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# 'Transforming Lives'

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**niace**  
promoting adult learning

# One week

## A little bit about Adult Learners' Week, Wales and England 2010

### Wales 2010 (film extract):

<http://www.youtube.com/user/niacedc?feature=mhee#p/c/1172575694BD782D/2/1zHYqTNBAW8>

### England 2010 (film extract):

# One idea...

- ‘informal’ adult learning
- captured ministers’ imagination
- supported by two governments
- strategy: *Learning Revolution* (2009)
- new partners
- new national fund
- learning champions idea



# Extraordinary partnership ideas

- **the chip shop learners**
  - from shop to community
- **Learning Champions**
  - from idea to institution
- **learning in the Fourth Age**
  - from activity to education



# Places to learn



# Transformation Fund: aims

- **partnerships**, capacity, knowledge
- improve **connections**: different learning experiences
- encourage **more and different** people into learning
- **access to learning**: new places, new ways, better times
- **support** people to drive their own learning
- **widen choice**: developing and sharing innovative content
- make better use of **broadcasting and technology**
- support the **new culture** of informal adult learning



# Transformation Fund: facts

- **flagship** fund
- **Prospectus** launched ALW May 2009
- **compressed** project: pragmatic solutions needed.
- **tight timescale**: financial checks; panels/staff; systems
- **over £20m (NZ\$40m)** allocated- nearly £19.9m spent
- **regional/national panels** select projects and give advice
- **of 1416 proposals: 314 approved**
  - small < £10,000 74
  - medium <£100,000 213
  - large >£100,000 27
- **over 1.1m** people learning



# Transformation Fund: key issues

- strengthening the **infrastructure** of informal learning
- testing out innovative ways of engaging **new learners and providers** in new ways and in new places
- testing public or private providers and voluntary organisations **working together**
- exploring kinds of learning **content, programmes and materials** to be produced
- developing innovative use of **technology, broadcasting and the internet**
- the encouragement of **peer to peer learning** and self help groups
- help for specific **disadvantaged groups** across England
- ways of helping community organisations and groups to carry on informal learning in **new spaces**



# Transformation Fund : outputs

- main report
- summary report
- outputs: packs, films, websites
- <http://www.transformationfund.org.uk/>
- thematic reports
- events and publications
- policy direction



# Transformation Fund: findings

- **small** injections of funding make a difference
- **Learning Champions** play a decisive role
- **flexibility** is critical in meeting individual needs
- **participative** approaches: more learner satisfaction
- **digital** technology brings greater inclusion
- creative partnerships need **clear agreements**
- benefits of informal learning are **unpredictable**
- replicating project models is **problematic**
- **new learners** attracted by variety/relevance of learning opportunities

# Transformation Fund: sustaining the work

- *‘it’s not always about the money’*
- new partnerships, help in kind
- new funding opportunities
- charging for learning
- business plans: products, charges, grants
- legacy

# Transforming lives: a legacy

- aims achieved and exceeded
- unexpected outcomes : individuals & communities
- adult and community learning improves lives and communities
- new partnerships, new ‘providers’
- more inclusive learning landscape
- new culture of informal adult and community learning?

# Thanks!

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