

## Innovation

The Fast Forward Hull (FFHull) project involved a multi-agency team who worked collaboratively with Sheffield College to develop a localised adult literacy and numeracy resource for 'entry level 2' learners. Literacy tutors have the option to incorporate these resources into their lessons using either work books, USB memory sticks, or by accessing them online.

A key aspect of the resources is that they have been specially designed to be 'Hull-centric'; they are based on local topics, celebrities and landmarks that are relevant and familiar to Hull residents.

## Background

Sheffield College produced a localised resource (called 'Made in Sheffield') for adult literacy learners in Sheffield. Additional funding was then made available which allowed them to share their knowledge and resources with another city in the Yorkshire and Humberside region. They worked directly with representatives from the Hull Adult Education Service, Hull College, and the University of Hull to recontextualise the resources to give them a local Hull flavour and make them available in a USB memory stick format.



At the time in Hull there was a strategic focus on improving the city's employment rates, particularly for those people who had been out of work for six months or more. It was therefore decided that the resource would also include tasks which were aimed at improving the learners' employability. While the resource was in the process of being developed there were a number of local industries (e.g. the caravan industry) which started making redundancies so this element of the resource became more relevant as the project progressed.

## Technology

It was important that the 'Hull Fast Forward' resources were portable because much of the literacy training is delivered through outreach work in schools, specialist training centres and onsite with local companies. Having the resources available online and on memory sticks gave the training providers the portability they needed.

The content of the resources is the same across the different formats – The hard copy version is useful for students who do not have the required level of IT skills. If they are comfortable with IT or can be taught the required navigation skills then learners can use the memory stick or the online version.

## Teaching and Learning

Using familiar local themes, places, people etc within the exercises makes it easier for learners to engage and improve their skills. The resource is used with learners who are studying on an existing course. Students feel comfortable with the subject area which enables them to get more out of the lesson.

One learner said, "The resource is really good, because you can recognise the people and places shown. This makes the questions seem less scary, I suppose".

The resources are used as an embedded part of an existing course and act as an entry point into a particular learning outcome (e.g. the use of capital letters). The memory sticks allow learners to save information and go back to it again – For some of the students it is their first experience of IT so the resource is also used to introduce learners to using computers.

The resource was intentionally designed so that it will not date quickly and the intention is that it will be available in the long term rather than a 'fad' which is no longer in use after 12 months.

## Impact

All of the tutors within the Adult Learning Colleges have been trained to use the resource and most of them have been using it since it was first went live in September 2008. The tutors are aware of the benefits of using the resource but it has been left up to them how they want to integrate it into their teaching. To date the resource has been used with between two to three hundred learners.



Early anecdotal reports from tutors are that the learners are more motivated and that it is easier for them to take part in class discussions because they are talking about things they have a personal interest in e.g. sport, what's happening in their local neighbourhood.

The next stage is to carry out a more formal evaluation which will gather feedback from literacy tutors within the adult education centres and also from other providers (such as Hull Probation Service).

## Challenges

The biggest challenges were encountered upfront during the re-contextualisation phase rather than any issues with the learners or the tutors. The challenge was to adapt what had worked in Sheffield and relocate the geographical focus to make the content relevant to Hull learners.

One of the challenges going forward is how the success of the resource can be measured – the resource is used in conjunction with other 'skills for life' resources which makes it difficult to objectively evaluate its success in isolation.

## Adoption

Additional resources aimed at adults who are at a higher level of understanding but who are returning to learning for the first time in a while would enable tutors to use 'Fast Forward Hull' with a wider range of learners.

The 'Fast Forward Hull' resources can be picked up and redeveloped to suit another geographical location but there needs to be a significant investment of time upfront to ensure that the resources are localised and that they are appropriate to the target learner group.

## System Outcomes

Engaged and Empowered Learners  
Improved Personalisation Learning Experiences  
Technology Confident, Effective Providers

## Key Words

Adult literacy; digital literacy; job seekers; e-learning; employability

## Organisation Description

The Hull City Council adult and community learning service offers formal (national accredited examination courses) and informal personal development courses such as numeracy and literacy. Courses are delivered by professional tutors in five major centres throughout Hull and at over 150 outreach locations.

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