

## Community Learning and Skills Service

# Newsletter

Hello everyone, welcome to the first issue of the Community Learning and Skills Service (CLaSS) newsletter. This spring issue includes information and updates for anyone considering signing up for our courses or projects, current learners and our key partners. Hear how participants are benefitting from our offer, in their own words.

**MARCH**  
2022

## Our Success in 2021

**770+**

participants/learners

**75%+**

participants of Future Bright, Works4Youth, or We Work for Everyone went onto further training, employment, volunteering & education

**44+**

venues used for courses

**100+**

businesses, employers, schools, & organisations worked with us  
(Since the services began)

**60%+**

of Community Learning learners went onto further learning, volunteering, and employment

**Matrix  
accreditation**

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## What do we do?

CLaSS offers various community learning courses and skills projects including Future Bright, Works4Youth, and We Work for Everyone to South Gloucestershire residents. Our purpose is to overcome barriers, stretch minds and build resilience and skills for today and tomorrow. Through taking part and working with us, adults, young people and families can achieve their aspirations through improved work skills and personal development, stronger families and healthier creative lives.

### Free Community Learning Courses:

- ◆ Wellbeing
- ◆ Employability
- ◆ English & Maths courses up to Function Skills Level Two
- ◆ English for speakers of other languages (ESOL)
- ◆ IT
- ◆ Family learning

Check out our latest courses by clicking the link below or scan the QR code on the right:  
<https://bit.ly/3Jau0nN>



### Spotlight on Community Learning: Tracey's story

I had been thinking about trying a course to learn how to use a computer confidently for some time but had not done anything about it as the technology scared me (and I really do mean it scared me to the point of shaking when I turned my computer on).

Whilst swimming one day at the local sports centre I spotted an advert on the notice board for different classes run by community learning, a few caught my eye and decided it was time to take the plunge for me. I decided to start with something I enjoyed so I signed up for arts and crafts for wellbeing as I love the creativity with crafting.

I did a pre-visit to find out exactly where the class was to be held which meant I was able to get myself there without any stress. It was a thoroughly enjoyable class with a great tutor who encouraged everyone throughout the course.

A couple of other students were talking about computers and so with all the encouragement from tutor and students I jumped into computing for beginners.

Once again, it was a very welcoming course. We all had our own level of ability and throughout we progressed at our own speed which was very encouraging for myself. I can honestly say the tutor helped me progress comfortably with no stress or pressure.



I was offered the chance to do a follow-on course with the same tutor so happily signed up as I felt I had learnt a lot from the previous course. I am so glad I did. I can honestly say I was starting to enjoy using a computer without panic and if I didn't know what I was doing I was happy to try finding solutions myself. I never thought I would ever say it but I can now enjoy using my computer and use it without fear.

Tracey

## Skills projects for personalised, one-to-one support



Having a mentor has been a really big help. I don't think I would have got my Kickstart role without the support. Improving my CV and cover letter really helped me build confidence in myself.

**S.G.**

Works4Youth has made a big impact on my employment journey. Without my mentor I would not have had the confidence to apply for my job and would not be in the position I am now. Do it, definitely definitely do it! I put it off for way too long because of my anxiety. Be confident because it will help you!

**C.R.**

### Works4Youth



We support Young People with setting goals, training and skills development, connection with local employers and finding work and/or apprenticeships. We also offer workshops and engagement activities that allow all participants to further develop employability skills and tools to help overcome barriers to entering the workplace. Our Employment Mentors are ready to help you get closer to employment!

#### You need to be:

- ◆ Aged 16-25
- ◆ Resident in South Gloucestershire
- ◆ Not currently in employment, education or training

☎ 01454 865009 ✉ [works4youth@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:works4youth@southglos.gov.uk)  
 🐦 @works4youthSG 📷 @works4youth

## We Work for Everyone



We can help if you are facing barriers to learning, accessing training or further education and getting a job (this could include: struggling to concentrate, remembering things or interacting with other people). Our dedicated Employment Navigators can support you to find a way into paid work.

#### You need to be:

- ◆ Aged 16+
- ◆ Live in the West of England: Bristol, Bath and North East Somerset, South Gloucestershire / North Somerset
- ◆ Not be in work or training
- ◆ Have a self-identified or diagnosed disability, Learning Difficulty or Autism that is a barrier to finding work

☎ 01454 863172 ✉ [weworkforeveryone@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:weworkforeveryone@southglos.gov.uk)

It's the thing people need. I will really miss my navigator, it is amazing 100% and I've never received support like this in my life and I doubt I ever will again. My navigator was so supportive, kind and understanding.

**Laila Javid**

The project has helped me find the right job for me given me the skills to be more proactive in myself. I think that ww4e is amazing wish I found them sooner.

**Rosemarie Slocombe**

## Future Bright



Want to improve your job prospects and increase your income? We offer career coaching, training and support to help you develop the skills and confidence you need to take your next step. Participants will be matched with a dedicated career coach who will support you to create a personalised action plan.

### You need to be:

- ◆ Aged 18+
- ◆ Resident in South Gloucestershire
- ◆ Currently employed (including part-time, full-time, temp, self-employed or zero hours)
- ◆ Receiving in-work benefits -OR- earning under the Real Living Wage of 9.90 per hour

☎ 01454 866008 ✉ [future.bright@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:future.bright@southglos.gov.uk)

If you've hit a roadblock or running out of motivation yet can't give up on your ideas or dreams then definitely check in with Future Bright as they can help you pause, reflect and then implement the tools and skills to get moving again.

### Lorraine Hamilton

I would absolutely recommend Future Bright - even if you've had senior roles and lots of previous coaching. If you get the right coach just having the conversations and the opportunity to chat things through with someone who isn't scared to challenge you can be immensely rewarding.

### Victoria Humphries

## Meet our staff

### Development Workers @ Community Learning



Anneliese  
Goodare



Anthony  
Hill



Sam  
Jones

### Career Navigators @ We Work for Everyone



Abbie  
Jones



Michelle  
Inglis

### Career Progression Coaches @ Future Bright



Charlie  
Morris



Chris  
Hill



Deb  
Baker



Gareth  
Arlett

### Employability Mentor @ Works4Youth



Lucy  
Farmer

### Employment Engagement Worker @ Works4Youth



Chris  
Brodigan

### Employability Mentors [work in schools]



Barry  
Davidson



Kayleigh  
Luton