. Our pilots showed 92 per cent of learners felt more motivated to learn, and 87 per cent reported higher self-esteem.



LIFE AND SOCIETY

Result from the 160 learners show:

59 %

are more positive towards maths learning

48 %

are more positive towards literacy learning

53 %

are more motivated to look for work



CASE STUDY

Kirkholt, Rochdale Pilot

Participation in learning doubled in Kirkholt. Learning went from below the national average to above it, at 3.8 per cent. And Rochdale Borough Council reported savings for police and social services as locals involved in the scheme became more positively engaged.



Read a blog by Rochdale Borough Council's Helen Chicot
www.niace.org.uk/our-thinking/blog/citizens'-curriculum---learning-cliff-edge



Download case studies from the pilots
www.niace.org.uk/our-resources/life-and-society/citizens'-curriculum-case-studies



Read the *TES* coverage
www.tes.com/article.aspx?storycode=6444977