



Melton Learning Hub Annual Report 2021 - 2022

Company Number: 07404469

Registered Charity Number: 1139747



The Melton Learning Hub

The Melton Learning Hub (The Hub) is an alternative learning centre, offering young people a variety of vocational qualifications in practical subjects. The joint objectives reflect our combined aims now we have merged with Voluntary Action Melton. Our main objectives are:

(a) To act as a resource for young people up to the age of 25 living in Melton Borough and surrounding areas by providing advice and assistance and organising programmes of physical, educational and other activities as a means of

- advancing in life and helping young people by developing their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as independent, mature and responsible individuals;
- advancing the education of young people;
- relieving unemployment.

(b) To help young people; especially, but not exclusively, through leisure time activities, so as to develop their capabilities so that they may grow to full maturity as individuals and members of society.

(c) To promote social inclusion for the public benefit in Melton Borough and surrounding areas by preventing people from becoming socially excluded and assisting them to integrate into society.

(d) To develop the capacity and skills of people who are socially excluded in Melton Borough and surrounding areas in such a way that they are better able to identify, and help meet, their needs and to participate more fully in society

Registered Office:
The Melton Learning Hub
Burton Road
Melton Mowbray
LE13 1DJ



Chairperson's Introduction

This year has been a busy year for the charity and it has been great to see a return to a lot of normal activities that we offer. Student numbers have risen, with several students now experiencing a mixed offer of education, some days in school and a day a week at the Hub learning vocational qualifications. It is great for us to be able to support students in this way, both by making sure they have a chance at their GCSEs and starting to work on qualifications they will continue at college.

The Engage project completed its third year and with its success came two years continued funding. We extend our thanks and support to the National Lottery and in particular Oliver Savage, our Leicestershire co-ordinator. He has challenged and supported us to develop the project further. This year saw the introduction of a transitions officer role to the team. The aim of this role is to support learners from year 11 through year 12.

The Venue has started to offer a number of clubs again with the Holiday Activities Fund now operating for its third year from the centre. This is an opportunity for over 30 children from across Melton District to come and engage in sporting and healthy eating activities for four weeks through the Summer. The scheme is always well attended and is an opportunity for The Melton Learning Hub to fund trips for the children. This year we were able to fund Planet Bounce, bowling and a cinema trip. The charity recognises that we cannot support all young people across the district with higher needs and therefore we were able to fund a place at the local MENCAP Summer scheme for a child. It is important to us that all local charities work together to support young people the best way we can.

The community transport scheme has seen a significant rise in demand as many of the rural bus services have been withdrawn. The highest area of demand is hospital journeys as in person appointments returned. As ever we want to express our sincere thanks to our team of volunteer drivers without whom we would not be able to operate.

Lastly, we would like to thank the continued support we have from our grant givers. It is the small and large grants we receive that allow us to deliver the specialist support and opportunities we can give to young people not only from Melton Mowbray but from across Leicestershire.



Pam Posnett MBE

Chair of The Board of Directors

Alternative Education

This year saw a total return to in person teaching with all students having full timetables. For many of our learners this has been challenging as they had lost routines during lockdown. Anxiety in social situations has risen, in part we believe, due to the extended periods young people spent alone at home.

To support this, we have offered taster sessions to support students nervous about attending education again. For students with severe anxiety we have introduced phased introductions to The Hub, slowly building up their confidence in attending.

The centre now works with 22 different commissioning bodies such as schools and inclusion partnerships, a reflection of the good reputation of the centre for delivery of vocational qualifications and support for the needs of our students.



Arts

The art-based subjects have increased in popularity amongst the students with a high rate of achievement.

For many learners this is a therapeutic class offering them opportunities to express themselves and develop their creativity.

Some of the craft skills they have developed are shown as below:



A wonderful crochet cat, thanks to JLS

QA Group	Code	Course	Number of registrations	Number of Certifications
Arts and media	500/8454/9	NCFE Level 1 Award in Graphic Design	11	11
Arts and media	600/4944/3	NCFE Entry Level Award in Creative Craft (EL3)	7	7
Arts and media	601/3360/0	NCFE Level 1 Award in Creative Craft	21	21
Arts and media	601/3360/0/coo	NCFE Level 1 Award in Creative Craft (Cookery)	37	22
Arts and media	601/3360/0/HTC	NCFE Level 1 Award in Creative Craft (Heritage Craft)	2	0
Arts and media	601/3361/2	NCFE Level 2 Award in Creative Craft	5	5

Functional Skills

The table below reflects the entries for functional skills maths and English.

What is notable with functional skills is the drop off from Entry Level 3 to Level 1.

There is now a significant rise in expectations at Level 1 which aligns to a lower level GCSE.

Students achieving Entry Level 3 qualifications will be able to access college placements.



