

Project Profile:

Community Action Learning

Hounslow



take part

London Civic Forum supported Hounslow Council and the Workers Educational Association to create a series of intensive action learning sessions for a diverse group of ten Hounslow residents.

The sessions focused on helping learners build new confidence, skills and knowledge, and help them get more engaged in community work and local decision making.

I'm here to learn new skills that I can pass on to others in my family and community.



This kind of help is really important and really useful.

I will definitely use everything I have learnt.

I like these meetings, they're fun and everybody is very kind! It will help me in my job.

Take Part is an approach to learning for action, which helps people gain the skills, knowledge and confidence to become involved in their communities and to influence the decisions that affect their daily lives.

Take Part is at the heart of London Civic Forum's vision of a strong, active and inclusive society working across London to build healthy communities and improve quality of life for all.



Community Action Learning

Purpose: To bring residents together to develop the confidence, knowledge and skills to become more active in their communities, through identifying local problems and trying out a range of solutions.

Take Part's community-based approach helped the group work together to find common ground and use their learning to take action to solve real-life local problems.

Activities: A facilitator helped the group develop a strong shared identity and goals over four sessions.

The group generated action plans and took action between meetings, including researching local representatives and contacting them through different channels.

Leaders of local community activities attended one session to talk to learners about how to get further involved.

Outcomes:

- Learners agreed that the sessions had helped them build new confidence, skills and knowledge about how to be more active in their communities.
- Several learners went on to get involved in new volunteering activities.
- Learners gained new contacts and learnt of new opportunities in their local area.

Into the future...

Hounslow Council has created an internet space for learners to continue to share ideas, learning and opportunities.

Future Take Part work in Hounslow will include a publicity campaign around opportunities for local people to engage, and training for residents engaging on the Hounslow Citizens' Panel.

For further information please contact:

Kate Burls, Take Part Coordinator, London Civic Forum: kateb@londoncivicforum.org.uk

Charlotte Brewster, Community Initiatives, LB Hounslow: Charlotte.Brewster@hounslow.gov.uk

London Civic Forum is Take Part Champion for London, supporting active learning for active citizenship across the capital.
www.londoncivicforum.org.uk, www.shapeyourcity.org.uk.