

Appreciative Inquiry Recommendation Lead Update

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Recommendation 16

Strengthen Support for Parent / Carers to Develop Language and Reading Skills

Initial Key Requests:

- Design and deliver courses and activities to develop reading and language skills
- Promote Functional English courses
- Use school social media to help parents/carers learn
- Ensure parents understand the importance of reading

Recommendation 16

Strengthen Support for Parent / Carers to Develop Language and Reading Skills

Subsequent Requests:

- Design and deliver courses to support wider school engagement barriers such as health, wellbeing and nutrition
- Specifically measure the impact of programmes on parents/carers
- Secure medium-term funding to ensure parents/carers continue to be supported beyond the current academic year

Action Taken

August 2025 – June 2026

- Collaborative Working Group developed with representation and input from Learning and Skills Service, Family Hubs, Schools / School Support Advisors
- Identify and appraise existing opportunities currently promoted through existing school networks (e.g. Reading Groups, Enrichment/Afterschool Clubs, Social Media)
- Undertook review to identify existing literacy provision / funding within the adult learning sector to support parent and carers
- Developed new curriculum plan including not just literacy support, but wider health, wellbeing and nutrition support to tackle issues which affect pupil attendance and development

Action Taken

August 2025 – June 2026

Those topics included:

- Literacy Skills to Improve Your Child's Learning
- Arts and Crafts to Improve Wellbeing
- Parent and Child Story Books (Arts and Crafts developing vocabulary)
- Cookery - Healthy Eating and Nutrition
- Early Intervention to support learning through play (phonics focus)
- ESOL integration to address language barriers
- Money Management to help develop stable homes / routines
- Building Positive Relationships Skills (Conflict / Behaviour Management)
- Supporting Digital Communications
- First Steps into learning and employment

What is Working Well

Successful Courses

- Literacy Skills to Improve Your Child's Learning
- Arts and Crafts to Improve Wellbeing (Christmas Eve Boxes / Bear Hunt)
- Parent and Child Story Books (Arts and Crafts developing vocabulary)
- Cookery - Healthy Eating and Nutrition

What is Working Well

Partnership Working

- SBC Family Hubs and Community Engagement Team
- Schools Supported: Oak Tree Primary
Fairfield Primary
Mandale Mill
Thornaby C of E
St Joeseph's Primary
High Clarence Primary School

Impact So Far

Positive Feedback

- 13 courses successfully delivered with 79 Parents / Carers supported
- 100% of participants agreed that they had seen an improvement in their confidence and wellbeing
- 89% reported the course improved their ability to support their child's learning
- 89% said they would read with their child more following the course
- 100% stated the course offered 'great support' and provided 'an excellent course for meeting other parents'

Impact So Far

Partnership Feedback

Community Engagement Team:

“I know the parents have loved it. The timing of the sessions has worked well. Both Tutors are fab and have a great rapport with parents...they tailored the sessions to suit the parents (i.e. more crafts than sat doing theory). It has been lovely to observe and I hope we can get more!”

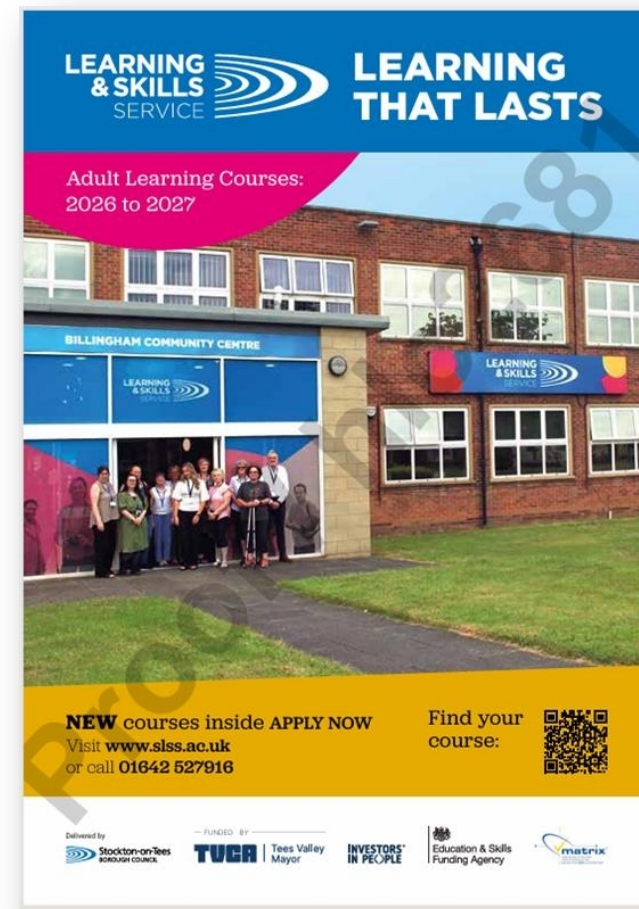
School Feedback:

“I would say the enthusiasm from the parents has been fantastic. Each week they have made a point of finding us to update us on the progress of the courses. The parents have loved having a ‘double whammy’ and camped out in our community room for lunch before they start”

Next Steps

September 2026 – July 2027

- Funding secured to specifically continue to support parents/carers into 26/27
- New academic year for the Learning and Skills Service commences September 2026
- Summer marketing and engagement campaign commenced July 2026
- Continue to engage with Schools / School Support Team / Family Hubs to further promote and develop the offer



Any Questions?