

Towards a Citizens' Curriculum in Prisons

SkillHUBS Mentor Training

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In this presentation

- Introduction to the background and **Citizens' Curriculum concept**
- **Applying the Citizens' Curriculum in prisons – Improving Language, Improving Lives project**
- **Links to resources** throughout...

<http://www.learningandwork.org.uk/our-work/life-and-society/citizens-curriculum>

<https://www.bell-foundation.org.uk/research-report/esol-tutor-resource-pack/>

Just for starters ...

Consider the steps involved in planning and carrying out your journey to the training week...



How did you

- Use language, literacy and numeracy skills?
- Use digital, financial, health and civic (*= ability to participate in society*) capabilities?

Make a short list and compare with a partner!

The basic skills challenge in the UK

- **OECD Survey of Adult Skills (PIAAC)** (2013): 16.4% scored at the lowest level for literacy; 24% for numeracy (ENG / NI).
- Census data (2011) records around **850,000 adults in the UK 'non-proficient' in the English language**
- **11.3m people in the UK do not have the basic digital skills** they need (Lloyds Bank UK Consumer Digital Index 2018)
- In England, Government data shows that adult (19+) **participation in English, maths and ESOL provision is falling.**

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.

Tom Schuller • David Watson

Learning Through Life

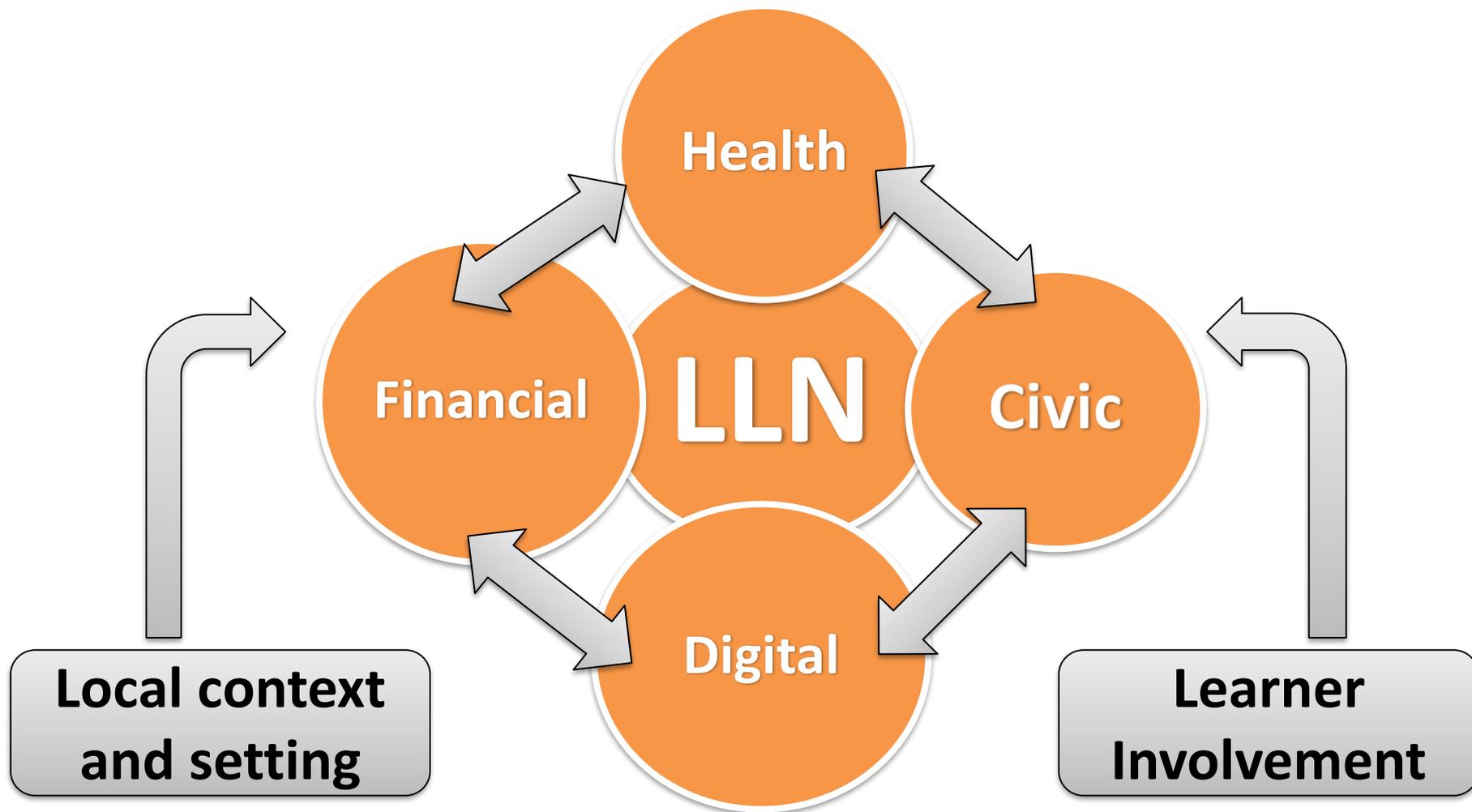
Inquiry into the Future for
Lifelong Learning

Summary



- Schuller and Watson (NIACE, 2009)
- NIACE / NRDC Evidence on impact of embedded basic skills – Eldred (2005); Casey (2006)
- Adult learning perspectives on participatory approaches

“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.”



