

# Learning for Life Challenge Group

Reducing the social isolation of Bristol citizens

## Areas of challenge

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- To align the Learning for Life vision of Community Learning Hubs and the community based “Work Zones” identified in the Learning for Everyone plan.
- To align the Learning for Life vision for digital inclusion and mentoring with the objectives of Bristol Ageing Better and City of Service.

## What does success look like?

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A model for a local learning ‘hub’, linked to “Work Zones” will be developed with the aim of reducing social isolation, improving well-being and increasing opportunities for communities to come together to access learning in the broadest sense.

Working closely with local people to identify current strengths, gaps and aspirations, the ‘hubs’ aim to form a rich and accessible network of resources and activities, tailored to local needs, which will connect communities and inspire learning. Libraries, children’s centres and community centres will provide ‘anchors’ for the ‘hubs’ which will initially be piloted in Hillfields and Lawrence Hill, to inform a citywide model.

Some specific initiatives will also be developed within the learning ‘hubs’ for two key groups:

- Young people between 16-24 who are currently not in education, employment or training will be encouraged to build their skills, capabilities and confidence in the use of digital skills.
- Older people with appropriate skills and experience will be offered training to enable them to mentor:
  - their peers in the use of digital skills, linked to the successful ‘Byte Back’ initiative, where recycled PCs are made available at low cost to pensioners with a low income and/or
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### Learning Action for 2016

Develop ‘Learning for Life’ in partnership with Bristol Ageing Better by working with libraries, community centres and children’s centres to pilot intergenerational learning opportunities at a neighbourhood level.

### Challenge Sponsor

To be appointed

### Strategic Lead

Di Robinson, Bristol City Council

### Bristol City Council Leads

Kay Russell

Sally Jaeckle

### Current Challenge Group Partners

Bristol Older People Forum (BOPF), University of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Age (U3A), Bristol Ageing Better (BAB), Bristol City Council (BCC), Children’s Centres, Nameless Ltd, Cities of Service, RSVP

Date:

**March 2016**

- younger people to inform them about their trade or occupation, the reality of working in that role and how to find out more. Older people between the ages of 55-65 years may be best placed to provide this unique perspective to inform and inspire younger people on potential career paths.
- The intention in each of these learning activities will be on enabling learning and reducing current or preventing future social isolation.

### **Areas of progress to date**

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- A Task Group has met twice to develop an outline for Learning Activities – the Challenge Group has provided input on the potential development and delivery partners.
- Speedwell and Little Hayes Children’s Centres are working with Hillfields Library to transform their learning offer. This includes funding to improve library access.
- Speedwell Children’s Centre and the Meadowvale Community Centre are working together to develop a young children’s play area, an activity trail for youngsters, a MUGA pitch and fruit tree planting. A funding bid for a toddler play area has already been successful.

### **Communication actions**

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- Create a case study of the joint Meadowvale Community Centre/Speedwell Children’s Centre project for the Bristol Learning City website, as an example of community learning in action.

### **Next steps**

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- Map existing community learning connections in the Hillfields/Speedwell community, to help share a city wide model.
  - Learning from research already published on building ‘Connected Communities’ will inform the development of Learning Hubs.
  - Map work underway across the city around digital inclusion.
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