

**COMMUNITY LEARNING TRUST  
PILOTS: LINKS WITH THE WIDER  
LANDSCAPE**

**New Challenges, New Chances:  
Further Education and Skills  
System Reform Plan**

11 APRIL 2012

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# Introduction

1. We have a big, ambitious vision for community learning. The new community learning aims and objectives support a balanced range of outcomes, including wellbeing, improved confidence, successful parenting, employability skills, progression to formal courses, better mental/physical health, a stronger sense of citizenship, acquisition of digital skills and improved democratic engagement and social integration.
2. This wide range of outcomes means that community learning has links with many other national, regional and local initiatives. We set out a selection of those links, together with sources of further information, in this appendix to the Community Learning Trust prospectus.

# Links with the Wider Landscape

**Age Action Alliance:** Partnership of organisations from civil society, public and private sectors. Alliance partners work together to improve the lives of the most disadvantaged older people, prevent deprivation in later life, challenge age discrimination and address issues affecting health, wellbeing, housing, digital access and social inclusion.

<http://ageactionalliance.org/>

**Apple iTunes U:** The iTunes U app gives access to courses from leading universities, plus the world's largest digital catalogue of free education content, on iPads, iPhones, or iPod touches. Whether you're interested in molecular biology, Spanish or European history, this tool helps you learn anytime, anywhere.

<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/itunes-u/id490217893?ls=1&mt=8>

**Apprenticeships:** Apprenticeships are a key Government commitment in New Challenges, New Chances: Further Education and Skills System Reform Plan, and an important potential progression route for people participating in Community Learning. For information and latest developments on Apprenticeships, please access the Apprenticeships website at: <http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk/>

**Big Local:** An exciting opportunity for residents in 150 areas around England to use at least £1m to make a massive and lasting positive difference to their communities. It's about bringing together all the local talent, ambitions, skills and energy from individuals, groups and organisations who want to make their area an even better place to live.

<http://www.localtrust.org.uk/>

**Big Lottery Fund (BIG):** BIG is responsible for delivering funds raised for good causes by The National Lottery. Since 2004, BIG has funded a wide range of community projects at a local level and their remit covers health, education, environment and charitable purposes. <http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk>

**Big Society:** Transferring power from Whitehall to local communities to help people improve their own lives. The Office for Civil Society works across Government to translate the Big Society agenda into practical policies.

<http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/big-society>

**Big Society Capital:** A new financial institution set up by the UK Government to finance charities and community groups. BSC will invest in social investment finance intermediaries (SIFIs) – organisations that provide finance and support to social sector organisations. <http://www.bigsocietycapital.com/>

**Broadband Delivery UK:** Working with Local Authorities to develop local partnerships and recruit digital champions to support whole communities to build their digital skills so they are able to fully exploit the Government-funded superfast broadband network that will be available across the UK by 2015. <http://discuss.bis.gov.uk/bduk>

**BITC Business Connectors:** Business Connectors are employees on a minimum six month secondment, recruited from business and trained by BITC, to build local partnerships between private sector and community and voluntary organisations. The programme is needs-led and designed to have a significant positive impact in local communities of greatest need. [http://www.bitc.org.uk/business\\_connectors/](http://www.bitc.org.uk/business_connectors/)

**Building Engagement, Building Futures:** The Government's strategy to maximise the number of 16-24 year olds in education, training and work. It sets out the offer for young people, with FE and skills providers and strong local partnerships playing a pivotal role in providing effective and coordinated services for young people. <http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/further-education-skills/youth-participation>

**Champion schemes:** Too many to list, but includes Community Learning Champions, Digital Champions, Community Agents, Village Agents, Union Learning reps, Workplace Learning Advocates, Women's Institute Skills Advisors and more, all promoting learning to friends, neighbours and work colleagues. <http://www.communitylearningchampions.org.uk/>

**Cities Policy:** England's largest cities - the economic powerhouses of our country - are being offered a menu of transformative new powers which the Government wants to explore as the basis of a series of bespoke 'City Deals'. <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/regeneration/growthcities>

**Community Buying:** Consumers combining their buying power to buy goods or services together, getting better deals and saving money. See <http://discuss.bis.gov.uk/buying/> and this [Guide](#) which gives practical information on how to set up and run a community buying group.

