
L&W Citizens' Curriculum

Improve Lives Through Learning 21st Nov 2017

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Scotland's Learning Partnership

Forum for Adult Learning  ECORYS 



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The skills challenge in England ...

- The **Skills for Life Survey** (2011): 1 in 4 adults have low levels of numeracy skills; 1 in 6 have low levels of literacy skills.
- **Census data** (2011) records around 850,000 adults 'non-proficient' in the English language.
- Research for **Go-ON UK** estimated that 23% of adults in the UK do not have Basic Digital Skills
- **UKCES Employer Skills Survey 2015** found that 23% of vacancies were hard to fill because of skills shortages – a range of personal and technical skills.
- **Government data** shows that adult (19+) participation in basic English and maths provision is falling and the Adult Education Budget is under increasing pressure.

So, Learning and Work Institute's response

More flexible, creative and innovative models are needed to engage and motivate learners and meet the challenge of poor basic language, literacy, numeracy and digital skills in the context of rapid social change.

“A citizens’ curriculum is learning which is locally-led, developed with the active participation of learners, and interlinks the life skills of language, literacy and numeracy with health, financial, digital and civic capabilities.”

Tom Schuller • David Watson

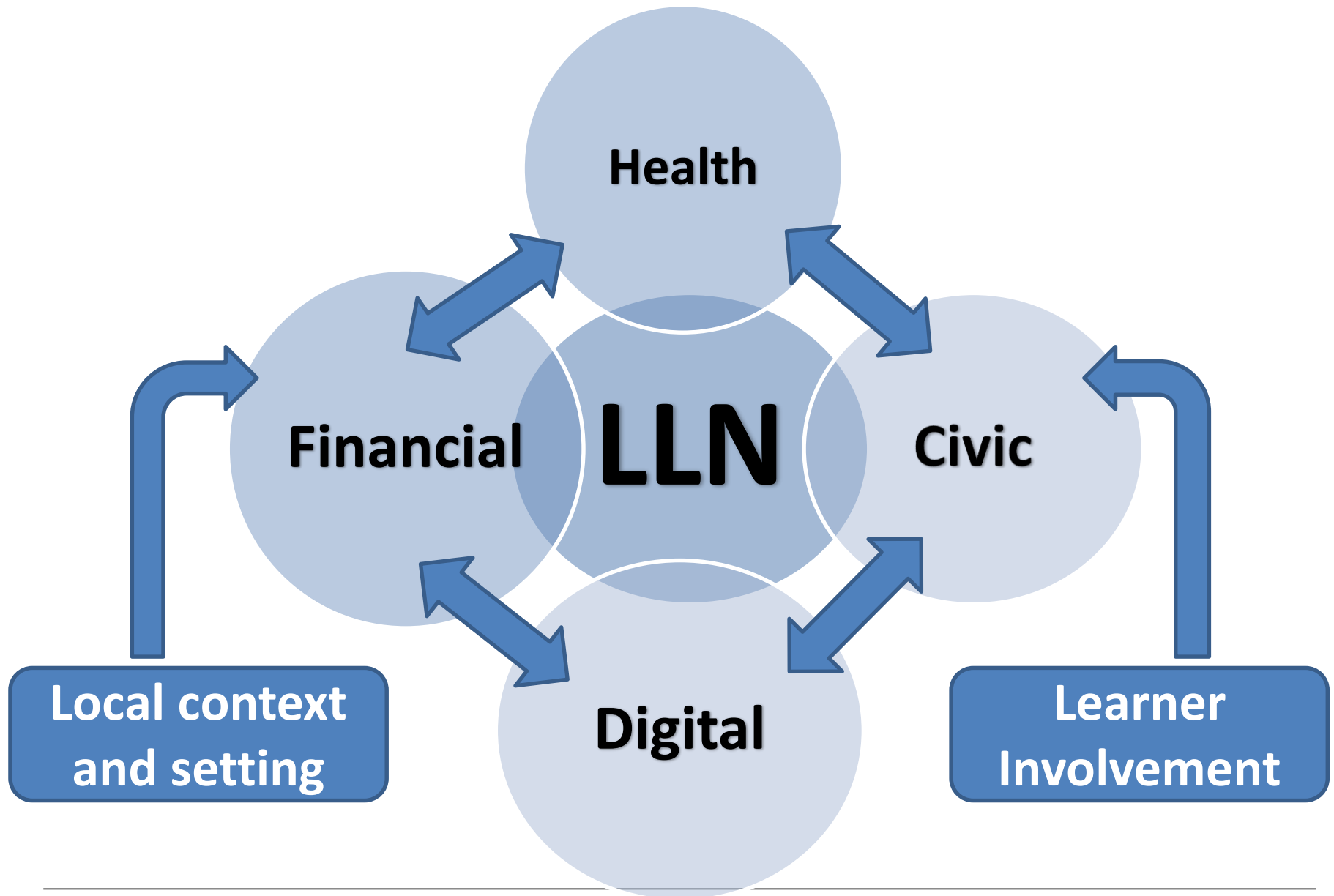
Learning Through Life

Inquiry into the Future for
Lifelong Learning

Summary



- Schuller and Watson (NIACE, 2009)
- NIACE / NRDC Evidence on impact of embedded basic skills – Eldred (2005); Casey (2006)
- Co-design of the curriculum - *A New Curriculum for Difficult Times* (Beer, 2013)



How it works – ‘Locally led’

- Content is linked to needs of local communities &/or target groups, which could be achieved via
 - Alignment to locally agreed skills priorities & plans, or as a progression route to these
 - Outreach work to engage with local communities/target cohorts & develop a programme in response
 - Including learning activities as part of a wider service delivery – integrated services approach
