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# New Partnership Working to Support Community Learning

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# What follows

- What we do, how and why we are changing
- On becoming a charity ...
- Challenges we must address and successes we can build on
- Proposed new ways of partnership working

# What we do

- ▶ We work with partners to ensure that those who are disadvantaged and may have missed out on learning in the past, have opportunities to learn and to reach their full potential.
- ▶ “We are small but we are many...” (Neil Gaiman)

# www.surreyllp.org.uk

The screenshot shows the website for the Surrey Lifelong Learning Partnership. The browser window title is "Surrey Lifelong Learning Partnership | Home - Windows Internet Explorer". The address bar shows "http://www.surreyllp.org.uk/". The website header includes the logo "surrey lifelong learning partnership" and the tagline "together we bring learning to life". Navigation links include "home", "about", "partnerships", "capacity building", "news & events", "resources", "funding", and "contact us". A search bar is present with "Member sign in" and "Register now" buttons. The main content area features a large banner for the "SLLP Annual Conference - 29 November" with the text "Only a few places left!" and "BIS Consultation New Challenges, New Chances". Below this, there are sections for "Latest news" (Sector News, Partner News, SLLP News), "News of Cabinet Office Transition Fund Award", and "2010 Annual Review Available Now". A calendar widget shows "November 2011" with the 29th highlighted. An "Upcoming events" sidebar lists the "2011 SLLP Conference" and "CLC Network Support Meeting - Woking". The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the time as 15:14.

# Why we are changing

- Changes in the landscape of the learning and skills sector
- Social and economic changes
- To sustain ourselves and continue

# How we are changing

- Transition Fund
- Partnering with London Learning Consortium
- Charitable Status

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# On becoming a Charity

- ▶ **Understanding needs and wants of beneficiaries**
  - Collating new research
  - Community Learning Champions talking to people
  - Engaging with people through digital media

# On becoming a Charity

▶ Do you know the answers?

1. How does adult learning contribute to community empowerment?
2. When an FE college seeks to improve its engagement with the community, what should its starting point be?
3. What is the trajectory into work of most mothers like?
4. How do ethnic minorities fare in terms of employment comparatively in times of economic crisis?

# Challenges to be addressed

## ▶ Some priorities:

- The many adults who are digitally excluded
- People with low skills seeking work
- An increase in those suffering with mental illness
- Adults lacking basic literacy and numeracy skills

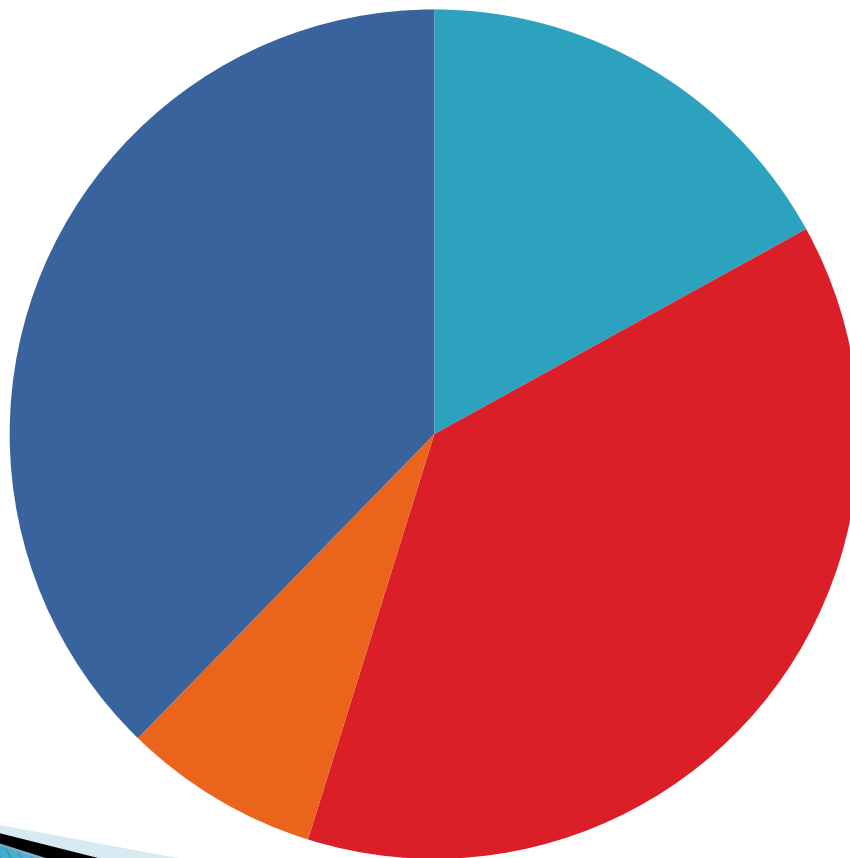
# Challenges to be addressed

## ▶ Despite Past Policies and Action

- Needs persist
- No-one knows who covers grey areas
- Working together is not always easy
- Improvement may take years to achieve but have years of value: “...children and grandchildren become active citizens”
- Outcomes are not measured so their value is missed

# Successes to build on

- ▶ Through partnership 800 learners in one year



- Informal Adult learning
- Skills for Jobs Activities
- Transform IT Westborough
- Digital inclusion

# Successes to build on

- ▶ Thanks to...
  - Partnership working
  - Transform IT engaged 46 partners!

# Successes to build on

## ▶ We know what works:

- Enrichment activities get people to the next stage
- Catalysts and linking is needed – we cannot go it alone
- Examples:
  - A community champion
  - A life changed
  - The right ingredients
  - An environment which allows

# Successes to build on



## Community Learning Champions



**A Life Changed**

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# Successes to build on



The right ingredients



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# Successes to build on

The right environment?

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# New ways of working

- ▶ We need to find completely new ways of working
  - Community learning can contribute to business (e.g. learning Chinese)
  - Podcasting could be for jobs of tomorrow



# New ways of working

**We must provide opportunities for people to be the best they can be!**

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# New ways of working

- ▶ Propositions for partnership action for communities

1. A Community Learning Champion scheme linked to FE and promoting courses locally
2. A commitment by all present to provide practical ongoing support for community learning
3. Prepare now for collaborative bid to meet the basic employability needs of 18–24 year olds
4. Develop a new venture to deliver basic skills in the workplace
5. A meeting of all concerned to ensure a coordinated approach to the development of job clubs in Surrey

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# And finally...your thoughts!

- ▶ Which areas would you like to work with us on?
- ▶ What ideas do you have for moving forward?
- ▶ What can you offer, and what can we provide to meet these challenges?