Piloting the Citizens' Curriculum

- Our **pilots** helped us to learn more about how a Citizens' Curriculum approach can work in **different contexts**.
- In 14/15 - **13 providers (ACL, FE, VCSE)** targeting disadvantaged groups – over **160 learners**.
- In 15/16 – **13 providers (incl. 5 returners)** with a focus on language, literacy and numeracy provision – **152 learners**.
- Supported with a '**health check**', **resources** and **community of practice**.

Key Overall Findings – Practitioners (15/16)

- Increased confidence in **adopting a learner-led approach**
- Enhanced capability to adopt interlinked and **contextualised approaches** to teaching Citizens' Curriculum capabilities
- Improved **practitioner morale** through greater autonomy and involvement in curriculum design and development

Key Overall Findings – Providers (15/16)

- Improved **understanding of their impact** on learners
- **Improved organisational ways of working**, including the sharing and adoption of good practice and expertise across curriculum teams;
- **More effective planning** and interlinking of provision through adoption of a recognised and evidence-based framework; and
- Increased number of **learners returning as volunteers**.

Key Overall Findings – Learners (15/16)

- Increased **social and civic engagement**, with
 - 73% making new friends
 - 59% reporting an improved social life
 - 28% improving their relationships with their family
 - 16% joining a community group
- Improved **self-efficacy**, with
 - 67% improving their self-confidence
 - 65% reporting a greater satisfaction with their life
 - 31% reporting improved physical health.

Key Overall Findings – Learners (15/16)

- Changes in their **employability**, with
 - 8% finding a new job
 - 20% starting to apply for jobs
 - 33% starting to look for work
 - 49% improving their work-related skills
 - 14% starting to volunteer on a regular basis.
- Improvements in their **attitudes towards learning**, with
 - 94% feeling more motivated to learn
 - 42% signing up for another course.

Application in Practice

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Citizens' Curriculum Activity Pack for Participatory Learning

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CIVIC CAPABILITY

Civic participation involves a wide array of personal, practical and social skills. The framework below of a summary of some of the aspects of this capability, but it is not intended to be exhaustive or prescriptive. The table overleaf shows how providers may support learners to develop their civic capability from 'consolidating', to 'developing' through to 'extended' level.

Key Themes in Civic Capability: Personal skills, community skills, engagement skills

Personal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rights and responsibilities• Goals and action planning
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Volunteering• Community knowledge• Teamworking
Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cultural awareness• Community activities

Please contact Learning and Work Institute
- www.learningandwork.org.uk

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Citizens' Curriculum guide to Non-directive coaching

work.org.uk

LIFE SKILLS FOR EUROPE

Life Skills For Europe Learning Framework

Erasmus+

"GETTING A QUALIFICATION WILL HELP ME WHEN I GET OUT OF PRISON"



the bell foundation

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Improving Language, Improving Lives:
Resources for ESOL tutors

"WHEN I GET OUT OF PRISON I WANT TO BE ABLE TO READ TO MY KIDS"



The English and maths challenge in Prisons ...

	Numeracy		Literacy	
Level	Prisoners	General Adult Population	Prisoners	General Adult Population
Entry level 1	5.20%	6.80%	6.70%	5%
Entry level 2	13.30%	16.90%	12%	2.10%
Entry level 3	33.50%	25.40%	27%	7.80%
Level 1	31.30%	29%	33.80%	28.50%
Level 2	8.50%	21.80%	12%	56.60%
Not known	8.60%		8.10%	

*Source: SFA (2015) OLASS English and Maths Assessment: Participation 2014/15.
Data for the general adult population taken from the 2011 Skills for Life Survey.*

L&W's Improving Language, Improving Lives project

1. To produce a **screening tool**, to support better identification of ESOL needs by non-specialist prison and probation staff, and encourage referral to and take-up of ESOL provision.
2. To **develop a Citizens' Curriculum model for ESOL learners in prisons**, combining ESOL learning with embedded wider capabilities in numeracy, digital, health, financial and civic capabilities, to support better progression to further learning and resettlement support.

About the Citizens' Curriculum ESOL Materials

- Teaching and learning materials which support providers and practitioners to embed key Citizens' Curriculum principles:
 - **Interlinked capabilities** – e.g. digital embedded
 - **Relates to prison / rehabilitation context**
 - **Participatory approach** – draws on learners lives
- Focus on **Entry level**
- Developed by **experienced ESOL resource writers**
- **Tested in prisons** participating in Citizens' Curriculum development, sent to every prison in hard copy.

Familiarisation Activity

Look at one of the units from the resource pack.

1. How have the resources been linked to the prisons context? How can learners get involved in co-creating the learning?
2. How are different life skills and capabilities linked in the materials?
3. What elements of the approach or content could you use in your own setting?

**THANK YOU
QUESTIONS**