**Community First:** A £80m, 4-year government-funded initiative to help communities come together to identify strengths and local priorities in order to plan for the future and become more resilient. <http://www.cdf.org.uk/content/funding-programmes/community-first>

**Community Organisers:** Recruiting 500 trained senior community organisers and 4,500 part-time voluntary organisers to listen to residents, public service and third sector workers, small businesses and local institutions, developing their power to act together and take action on their own behalf. <http://locality.org.uk/projects/community-organisers/>

**Craft Skills:** From April 2012, the National Skills Academy Creative & Cultural will extend its remit to include craft skills, helping hobbyists and people learning crafts to enter the industry and those already in the industry to get on. [www.nsa-ccskills.org.uk](http://www.nsa-ccskills.org.uk)

**Creative People & Places Fund:** Will invest in radical new approaches to developing excellent, inspiring and sustainable arts experiences for communities not currently engaging with the arts. <http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/funding/apply-for-funding/strategic-funding/commissioned-grants/creative-people-and-places-fund/>

**Department of Health:** Devolution of commissioning responsibility for public health services to local government, including tackling the causes of ill-health, reducing health inequalities, promoting health and promoting social justice and safer communities.  
<http://healthandcare.dh.gov.uk/public-health-system/>

**Digital Unite** promotes digital skills to learners of all ages. There is lots of free learning content on their website and they also provide Digital Champion training  
<http://digitalunite.com/>. Spring Online is their annual campaign to give older people a taste of the digital world. <http://springonline.org/>

**Every Business Commits:** Every Business Commits challenges businesses to create sustainable growth and play their part in the Big Society by focusing their corporate responsibility activity on priorities, including developing skills and supporting communities. <http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/growth/every-business-commits>

**Go ON UK:** A new independent charity, set up by Martha Lane Fox, with a remit to make the UK the world's most digitally capable nation, where everyone has the skills and capacity to fully participate in the daily social, cultural and economic life.  
<http://www.go-on-uk.org> . See also the Go On It's Liverpool case study at:  
[http://raceonline2012.org/sites/default/files/resources/go\\_on\\_its\\_liverpool\\_case\\_study.pdf](http://raceonline2012.org/sites/default/files/resources/go_on_its_liverpool_case_study.pdf)  
and the Go On Leeds case study at:  
[http://raceonline2012.org/sites/default/files/resources/go\\_on\\_leeds\\_case\\_study.docx.pdf](http://raceonline2012.org/sites/default/files/resources/go_on_leeds_case_study.docx.pdf)

**Homeless Link:** Membership organisation representing 500 organisations, mainly homeless charities, who work every day with the 70,000 or so homeless people who access their services. They are mainly local community based organisations in towns and cities across the UK. <http://homeless.org.uk/members>

**In Harmony:** Inspired by Venezuela's 'El Sistema', which has changed thousands of children's lives for the better, In Harmony seeks long term social change through regular immersive involvement in playing in an orchestra from a very young age. Existing projects have shown how this activity can enthuse children, their families and their communities. <http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/what-we-do/our-priorities-2011-15/children-and-young-people>

**JISC:** The UK's expert on digital technologies for teaching and learning – including technology to support learners with disabilities - providing resources and expertise that providers would struggle to source individually. BIS funds JISC to support the whole FE & Skills sector in England, including community learning, with local JISC Regional Support Centres as the first point of contact: <http://www.jiscrsc.ac.uk/>

**Lifelong Learning Accounts:** Personal online space for logging learning achievements, receiving customised information on careers / training and identifying sources of financial support.  
<https://nextstep.direct.gov.uk/LifeLongLearningAccount/Pages/default.aspx>

**Lifetime Neighbourhoods:** A DCLG report bringing together research / practice to link policies on ageing, housing, transport, community participation, social networking, digital inclusion and public services to help people live independently, regardless of age or disability. <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/lifetimeneighbourhoods>

**Local Enterprise Partnerships:** 39 partnerships between local authorities and businesses to determine economic priorities, drive growth and create jobs. 24 Enterprise Zones will have simplified planning rules, super-fast broadband and tax breaks for businesses. <http://www.regen.net/go/leps>

**Localism:** Shifts power away from central government to local people and communities, as well as giving greater flexibility to councils. <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/localismpainenglishupdate>

**Measuring National Well-being Programme:** The Office for National Statistics is developing measures of national well-being, working with a number of organisations and government departments. All the publications relating to the Programme, including those containing the current list of themes and measures, can be found here: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/user-guidance/well-being/publications/index.html>

**National Careers Service:** The National Careers Service is available to everyone online, by webchat and over the telephone. For adults aged 19 and over, there is a face-to-face service in community locations. The service helps people make informed learning and career choices. <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk>

