

## EUROPEAN AGENDA FOR ADULT LEARNING 2015-17

### UK NATIONAL COORDINATOR – IMPACT RESEARCH AND REPORTING

#### BACKGROUND

Learning and Work Institute (L&W) is the UK National Coordinator for the European Agenda for Adult Learning. L&W was recently formed following the merging of the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE) and the Centre for Economic and Social Inclusion in January 2016. NIACE was first appointed the UK National Coordinator in 2012. Jointly funded by the European Commission's Education, Audiovisual & Culture Executive Agency and the UK Government's Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), coordination activities aim to contribute to the European Agenda by: linking adult learning to wider socioeconomic policy in the UK; raising awareness of the value of adult learning to UK citizens; and increasing the participation of low-skilled or less well qualified adults.

As part of the 2015-17 programme of work, we are undertaking an overarching strand of work that will result in a summative *State of the Nations* report. This will bring together the latest evidence on the impact of adult learning on different policy areas. It will also draw on evidence produced by the research and development work from other strands, including the projects on the Citizens' Curriculum, digital skills, and young adult employability.

The *State of the Nations* report will outline the current state of play in UK adult learning to inform future policy development to help support an increase in the participation of low-skilled or low-qualified adults.

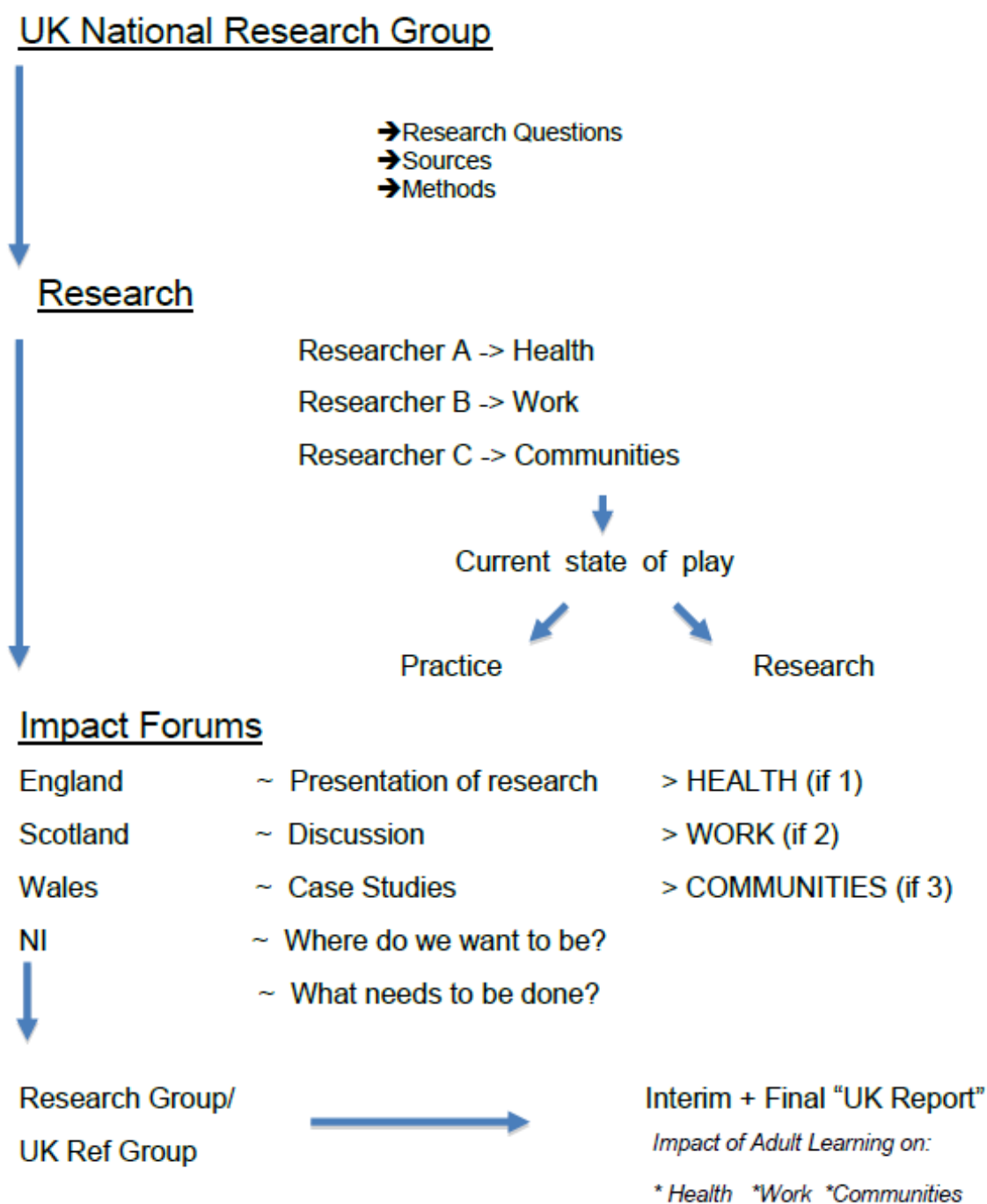
#### AIM AND OBJECTIVES

The overall aim of the work is to undertake research on the contribution that adult learning can make to different areas of policy in the UK, specifically health, work and communities. The specific objectives are to:

1. Establish a reference group, who will be responsible for directing the research. (February 2016)
2. Undertake three literature reviews focused on the impact of adult learning on i) health ii) work and iii) communities. (Summer 2016)
3. Gather evidence generated through the research and development work from other strands of the 2015-17 programme. (Autumn 2016)
4. Gather evidence and feedback from Impact Forums. (At each forum meeting.)
5. Produce an interim report or key findings to date. (Autumn 2016)
6. Produce a summative *State of the Nations* report. This will outline current state of play in UK adult learning to inform future policy development to help support an increase in the participation of low-skilled or low-qualified adults. (Summer 2016)

## THE ROLE OF THE IMPACT FORUMS

The diagram below outlines the role of the Impact Forums in the process:



## CONSULTATION WITH IMPACT FORUMS

At the first round of impact forums we would like to explore what members think a State of the Nations report looks like:

- Who are its principal audiences?
- What impact do we hope it achieves?
- What format would work best for the interim and final reports?

To inform the research questions and scope of the literature reviews, we would like Impact Forum members to consider and discuss the following four broad questions:

- What are the big challenges for your nation around health, work and communities?
- What evidence exists on the contribution of adult learning in addressing these challenges?
- Where are the evidence gaps in relation to the contribution that adult learning can make in addressing these challenges?
- What evidence do you need to make the case for adult learning to address these challenges?

Feedback from discussions at the first Impact Forums will be shared with the research reference group who will refine and agree the exact focus of each literature review.

## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Three literature reviews will be undertaken concurrently, each focusing on the impact of adult learning on a different area of policy – health, work, and communities. The literature reviews will be led by a researcher in the relevant field, supported by a researcher from L&W. The reviews will predominantly focus on published literature and bring together national, international and regional research evidence.

Researchers will present findings from the literature reviews sequentially as each Impact Forum focuses on a different theme. This will be an opportunity for forum members to feedback on the evidence gathered to date and provide further evidence, particularly grey literature, to contribute to the summative report. We will provide guidance on the types of evidence we are looking to include in the final report.

## CONTACT

This work is being led by Emily Jones, Head of Research, Learning and Work Institute. If you have any queries or comments, please contact: [Emily.Jones@learningandwork.org.uk](mailto:Emily.Jones@learningandwork.org.uk); 0116 2859676.