

+ MATHS
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Workplace Learning Advocates E-Shot – July 2013

Hi all

Welcome to the latest E-Shot for Workplace Learning Advocates.

DEFINITION – Workplace Learning Advocates (WLAs) are employees who encourage formal and informal learning at work.

Here is a roundup of the latest training and support information. Please share with colleagues, volunteers, clients, friends and family.

NATIONAL

MATHS INFORMATION

Over the last few months we have had a focus on improving Maths skills in workplaces. Here are some ideas to keep people interested in Maths ...

National Numeracy Challenge – Free to use until 16th August 2013.

A website to help you to promote maths -

<http://www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk/news/43/index.html>

The Challenge is an interactive website designed to assess an adult's everyday maths skills, provide a suite of learning which will improve their skills and confidence and then track their progress. WLAs have been asked to trial the website which will be fully rolled out across the UK later this year. Go straight to the website using our unique WLA link -

www.nnchallenge.org.uk/wla

Please try it yourself and ask colleagues, friends, family to test this challenge.

Keep checking the Maths4Us website for new resources - www.maths4us.org

24+ ADVANCED LEARNING LOANS – START 1ST AUGUST 2013

People aged 24 or over starting a Level 3 or 4 course after 1 August 2013 will be able to apply for an Advanced Learning Loan -

<https://www.gov.uk/advanced-learning-loans/overview>

Remember - Some training providers may be able to enrol 24+ learners up until end of July on fully funded courses. Check with your local provider for information.

FREE OPEN UNIVERSITY COURSES WITH OPENLEARN

A few courses to look at

Employee engagement - <http://www.open.edu/openlearn/money-management/employee-engagement/content-section-0>

The following 2 courses are closing on 5th August so you may not be able to complete the courses but you may want to view the content

Learning to Learn - <http://www.open.edu/openlearn/education/learning-learn/content-section-0>

Succeed with Maths - <http://www.open.edu/openlearn/science-maths-technology/mathematics-and-statistics/mathematics/succeed-maths-part-1/content-section---acknowledgements>

Main website to browse all courses - <http://www.open.edu/openlearn/about-openlearn/try>

FREE COURSES WITH ALISON.COM

A couple of courses to look at ...

<http://alison.com/courses/Diploma-in-Customer-Service> - For Business managers/owners wanting to implement a customer service programme.

<http://alison.com/learn/accounting> - Series of accounting courses.

Main website to browse all courses - www.alison.com

FREE MASSIVE OPEN ON-LINE COURSES

Here's a website where you can see the wide range of free on-line courses on offer - <http://www.mooc-list.com/>

VISION2LEARN

Have a look at the latest distance learning courses on offer -

<http://www.vision2learn.net/channels/index.aspx>

WEBLINKS TO IMPROVE COMPUTER SKILLS

Thanks to one of our North East WLAs for some weblinks to help colleagues improve their computer skills ...

Free computer tutorials at <http://www.gcflearnfree.org/computers>

Free IT resources eg Skype at www.alison.com

Microsoft (Online) Help - <http://support.microsoft.com/?ln=en-gb>

FREE WEBINARS

The National Skills Academy for Materials, Production & Supply has been running free webinars linked to skills and training. To sign up for future webinars contact info@mps-academy.co.uk

FREE TRAINING TO BE A DEMENTIA FRIENDS CHAMPION

Have a look at this link for info on free training -

<http://www.dementiafriends.org.uk/article/about-champions/what-is-a-champion> and for general info - <http://www.dementiafriends.org.uk/>

NEW GRANTS FOR POST-GRADUATE STUDY

Ask your local provider of post-graduate study about this funding -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/75-million-investment-in-removing-barriers-to-postgraduate-study>

WAGE INCENTIVES FROM DWP

Remember there may be incentives if you plan to employ a young person -

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/youth-contract/key-initiatives/wage-incentives/>

APPRENTICESHIPS – TRAINING ORGANISATIONS & GRANTS

Interested in finding apprenticeship training organisations in your area? Go to

- <http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk/Employers/Find-an-Apprenticeship-Training-Organisation.aspx>