**Online Centres Foundation (OCF)/ UK online centres:** OCF is the staff-owned mutual and social enterprise operating UK online centres and delivering social action in thousands of communities so everyone is part of a networked nation. OCF provides free online courses to help people learn the basics of using the internet, as well as training for community development and for volunteers. <http://www.ukonlinecentres.com> and [www.go-on.co.uk/learn](http://www.go-on.co.uk/learn)

**Open Public Services:** Cross-government vision for improved public services, e.g through transferring power to service users, introducing more autonomy for the frontline and opening up services to new providers such as social enterprises and public sector mutuals. <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/news/opening-public-services>

**Open University Learning Space:** Try more than 600 free online courses from The Open University. Available from introductory to advanced level, each takes between 1 and 50 hours to study. It offers complete activities to assess progress and enable users to compare their work with sample answers. <http://openlearn.open.ac.uk/>

**Participatory Budgeting (PB):** Enables citizens to decide how a defined public budget should be spent. It engages all sections of a community in suggesting ideas, coming together to present those ideas, deliberating and voting on which would be of the most benefit to their neighbourhood or group of service users. [www.parliament.uk/briefing-papers/SN04790.pdf](http://www.parliament.uk/briefing-papers/SN04790.pdf)

**Presence and Engagement:** In multi-faith contexts, local groups build relations with different faith groups, including Christians. Some centres offer a variety of resources to encourage training and dialogue.

<http://www.presenceandengagement.org.uk/links.php?4>

**Public Service Mutuels:** Government is committed to improve and open up public services; the creation of public service mutuels empowers public sector staff to take over the running of the services they provide; many will operate, and are operating, as social enterprises. See information on, and support for, fledgling mutuels at:

<http://mutuals.cabinetoffice.gov.uk>

**Rural communities:** Defra works to promote rural interests across Government and supports the work of key rural organisations such as ACRE, which oversees the national network of Rural Community Councils, and the Plunkett Foundation, which supports communities in setting up community-run enterprises, including shops, pubs and libraries. <http://www.plunkett.co.uk/>

**St Mungo's:** a homelessness charity that works in partnership with communities across London and the South to promote activities, education and employment skills, enabling homeless residents to rebuild their lives. [www.mungos.org](http://www.mungos.org)

**Self organised learning:** Thousands of voluntary arts groups <http://www.voluntaryarts.org/>, hundreds of University of the Third Age groups <http://www.u3a.org.uk/> and online learning communities such as the School of Everything. <http://schoolofeverything.com/>

**Sure Start Children's Centres (Children's Centres):** Offer services that reflect local needs and improve outcomes for parents/carers and their children through advice, support and community learning courses. <http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/earlylearningandchildcare/a00191780/core-purpose-of-sure-start-childrens-centres>

**Turning around the Lives of Troubled Families:** Department of Communities and Local Government-led initiative coordinating work across Government and with local areas to turn around the lives of 120,000 of the most troubled families by 2015. [www.communities.gov.uk/communities/troubledfamilies/](http://www.communities.gov.uk/communities/troubledfamilies/)

**UnionLearn:** Unionlearn is the TUC's learning and skills organisation, supporting more than 26,000 union learning representatives and 400+ unionlearn learning centres - located in both workplaces and local communities - in order to support disadvantaged adults in workplaces and communities to access all kinds of learning.  
<http://www.unionlearn.org.uk>

**Universities Association for Lifelong Learning (UALL)** a professional association of providers of higher education with the aim of supporting part-time and lifelong learning. UALL consults and advises on policy and practice across the HE sector, including on employer and community engagement. <http://www.uall.ac.uk>.

**Universities of the Third Age (U3A):** The Third Age Trust is the national representative body for U3As in the UK. U3As are self-help, self-managed lifelong learning groups offering a wide range of informal learning courses in over 800 locations.  
<http://www.u3a.org.uk>

**Workplace Learning Advocates (WLAs):** A new initiative which addresses employability and upskilling of existing workforces in non-unionised workplaces. WLAs are employees who are trained to support and encourage formal and informal learning in the workplace. [www.workplacelearningadvocates.org.uk](http://www.workplacelearningadvocates.org.uk)

**Youth Contract:** A package of support worth almost £1billion over three years from April 2012. Various programmes and tools will provide nearly half a million new opportunities and skills for young unemployed people to prepare them for work and guide them into proper, long-term employment. <http://dwp.gov.uk/youth-contract/>

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