

Why partner with the WEA?

wea.org.uk



WEA

Adult Learning
Within Reach



About the WEA

Who we are and what we do

At the WEA, we've been making good things happen since 1903.

We are the UK's largest voluntary sector provider of adult education and we believe that lifelong learning can and must be part of the answer to our society's current challenges.

You can find us in 91 community centres and spaces across Greater Manchester - especially where opportunity is needed most in society.

Our volunteers and members are motivated by the impact of education on individuals, their families and local communities.

WEA learning is not your average classroom - our tutors and students interact and share experiences, adapting their studies to meet the current needs of the group.

With the WEA, students feel better equipped to take on tomorrow, whatever it may bring.

And it is through the WEA's key themes of employability, health and wellbeing, community engagement and culture that our approach seamlessly aligns to GMCA's growth agenda.

Let us tell you more...



Us: in numbers...

GM reach and experience 2017-18



Our impact



As a result of their course



The WEA approach

Our approach to learning:

The WEA is committed to adult education for social purpose and to achieve social justice.

We deliver our mission by developing partnerships to meet individual and collective needs, using active learning and a student-centered approach in which tutors and students work as equals.

For our students and tutors, this means thinking beyond the subject and the classroom – we're all adults here and tutors work with learners to achieve their desired learning outcomes which includes addressing: wider family issues; individual development; physical and mental wellbeing; active citizenship and confidence building; and embeds some or all of our key themes of employability, health and wellbeing, community engagement and culture.

Why we lead our partnerships well:

- ▶ **We are a national registered charity** with over 100 years' experience of local delivery across Greater Manchester. We are values-driven; committed to adult education for social purpose and to achieve social justice.
- ▶ **We have a skills based curriculum** (Entry to L3) with 'Into Work' and 'In Work Pathways' developed to increase workforce knowledge and skills and curriculum
- ▶ **We have a flexible, outreach based delivery model**, reaching students from all walks of life, and particularly those from our most deprived communities. Community venues are provided by a wide network of partner organisations, all vetted to ensure premises are suitable, accessible, and safe.
- ▶ **We are an ESFA registered provider** for education and training delivery, development, and subcontracting.
- ▶ **We are an Ofsted Good (Grade 2) Provider.**
- ▶ **We have comprehensive quality management and improvement frameworks** ensuring high quality teaching and learning.
- ▶ **We offer a well-structured online course finder and registration**, with dedicated telephone support, enabling students to find the most appropriate course in their area.
- ▶ **We have excellent management information systems** enabling comprehensive reporting for various funders.
- ▶ **We have an in house research unit** enabling high quality impact and outcomes analysis.



What our partners say about us...

Our partners tell us the top three benefits of working with the WEA are...

- ▶ achieving goals that would not be possible without the partnership
- ▶ mutual promotion and publicity
- ▶ gaining recognition for themselves, their organisation and the work they are doing



WEA always respond to local community needs, take innovative approaches to deliver services and take pride in taking challenge to work with communities, groups and individuals

Deeplish Community Centre, Rochdale



WEA's commitment to innovation in learning

Our approach, together with a safe, supportive and suitably challenging teaching and learning environment, has demonstrable and wide ranging impacts on students that are hard to ignore.

Our latest example of working on innovation in learning sees the WEA **leading the delivery of a DfE Flexible Learning Fund project to develop a bespoke Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) - enabling blended learning.**

The project brings together: government (The Behavioural Insights Team); the charity sector (WEA); and corporate partners...

Examples of core partners: Business in the Community, Clarion Housing, UNISON and Lloyds. The VLE system will be live from January 2019.

Get in touch

By email: nwdevelopments@wea.org.uk

By post: WEA Manchester,
Suite G5, Ground Floor
Holyoake House
Hanover Street
Manchester M60 0AS

