The Open Learning Champions
Network Event
21 February 2017
The Open Learning Champions project

Gill Ryan
Learning Partnerships Officer
The Open University in Scotland
Open Pathways to Higher Education

Mapping pathways from informal to formal learning with The Open University

Undergraduate Courses
- Courses and qualifications
- Personal interest
- Career development

Access Modules
- Arts and Languages
- Science, Technology and Maths
- People, Work and Society

OpenLearn
- Explore OU material
- Try out OU courses
- Badged open courses
- Prepare for formal study
Working in partnership

with

- Third sector organisations
- Carers organisations
- Social enterprise
- Community learning and development
- Libraries
- University and college outreach / access
- Housing associations
- Community groups
- Professional associations
- Membership bodies
- Community Jobs Scheme employers
Open Learning Champions

Existing trusted relationships can enable new learning in familiar spaces. The role of the OLC can include…

• Supporting learners to access free informal learning
• Helping to navigate OpenLearn
• Using Open Pathways to support learner journeys from informal to formal
• Signposting
• Participating in the OLC network
• Contributing to evaluation/case studies
Open Learning Champions

Since June 2015…

127 Open Learning Champions

60 organisations

1 OLC reaches

10 learners
Survey results

How many people have you signposted/supported?

- More than 20 people
- 10-20 people
- 5-10 people
- Less than 5 people
- 1 or 2 people
- None
Survey results

What groups have you used the resources with?

- Carers
- Community learning groups
- Digitally excluded groups
- Disabled people
- Unemployed people
- Volunteers
- Young people 16-25
- Childminders
- N/A – didn’t work with an...
- Other (please specify)
Survey results

What resources are you using?
What difference does it make?

- Learners gain confidence 32%
- Learners gain digital badge(s) 14%
- Learners continue their learning journey 50%
  - OpenLearn, FutureLearn 32%
  - Formal study with the OU (Access, modules, qualifications) 9%
  - Other formal study (college, university, accredited training) 9%
- “Previous e-learning has been dry and isolating. This is fun, interactive and can be a really positive way of getting people back into education” (OLC, Angus)
“when the course was offered I thought, it will make me reflect on what I've been doing. The course really opens your mind and gets you thinking about what you actually do and what your value is. It made me think I could do this and when I went to the interview, the words just flowed.”

Jane undertook the Caring Counts reflection and planning course for carers which gave her the confidence to return to the workforce having cared full-time for 13 years.
Caring Counts
The past
The present
and
The future
The Past

“Great Expectations and Greater Frustrations”

Premises move
No IT
Intermittent wifi
Slow recruitment
The present

- 2 completed learners
- 8 works in progress
- Some cognitive function issues
- Some support issues
- Building works
The future

- Maintain the status quo?
- Funding bid for learning hub
- Increase use of learning technologies
- Formalise networks with local college
The vision

- Transitions work – 18-25 age group
- Increase provision of IT learning opportunities
- Continue to develop Learning Portfolios
- Top down – bottom up approach
- Work with Developing the Young Workforce
Learning for self fulfilment

To encourage all learners of all ages and abilities to engage in learning. No matter what that learning may be, how it is delivered or accessed in the future
If you would like a copy of this presentation or to discuss ideas of how to take Caring Counts forward, please contact me:

Andrea Cochrane

e-mail: andrea@anguscarers.org.uk
Open Learning for Childminders
Our Vision

Quality Childminding
...building confident children within a family childcare experience
Childminding Services

• every local authority area has childminding services

• over 6,000 childminders in Scotland caring for over 30,000 children

• all are registered, inspected and graded by the Care Inspectorate

• 80% are members of SCMA
More than just childcare

- 80% of childminders are graded 4 and above by the care inspectorate
- Early Learning and Childcare for 2 year olds
- Community Childminding Service
What does SCMA do?