Remember the Apprenticeship Grant for Employers is now available until 31st

December 2014 - <http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk/Employers/Steps-to-make-it-happen/Incentive.aspx>

APPRENTICESHIP BURSARIES FOR CAREERS IN EARLY EDUCATION

Apprenticeship bursaries worth up to £1,500 with a further £300 available for more training, from September. There will be up to 1,000 bursaries. For more

info - <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-2-million-scheme-for-early-years-apprentices>

TRAINEESHIPS

If your company is interested in offering a traineeship work placement to a young person who needs help to gain an apprenticeship or a job then go to

<http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk/Employers/Steps-to-make-it-happen/Traineeships.aspx>

FREE BUSINESS START UP AND GROWTH BUS TOUR

The Start-Up Bus is touring the country throughout July and August –

<http://www.startupbritain.co/tour>

FREE UK TRADE & INVESTMENT (UKTI) EVENTS

Events held nationwide to support businesses to succeed in international markets. Events from website optimisation to learning Mandarin -

<http://www.ukti.gov.uk/export/eventssearch.html><http://www.ukti.gov.uk/export/eventssearch.html>

FREE BUSINESS GROWTH SHOWS

Lots of free seminars. Typical subject areas - Employment Law, Marketing, Social Media etc - <http://thebusinessgrowthshow.com/event/>

BUSINESS EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs gives a chance to go on a placement or gives companies the opportunities to host placements across Europe. Possible benefits include exchange of knowledge, information on new commercial markets abroad etc - <http://www.erasmus-entrepreneurs.eu/>

GOV.UK – BUSINESS EVENTS FINDER

Use this website to find local events - <https://www.gov.uk/events-finder>

REGIONAL GROWTH FUND

Some of our WLAs are in SMEs (Small and Medium Enterprises) and want to understand how to benefit from this fund. Have a look at this link for more info - https://www.gov.uk/regional-growth-fund-a-guide-for-small-and-medium-enterprises-smes?dm_i=Z5O,1IVQF,9AGIBB,574ZQ,1

LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIPS (LEPs)

LEPs are partnerships between local authorities/businesses and are undertaking activities to drive economic growth/creation of local jobs. For more info - <http://www.lepnetwork.org.uk/the-lep-network.html>

GO ON UK

Keep up to date with the latest support to get people on-line - <http://www.go-on.co.uk/news-and-views/latest-news/tristans-weekly-highlights/>

POST OFFICE – GET CONNECTED

Go to your local Post Office to have a list of your nearest internet access/training points printed off for free - http://www.postoffice.co.uk/getting-connected-digital-champions#get_connected

SKILLS FOR CARE NEWS – RESOURCES & FUNDING

Some information for WLAs in the care sector ...

Free recruitment resources - <http://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/recruitment/>

Workforce Development Fund –

http://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/funding/workforce_development_fund/WDF_April_2013.aspx

Free Advanced Stages of Dementia Guide –

http://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/developing_skills/dementia/supporting_people_with_dementia.aspx

Individual & Employer skills funding -

<http://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/individualemployerskillsfunding/>

MID-LIFE CAREER REVIEW PILOT FOR WLAs

5 WLAs across the country are taking part in this pilot involving working with staff/volunteers that have at least 20 years of working life ahead of them. The pilot will help people to stop and take stock of where they are now/where they would like to be in the next few years. Various issues eg Career issues and developing new skills for work/leisure, More flexible working arrangements (work/life balance), Health issues, Caring responsibilities, Reducing stress, Retirement or Finance. We are developing signposting info for WLAs to use. For info E: liz@learningadvocates.co.uk

FAMILY LEARNING FESTIVAL – 19TH OCTOBER – 3RD NOVEMBER 2013

Why not put on a learning event for staff and their families -
www.familylearningfestival.com

LEARNING IDEA OF THE MONTH

One of our WLAs in the North West has come up with a novel way of keeping colleagues interested, a 'Learning idea of the month'. Using this idea she can flag up learning themes. A recent theme was 'Learning a Language' which enabled her to promote the free BBC Language courses in time for summer holidays. Why not try this idea using posters on noticeboards or via email.

