

Education and Life Long Learning

Education and lifelong learning is more than mainstream primary and secondary education. The aim is to ensure that learning opportunities are available to all members of the Community Area in an environment that encourages people to take part. Focus needs to be on raising the level of basic skills and giving more access to information technology. Opportunities will be provided that encourage the exploration of new skills and interests to create a diversely skilled population.

Although Wiltshire LEA has been comparatively successful overall at Key Stage 2 [age 11] and GCSE [age15/16], all the Community Areas contain some schools that have not been as successful in meeting the required standards. Calne is no different in this respect. The proportion of Calne Community Area residents educated to degree level is 19.7%, slightly lower than the Wiltshire average of 20.6%.

Achievements since the 2006 update of the plan:

- E Project extended until July 2010
- IT survey carried out in 2007
- IT training now carried out in Calne Library as a result of a perception expressed in IT survey that it needed to be located more centrally
- Successful training sessions for the unemployed and self-employed organised.

Aspirations carried over from 2006 update:

- Identify the current basic skills level in the community area and work with appropriate agencies to address the need
- Work to take learning opportunities to the rural areas
- Improve transport links to enable participation by the whole community.

Aspirations expressed in the most recent community feedback:

- Source funding to support a continuation of the E Project beyond July 2010
- Encourage independent learning
- Create more opportunities for young people to study life and career skills and provide support for school leavers and job seekers
- Support the organization of a variety of courses for all age groups in community venues in Calne and the villages
- Make advice and information about educational opportunities freely available and well publicised.

Ways in which these aspirations are currently being met in the community:

The Partners in Literacy Initiative coordinated by Wiltshire Library Service is working with all the organizations in the Calne Community Area that deal with families to help people to engage with literacy in the home and to give frontline

workers the confidence to talk about basic skills and know what support is available in the community.

Calne Library offers free Internet access and the library Infozone gives homework support to pupils.

Calne Extended Schools Cluster offers support for families of pupils in all the schools in the Community Area.

- The Community and Education Liaison Officer is coordinating a project of social care and education in the community
- Parent Support Advisors are based at St. Edmunds, St. Dunstan. Holy Trinity and John Bentley schools and they also cover the village primary schools
- Family learning opportunities offered
- Joint project between John Bentley and CAYPIG planned to provide after school activities
- John Bentley and Calne Chamber are working on a mentoring scheme where business people will provide an hour a month of mentoring for named pupils
- Employers have been asked by the Chamber to nominate young people from their organizations to talk to JBS pupils about their transition from school to work.

The Adult Education group comprised of representatives from the three senior schools, Wiltshire College, Calne Community Area Partnership and the Local Authority, is working to map current provision in adult informal learning, identify where this

does not satisfy demand and devise a strategy for identifying funding streams and venues.

The Lions, the schools and the Town Council are planning to work together to provide community, business and council based projects for young people.

John Bentley in liaison with Calne Twinning Association will offer basic French and German courses.

U3A runs a Latin course in Calne and a variety of courses in Chippenham.

The Education and Lifelong Learning theme group of the CCAP will produce a list of educational opportunities, with contact numbers and display them in a variety of public buildings.