Through our work and services, we provide:

- a national voice for childminding in Scotland.
- a training framework and learning opportunities for childminders.
- support, resources and information.
- encouragement towards practice development and diversity.
- local support to childminders and groups.
Open Learning for Childminders

Partnering with the OU in Scotland has allowed us to:

• extend the opportunities we can offer members.

• support the flexibility that childminders need through distance learning and eLearning programmes.

• provide SCMA training and development staff with an Open Learning Champions workshop with the OUiS, which explored both informal and formal learning options.

• share the resources, such as Open Pathways to Higher Education, at member sessions throughout Scotland and through other means such as the helpline, website, social media, publicity materials
Open Learning for Childminders

Thank you and any questions?
Widening Participation through Open Learn

Margaret MacDonald and Dorothy Barcroft
Open University Associate Lecturers
How the idea originated

- OU Widening Participation Team
- Contacts with East Lothian Council
- East Lothian Training Calendar
- Awareness of the interest regarding Autism
Who were the students

- Understanding Autism Using Open Learn
  - Course Aimed at
    - Anyone who wants a deeper understanding of autism
    - Anyone who wants to know more about how to interact positively with people on the Autisitec Spectrum
    - Anyone who wants knowledge of how to access and utilise the Open University’s Open Learn materials linked to the topic
  - 3 hour sessions - offered morning and evening session
  - 2 cohorts in 2015/16 and 3 cohorts in 2016/17
  - Maximum group size 20 students
### What did the session cover?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Resources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 minutes</td>
<td>Welcome and outline of session</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 minutes + 10 minutes</td>
<td>What is autism?/ working in small groups to complete chart then large group discussion</td>
<td>Chart <a href="http://www.open.edu/openlearn/body-mind/health/health-sciences/what-autism">http://www.open.edu/openlearn/body-mind/health/health-sciences/what-autism</a> <a href="http://www.open.edu/openlearn/health-sports-psychology/psychology/the-autistic-spectrum-theory-practice/content-section-2.2">http://www.open.edu/openlearn/health-sports-psychology/psychology/the-autistic-spectrum-theory-practice/content-section-2.2</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 minutes</td>
<td>Quiz done as a whole group</td>
<td>Laptop/data projector/OU autism quiz <a href="http://www.open.edu/openlearn/body-mind/health/health-studies/autism-quiz">http://www.open.edu/openlearn/body-mind/health/health-studies/autism-quiz</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 minutes</td>
<td>Diagnosis- Is diagnosis a good thing or not? Who is the diagnosis for? What is the danger of labelling? How might people feel after diagnosis?</td>
<td>Article on diagnosis from Open Learn <a href="http://www.open.edu/openlearn/health-sports-psychology/psychology/the-autistic-spectrum-theory-practice/content-section-3.2">http://www.open.edu/openlearn/health-sports-psychology/psychology/the-autistic-spectrum-theory-practice/content-section-3.2</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
And after coffee....

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>15 minutes</th>
<th>Input on autism/recap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20 minutes + 10 minutes</td>
<td>Case Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 minutes</td>
<td>Ideas for Supporting the Child</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 15 minutes | Tour of Open Learn
How might you use this material? | Laptop/Data Projector/handout
on website addresses |
| 5 minutes | Evaluation | Evaluation slips |
How was it received?

- The sessions booked up very quickly so no doubt some of this was ‘word of mouth’

- Very positive feedback to the council

- Qualitative feedback- stressed the importance of group discussion, using vocabulary that participants could understand, inclusive
Embedding Open Learning Across The Organisation
Unemployment rates are particularly high for those young people who:

→ Have few or no qualifications
→ Have been in trouble with the law
→ Are in or leaving care
→ Have additional support needs
→ Live in areas of high deprivation
Personal Development For Staff

→ Entry Level Admin, Community Job Fund Staff & Job Ambassadors
  → Key Skills Assessment Units
  → Badged Courses
→ Coordinators, Executives and Managers