

Turriff Adult Learning Survey 2009

Introduction

This survey was carried out between July and September 2009 with the aim of identifying what classes and courses the people of Turriff and District would like to see in the area. It was made clear to all that whilst CLD was gathering the information, we could not guarantee that everyone's requirements could be met but that the results would shape future adult learning programs.

Survey Design

To make it more accessible a variety of ways of completing the survey were offered - online, by post, by phone, email and face to face. The questionnaire used was kept as short and simple as possible to encourage more people to complete it.

The survey was planned through the council's Corporate Communications consultation process.

Questions were included to get the following information:

- Subjects of interest
- Types of course / delivery
- Preferred Timings
- Where respondents live
- Respondents views on community groups in the area

Survey Promotion

Press

Articles were published in the Press & Journal and Turriff Advertiser.

Online

Links to the survey were placed on the Aberdeenshire Council website, ensuring access with as few clicks as possible, and also on the Turriff & District Website.

Postcards

500 postcards advertising the survey and promoting the online version in particular were delivered to new housing developments, areas of social housing and some of the rural communities in the Turriff CSN area.

Postal Distribution

200 paper surveys were distributed to various community groups in the area and to visitors to the Gateway Centre.

Promotional Stand

A stand advertising the survey was placed in Turriff library for a number of weeks.

Aberdeenshire Live

The survey was advertised on the council's network of plasma screens.

Results

Summary

A total of 166 responses were received (Online survey: 46 Paper survey: 120)
This represents approximately 2% of the adult population of Turriff & District (SNS 2008).

Interests

Respondents were asked to identify all options that suited them or specify their own. Subjects of interest to 20% or more of respondents have been highlighted.

Subject	Responses	Percentage
Reading, Writing and Numbers	5	3%
IT	57	34%
ESOL	2	1%
Money Matters	13	8%
First Aid	19	11%
Parent & baby	9	5%
Photography	66	40%
Languages (Norwegian 2, Doric 1, Polish 1)	30	18%
Art (Jewellery making 3, dancing 2, pottery 2, film editing 1, calligraphy 1, music 1)	60	36%
Personal Development	16	10%
Researching Family History	39	23%
Relaxation / Gentle Exercise	56	34%
Creative Writing	14	8%
Sign Language	10	6%
Practical Skills / DIY (Woodwork 2, upholstery making 1)	30	18%
Gardening / Grow your own	30	18%
Cooking / Healthy Eating	33	20%
Alternative Therapies	28	17%
Committee Skills	10	6%
Fundraising	6	4%
Pilates	1	1%
Public Speaking	1	1%
Shorthand	6	4%
Bridge	1	1%
Housing/Tenancies	1	1%
Manicure	1	1%

Type of Provision

Respondents were asked to identify all options that suited them

Taster Session	27%
Weekly Class	61%
One-off Workshop	22%
Distance learning	19%
Courses leading to a qualification	14%

Timing of Provision

Respondents were asked to identify all options that suited them when attending classes:

Weekdays	83%
Weekends	16%
Evenings	61%
Daytime	48%
Term-time	22%
School Holidays	11%

Community Groups

74% of 96 respondents said they thought the Turriff area had enough community groups to make it a good place to live. Suggestions from those who disagreed were:

- art group, more variety of exercise -only seems to be yoga and tai chi offered- what about pilates?
- MORE KEEP FIT CLASSES AND COURSES ON ALTERNATIVE THERAPIES
- I think there are plenty of groups for the younger group but I feel that the adults are missing out - especially single people who want to meet others for company not for relationships.
- I think the Gateway Centre could be better utilised for adult training during term times for non-working Mums
- something to stop children/adults being anti social
- A central point for everyone to meet
- Yes, but more visibility of what is on is needed.
- Sustainable Development focused group(s) AND classes of a strenuous physical nature - for fit and healthy folk
- Don't know of many. Raise awareness of the ones that exist
- Polish club
- A group to develop the town rather than preserve it
- MORE NEEDED FOR THE YOUNG ONES
- pilates or keep fit
- More groups!!

Locations of Respondents

<i>Location</i>	<i>Number (total 108)</i>
Turriff	64
Fyvie	8
Cuminestown	6
Auchterless	7
King Edward	3
Rothienorman	3
Fisherford	3
Greeness	2
Crudie	2
Woodhead	2
Aberchirder	1
Macduff	2
Forglen	1
Gight	1
Garmond	2
Fraserburgh	1

How the Results are being Used

This report is being distributed to a wide variety of interested parties and will be made available to the general public. CLD will be in discussion with various local providers to determine how best to meet the desires of local people. Initial results indicating significant interest in IT and photography were followed up with Aberdeen College, who are now providing relevant courses at the Gateway Centre.