NATIONAL CAREERS SERVICE – NEW APP

Careers advice and info on the move -
<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/aboutus/newsarticles/Pages/Spotlight-MobileSiteLaunched.aspx>

CLIMBING FRAME – USE THE FREE WEBSITE & APP

This is a free website that is used by Union Learning Reps to support learners in the workplace. Lots of free resources and an action planning facility -
<http://climbingframe.unionlearn.org.uk/Home>
If you are interested in registering to use this website and the new free app then email Jane Warwick letting her know that you are a WLA –
jwarwick@tuc.org.uk

MENTAL HEALTH BOOKLETS

Have a look at this range of downloadable booklets covering a range of issues including Anxiety, Bereavement, Controlling anger, Alcohol - <http://inclusion-matters-liverpool.org.uk/other-resources/self-help-booklets/>

MONEY ADVICE SERVICE - UNIVERSAL CREDIT

Some info for WLAs who support volunteers and clients as well as staff -
<https://www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk/en/categories/universal-credit-and-other-benefits?&gclid=CKqV6sXy-7cCFSGWtAodnF4Abg>

REMPLOY RETENTION PROGRAMME

One of our WLAs in the North East passed on information about this support service to retain staff with disabilities -

<http://www.remploy.co.uk/assets/downloads/pdfs/retention-leaflet.pdf>

NORTHERN REGIONS

FOR INFO - From now on the WLA E-Shot will be produced as a national publication. WLAs from the Northern regions will get their regional/key national info posted monthly on the WLAs Northern Regions LinkedIn Group. To get these monthly updates you need to join the group -

http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=4262743&trk=myg_ugrp_ovr

FREE TEAM LEADING PRINCIPLES COURSE IN WARRINGTON

Kendal College currently offers a free EDI Level 2 Certificate in Team Leading Principles. One of our WLAs (Julie Steele who runs In-corpor8 Industries Ltd) has used this course for her staff/other local companies. Julie is arranging a further course on 7th & 8th November in Warrington. There are 5 places available. For more info email Julie - incorpor8industriesltd@gmail.com Remember – Kendal College may be able to deliver a course in your area. Email Samantha Sargeant for info – E: sam.sargeant@kendal.ac.uk

RURAL GROWTH NETWORKS (RGNs)

There are 5 RGN pilots and 2 are in the northern regions (Cumbria, North East) who are supporting local businesses to grow. Ask about advice and training opportunities with these networks ...

Cumbria - <http://www.cumbriagrowthhub.co.uk/>

North East - <http://www.nelep.co.uk/north-east-rural-growth-network/>

ENTERPRISE NORTH YORKSHIRE FREE COURSES

Courses to help to start/grow businesses – Focus on North Yorkshire & York & the North East (Teesside, Tyneside, Durham) but anyone outside of these areas considered on an individual basis -

http://www.enterprisenorthyorkshire.co.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=37&Itemid=224

NORTH WEST

FREE WORLDHOST TRAINING FROM WARRINGTON COLLEGIATE

Course is free for people 19+ from the North West without a recent Level 2 qualification. Targeted at companies with less than 1000 employees. For more info - Olwen Dolan – T: 01925 494231, E: odolan@warrington.ac.uk or Phill Kerr – T: 01925 49302 or go to -

http://www.warrington.gov.uk/news/article/637/free_customer_service_training_from_warrington_collegiate

EAST LANCS CHAMBER – FREE LEADERSHIP TASTER - ACCRINGTON

1 August 2013 – 8.00-9.30am Have a look at this taster of an 8 day course.

50% funding for the full course may be available -

<http://www.chamberbusinessstraining.co.uk/leadership-and-management-training/course.cfm?id=143>

FREE BUSINESS GROWTH MASTERCLASS – ROCHDALE

8th August 2013. Growth tips and advice. For more info -

<http://www.businessdoctors.co.uk/Event-Details?id=243>

FREE TASTER - HOW TO DO YOUR PR – CHESTER

16th August 2013 - Ten top tips for great press releases and advice on what journalists want. For more info -

<http://www.sen.org.uk/social-enterprise-network/news/how-do-your-pr-free-taster-workshop>

