

Adult Learners' Week 2026 Campaign themes



Monday 21 September Learner Voices

Learner voices are one of the most powerful ways to inspire others to take part in learning. Real stories build confidence, show what is possible, and help providers understand what learners need to start, stay and progress. Use this theme to put learners at the centre of events: share learner stories, support learner-led outreach, host bring-a-friend activities, create learner forums, and use feedback to shape provision that reflects people's experiences, ambitions and barriers.



Tuesday 22 September Collaboration & Connection

Adult Learners' Week is strongest when organisations work together across communities, sectors and services. Collaboration helps create clearer pathways, reduce duplication, reach people who may not otherwise engage, and connect learners with the right support at the right time. Use this theme to focus events on partnership in action: celebrate joint practice, bring partners together for networking or planning sessions, share what works, start new conversations, and build connections that make learning more visible, accessible and joined up.



Wednesday 23 September Skills for Work & Progression

Learning at and through work is vital for helping people build confidence, adapt to change, progress in their roles and access new opportunities. Workplaces can also be important gateways for reaching adults who may not see learning as being for them. Use this theme to focus events on practical routes into skills development: run workplace taster sessions and workshops, promote progression pathways, host skills-sharing or information events, gather insight through surveys, and share success stories that show how learning supports individuals, employers and wider communities.



Thursday 24 September Essential Skills

Literacy, numeracy and digital skills are essential foundations for further learning, work and everyday life. When people lack these skills, it can reduce confidence, limit participation in community and school life, and hold them back from securing or progressing in good jobs. Use this theme to focus events on practical, accessible routes into learning: promote taster sessions, listen to communities about what they need, co-produce curriculum with learners, and create provision that helps people build key skills and confidence to take their next step.



Friday 25 September: Better Health and Wellbeing

Learning has a powerful role in reducing health inequalities because it builds confidence, supports mental health, strengthens social connections and helps people gain skills that can lead to work or further opportunities. This theme is an opportunity to show how learning contributes to healthier, more connected communities. Use this focus to plan events and activities that support health and wellbeing, including informal, creative and community-based learning. Stakeholders can use the theme to strengthen links with local health services, social prescribers and voluntary sector partners, improve signposting between services, and demonstrate how learning can be part of prevention, recovery and long-term wellbeing.

We encourage you to use our overarching themes as an inspiration to spark your ideas for Adult Learners' Week. Campaign partners are also free to design activities to suit their unique vision, on different days. Contact us to discuss your plans for the campaign: alwevents@learningandwork.org.uk.