



# **Newbattle Abbey College Adult Achievement Awards**

## **North Alliance Conference 4 October 2017**

# Background

- Newbattle Abbey College was asked to develop AAAs by Education Scotland and the Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework (SCQF) Partnership
- Awards credit-rated by Edinburgh Napier University at SCQF Levels 3, 4 and 6
- Level 2 has now been developed - yet to be credit-rated
- Awards offer national accreditation to adults for their learning in:
  - the community
  - college
  - the workplace
  - the family
  - the voluntary sector
  - volunteering programmes
  - prison

# AAA Features

- optional
- context-free
- not formal programmes themselves but can accredit learning in a range of programmes
- no entry requirements
- can be undertaken individually or in groups
- based on a Reflective Learning approaches
- offer progression to further accredited learning
- learners supported by local tutors/mentors
- flexible and inclusive

## How Do AAAs Work?

- Adults should have been involved in learning in **the past year - can also involve current learning**
- Awards based on Learning Outcomes which ask adults to:
  - review learning
  - record learning
  - reflect on learning
  - plan future learning
- Learners receive:
  - Learner Guide - work book
  - Reflective Journal - **only assessed document**
- Tutors receive Tutor Guide

# Reflective Journal

- based on Learning Outcomes for each level
- **only the Reflective Journal is assessed**
- can be submitted for assessment:
  - online
  - orally
  - in written format
  - with support from scribe
- signed off locally by tutors
- assessed locally, if appropriate, or by Newbattle
- certificated by Newbattle

# AAA Levels

- **Level 2**
  - 30 hours of learning/400 words approx
  - 3 Learning Outcomes
- **Level 3**
  - 30 hours of learning/750 words approx
  - 3 Learning Outcomes
- **Level 4**
  - 40 hours of learning/1000 words approx
  - 4 Learning Outcomes
- **Level 6**
  - 60 hours of Learning/1500 words approx
  - 3 Learning Outcomes

**Learning hours include the time it takes to complete the Reflective Journal.**

# Newbattle Provides

- Learner Guides for each level
- Reflective Journals for each level
- Tutor Guides for each level
- training and ongoing support
- admin to support awards
- quality assurance: assessment or external verification
- certification

## Role of Local Tutors

- attend AAA training
- liaise with potential learners
- offer ongoing support to learners
- support preparation of Reflective Journals
- sign off and submit Reflective Journals to Newbattle for assessment/external verification
- support re-submissions, if necessary



# Learners have included

- volunteers
- adults with additional support needs
  - literacy
  - mental health
  - physical disabilities
  - life skills
- adults seeking employment
- adults learning English
- refugees
- adult offenders
- adults pursuing leisure interests
- younger adults on Prince's Trust Programme

# Learning Contexts

- community learning programmes
- workplace
- home - carers
- college
- employability programmes
- outdoor learning programmes
- volunteering programmes
- prison education programmes
- sport/leisure

# AAA Pilot Evaluation

- undertaken by Education Scotland
- national report published in June 2016
- *The awards are lifelong and accessible to all stages of a person's life.*
- *The awards are helping re-engage those who haven't undertaken any accredited learning for some time.*
- *All learners involved are gaining in confidence and self-esteem.*
- *The awards are working well for learners in a range of contexts.*

# AAA Pilot Evaluation

## What local Tutors and learners said:

- *The sense of achievement for the student is awesome.*
- *The Adult Achievement Awards have been pivotal in getting me out of the house.*
- *Made me more aware of my own strengths and has given me the confidence to continue learning.*
- *An excellent way for students to set goals for themselves and monitor their progress.*
- *The most exciting development in adult education for years!*

## Phase 2 Pilot Programme

- Sep 2016 - June 2017
- 20 cross-sectoral pilots
- across Scotland and Isle of Man
- over 300 learners - SCQF levels 3, 4 and 6
- also piloting Business Plan: annual licence fee; training costs; student fees
- national dissemination conference on 29 March 2017 at Newbattle - Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills gave the keynote address

# Phase 2 Pilots

- Glasgow Colleges
- Dumfries & Galloway Council
- Aberdeen City Council
- LEAD Scotland
- Midlothian Council
- Dyslexia Scotland
- Inverclyde Council
- Sabhal Mor Ostaig College
- Dundee Carers Centre/Dundee City Council
- Phoenix Futures

## Phase 2 Pilots (cont'd)

- Angus Council
- Inverness College
- West Lothian Council/West Lothian College
- Scottish Union Learning
- Isle of Man Council
- East Dunbartonshire Council
- Cothrom, South Uist
- Newbattle Abbey College
- Scottish Cadets
- Fife College

# AAA in Aberdeen

Northern Alliance 2017

Sara Aboud

Adult Learning Manager



# Our Journey

- Adult Learning and Family Learning were involved in the first pilot of the AAA.
- In 2017 we had Adult Learning tutors trained in AAA.
- Are currently working with a range of groups and hope to get 20 people through the award by March next year.

# Our Learning

- Be realistic about what you can achieve.
- Spend time with learners on key concepts.
- It enables learners to reflect on their learning.
- Fantastic award for people with little confidence.

# Next Steps

- We are currently working with 21 people on the award.
- Deliver the award training for a wider range of partners.
- Encourage those who have done the award to think about progression.