COMMUNIVERSITY – FREE SUMMER TASTERS - MERSEYSIDE

Range of free tasters on offer over the summer – Cotton Collectives (customise your wardrobe), Script writing, Adult Drama, Music, IT, Relaxation Techniques, Being active in your community, Coaching. To contact Communiversity go to - www.communiversity.co.uk

BUSINESS GROWTH SHOW – 18th October 2013 - MANCHESTER

Free seminars and advice -

<http://thebusinessgrowthshow.com/events/manchester-south-business-expo/>

CIPD ANNUAL CONFERENCE 6-7TH NOVEMBER – MANCHESTER

Lots of free bite-sized learning sessions -

<http://www.cipd.co.uk/cande/annual/default.htm>

KICK START VOUCHERS FROM MANCHESTER MET UNIVERSITY

'Kick-Start Vouchers' to help businesses access expertise eg cost of short courses/professional training; getting specific advice on product or process innovation; addressing a current technical challenge within a business or accessing the university's facilities/meeting venues. The vouchers provide a £5,000 reduction on £10,000 (plus VAT) worth of work. For more information call 0161 247 2186 or email conversation@mmu.ac.uk

DEMENTIA RESOURCE BOXES – CUMBRIA

Boxes are available at Age UK sites -

<http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/adultsocialcare/partnerships/dementiagroup/>

FREE BUSINESS DROP-IN ADVICE SESSIONS – BLACKBURN

For businesses based in Blackburn & Darwen or looking to start up. For more info go to <http://www.cbpartners.org/drop-in.html>

LANCASHIRE BUSINESS VIEW EVENTS

Have a look at these events – Some are free and some costed -

<http://www.lancashirebusinessview.co.uk/lancashire-business-events-calender/>

NORTH EAST

FREE POSTGRADUATE COURSE AT SUNDERLAND UNIVERSITY

Free Adult Safeguarding course. Priority for places for NHS staff but there may be the opportunity for a small number of free places for other employers -

http://www.vonne.org.uk/policy/policy_article.php?offset=0&id=1982

CDC ENTERPRISE AGENCY – FREE COURSES

Support for those starting or already in business in the districts of Chester-le-Street/City of Durham. Free short courses available (Social Enterprise, Marketing, Book-Keeping) and also Level 1 and 2 Starting your own business courses. For more information contact Michael Harriot – 0191 389 2648 or go to <http://www.cdcenterpriseagency.com/index.html>

BOOSTING DIGITAL SKILLS IN THE NORTH EAST

GO ON UK wants to increase digital skills in the North East. To get involved go to - <http://www.go-on.co.uk/news-and-views/latest-news/help-boost-north-east-digital-skills1/>

BUSINESS IN THE COMMUNITY (BITC) – TEAM CHALLENGE

If you are/know a community centre that needs a face lift, a group needing helpers for a day trip, a garden that needs digging or any other challenge a team of volunteers can complete inside a day then contact Michelle Brannen at BITC - T: 0191 2946033 michelle.brannen@bitc.org.uk

NORTHUMERLAND WILDLIFE TRUST EVENTS

Have a look at the walks/talks/courses/ecological surveys on offer – Some free/some costed - <http://www.nwt.org.uk/whats-on>

YORKSHIRE

FREE AUTO ENROLMENT WORKSHOP – LEEDS

7th August 2013 - Workshop looking at key issues - <http://7thaugustamleeds-es2.eventbrite.co.uk/?rank=8>

FREE SESSIONS – MANAGING PROJECTS - HALIFAX

4th & 11th September 2013 - Funded places available (eligibility criteria) - <http://www.businessdoctors.co.uk/Event-Details?id=252>

Other events in Yorkshire - <http://www.businessdoctors.co.uk/events-list>

FREE SAFEGUARDING AGAINST DIGITAL RISK EVENT – LEEDS

23rd September 2013

Event looking at intellectual property theft and data loss issues -

<http://www.iod.com/connecting/events/west-yorkshire-business-bite-153093>

Finally ... Remember ... If you have any information you want to share with other WLAs then email it to Liz – liz@learningadvocates.co.uk

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