



# News Release

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## **STRATEGY POINTS WAY FORWARD FOR BASIC SKILLS TRAINING IN DOCKLANDS**

A nine point strategy to secure long-term basic skills training in London Docklands has been drawn up by the London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC) in conjunction with the local education authorities, Training and Enterprise Councils (TECs) and the voluntary sector.

It is hoped that the strategy will ensure that a high profile funding priority is maintained in the future for basic skills training in the London Docklands area.

Around 25 per cent of Docklands' population is estimated currently to have some degree of difficulty with literacy, numeracy or the English language. These skills are essential in everyday life and are often one of the major barriers preventing local people from taking advantage of the training and employment opportunities available in the area.

The nine recommendations (see separate sheet) in the report *A STRATEGY FOR BASIC SKILLS IN DOCKLANDS* result from a wide-ranging consultation exercise initiated by the LDDC in July 1990. This included local training organisations, trainees and representatives from the Tower Hamlets, Southwark and Newham education authorities as well as from the London East Training and Enterprise Council (LETEC) and South Thames TEC.

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Simon James, the LDDC's Basic Skills Officer, said: "Some excellent work has already been done to secure a high standard of Basic Skills training in London Docklands. Nearly £3/4 million has been spent in the last twelve months alone by the LDDC and its partners, such as LETEC or the London City Action Team. This strategy document now provides us with a structure for targeting available resources in the future.

"London Docklands provides a unique, unparalleled opportunity for different organisations and local authorities to work together, under the initiative of the LDDC, to focus on this particular area of need and really achieve results for the benefit of local people."

For example, a two year project costing £56,000 has just been approved through the LDDC's Social Accord agreement with Tower Hamlets to provide English language courses for members of the Somali community at the Tower Hamlets College.

- ENDS -

**For further information and/or a copy of the STRATEGY FOR BASIC SKILLS IN DOCKLANDS, please contact:**

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## NOTE TO EDITORS

The nine recommendations in the Strategy for Basic Skills in Docklands, in summary form, are:-

1. to draw up a three-year programme of research, co-ordinated by the Strategy Co-ordination Group (see Recommendation 8), to facilitate targeting of funds and information more effectively and to plan for change.
2. to establish a directory of sources, contacts, criteria and conditions of funding for Basic Skills, updated on a quarterly basis.
3. to set up a pilot scheme which will give potential basic skills trainees "vouchers" for training courses as well as structured guidance as to which courses would best suit their needs.
4. to establish a Centre of Excellence for Basic Skills in London Docklands to provide staff training and accreditation, direct Basic Skills training and support for local people and access to teaching and training resources.
5. to provide staff training in the teaching of Basic Skills at three levels: Initial, Certificate and Diploma.
6. to establish projects which encourage local employers to become more closely involved in the support of "in-house" Basic Skills training for employees.
7. to extend, through a pilot scheme, existing Compact, customised training and Education Business Partnership networks to include local providers of Basic Skills training. (Compacts are arrangements whereby employment is guaranteed if specific training is undertaken).

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8. to continue the work of the Strategy Co-ordination Group, set up during the consultation period, which would meet on a quarterly basis to monitor and review the Strategy, to co-ordinate policy and regulate standards of training provision in the area.
9. to establish a Docklands Basic Skills Trainer Forum where practitioners can meet to develop and plan joint training, share and exchange material and information.

The Strategy Co-ordination Group comprised:

Jane Ashworth	Education Manager, LETEC
Madeline Held	Director, Southwark Language and Literacy Unit
Patty Hemingway	Assistant Principal/Area Director, Southwark Adult Education Institute
Judith Hinman	Assistant Principal, Tower Hamlets College
Simon James	Basic Skills Officer, LDDC
Ann Janssen	Making Training Work
Siobhan Lanigan	Coordinator, Community Joblink
Laurie Kershock/ Dipak Basu	Southwark Education Inspectorate
Chris Kiernan	Assistant Director of Education, Newham Education Authority
Pamela King/ John Thomson	Development Manager, South Thames TEC
Gay Loble	Principal Lecturer - Essential Learning, Newham Community College
Tony Luxford	Organiser, Bede Education Centre
Jim Pateman	Field Officer, ALBSU
Ray Phillips	Director, Newham Parents Centre
Michael Sargent/ Liz Lawson	Tower Hamlets Education Inspectorate
Philida Schellekens	Language Training Consultant
Paul Taylor	Community Access Director, LETEC