- Provides an opportunity to link CC approach to other services.

How it works – ‘Active participation of learners’

- Achieved via
 - Engagement / consultation / outreach activity prior to course / provision set up
 - On programme activities which facilitate learner determination of the programme (e.g. choice of units in accredited provision)
 - Use of pedagogical approaches which emphasise co-creation of programme content with learners

How it works – ‘Interlinked capabilities’

- Can be achieved via
 - Embedded & contextualised approaches to literacy, numeracy & ESOL teaching & learning
 - Programme design e.g. timetabled elements of the various capabilities
 - Progression routes e.g. in part-time contexts

Applications

- A '**simple yet powerful framework**', which can inform
 - Advocacy around basic skills, non-accredited learning
 - Strategic local learning & skills planning & commissioning
 - Provider curriculum offer development
- Contexts:
 - Basic skills & 'life skills' provision
 - Digital basic skills entitlement
 - Adult learning provision below Level 2 (EQF)
 - Community-based programmes, non-apprenticeship workplace learning ...

Key impact – Learners

The Citizens' Curriculum: Impact

Learning and Work Institute worked with 13 organisations to pilot the Citizens' Curriculum. Over 160 learners took part. Here's the impact they reported...



found a new job



started Looking for work



improved their work related skills



felt more motivated to learn



signed up for another course



improved social life



improved relationship with their family



greater satisfaction with their life



improved physical health

Social value – Rochdale Case Study

Rochdale Borough Council's cost benefit analysis suggests that...

for every **£1** the council spent

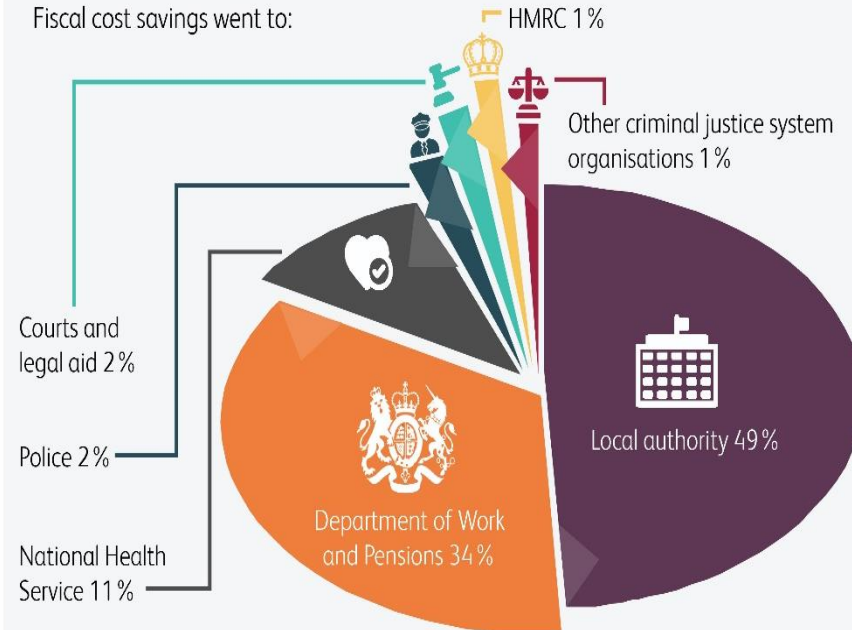
they achieved a **£3.86** financial return

with a **£2.18** fiscal return on investment for the local authority

In total this generated a **public value of £19.65** return of every **£1** invested

In total the Rochdale pilot generated **£3,117,502.23** in public value, equating to a **£19.65** return on every **£1** invested.

Fiscal cost savings went to:



**THANK YOU
QUESTIONS**