QA Group	Code	Course	Number of Registrations	Number of Certifications
Functional Skills	603/5052/0	NCFE Entry Level 3 English	13	9
Functional Skills	603/5053/2	NCFE Entry Level 2 Maths	8	8
Functional Skills	603/5054/4	NCFE Level 2 English	2	0
Functional Skills	603/5055/6	NCFE Level 1 Maths	12	1
Functional Skills	603/5056/8	NCFE Entry Level 2 English	4	4
Functional Skills	603/5057/x	NCFE Entry Level 1 Maths	1	1
Functional Skills	603/5058/1	NCFE Level 1 English	6	1
Functional Skills	603/5059/3	NCFE Entry Level 1 English	4	3
Functional Skills	603/5060/x	NCFE Level 2 Maths	3	1
Functional Skills	603/5061/1	NCFE Entry Level 3 Maths	16	16

Preparation for Life and Work

This is the most popular area of qualifications at the Hub. All of these qualifications can be continued at colleges across Leicestershire.

We encourage you all to look at their work by following the link:

<https://www.facebook.com/melton.learninghub/videos/326961235003371>

QA Group	Code	Course	Number of Registrations	Number of Certifications
Preparation for Life and Work	601/1086/7	NCFE Level 1Award (Exploring) Occupational studies for the workplace	3	3
Preparation for Life and Work	601/1087/9	NCFE Level 1 Award Occupational studies for the workplace	60	60
Preparation for Life and Work	601/1088/0	NCFE Level 1 Certificate Occupational studies for the workplace	25	24
Preparation for Life and Work	601/1186/0	NCFE Entry level 3 Occupational studies for the workplace	16	16
Preparation for Life and Work	601/1423/X	NCFE Level 2 Certificate Occupational studies for the workplace	1	1
Preparation for Life and Work	601/1424/1	NCFE Level 2 Award in Occupational studies for the workplace	11	11
Preparation for Life and Work	601/1497/6	NCFE Level 2 Award (Exploring) Occupational studies for the workplace	2	2
Preparation for Life and Work	601/4680/1	NCFE Level 1Award Employability skills	9	6
Preparation for Life and Work	601/4681/3			
Sport	500/7997/9			



The Venue – Foodbank

As we came out of the COVID pandemic there was a short period of decline in demand for our foodbank service and the Melton Learning Hub returned to just supporting the families of our students.

This was soon replaced by the growing demand for support created by the cost of living crisis. The Melton Learning Hub was awarded a Household Support Grant.. With this fund we have worked together with Longfield Spencer Academy, John Ferneley Academy and Brownlow Wellbeing Hub to support families in need. The fund was also able to support a family with costs associated with a relative in hospital and school uniform for another family. We have continued to subscribe to the FareShare food redistribution charity, and enjoy a close working relationship with them. As our year drew to a close we also increased our support to the wider community by providing cereals, fruit and yoghurt to Oasis pre-school. This support could not continue without the generous donations of our community to the donation banks in Tesco and Aldi, together with the Household Grant.

Families can now seek support from a number of places and centres across the town and this support will become increasingly essential over the approaching winter.



Youth Club

This year the Melton Learning Hub has struggled to secure funding to deliver a youth club from our centre The Venue.

As a district we know that anti-social behaviour has become an increasing issue across the town with young people themselves identifying that there is nowhere low cost and safe for them to go.

We can often see young people gathering around McDonald's in town and this is purely down to access to wi-fi and somewhere they can meet.

The Melton Learning Hub is committed to continuing to try and secure funding so we can re-start our sessions which previously had a membership of over 100 young people.

The Melton Learning Hub has applied to a number of funds and fingers crossed we can re-start sessions soon.





Melton Borough Community Transport Scheme

The return to in-person hospital appointments has seen a considerable rise in demand for support from the scheme.

This has been accompanied by a reduction in the number of volunteer drivers we have, partly due to people retiring later in life.

We currently have 17 Drivers. All volunteers drive for no reward; they are however paid mileage at a rate of 45p per mile.

The charity appreciated that this year in particular has seen a rise in fuel costs and we are so grateful for the support of our drivers, so each was given a bonus from us.

We could not continue to deliver our important service to the community without them. The bonus was a small expression of our gratitude for the care and support they show their clients.

Breakdown of Community Transport Scheme Journeys July 2021-2022

Community Transport

Type of Journey	Number of Journeys
Social Car Non-wheelchair user	1991
Wheelchair passenger journey	101
Carer journey	128
Total social journeys	2092

Trips to attend Hospital (Section 256)

Type of Journey	Number of Journeys
Non wheelchair journey	1356
Wheelchair journey	46
Carer Journeys	328
Total	1402
Total journeys for the scheme	3494

The scheme was also able to invest in a new wheelchair vehicle over the past year (see below). The new vehicle has easier wheelchair access and so supports the most vulnerable members of our community who have very limited options re transport.



Engage

The project is designed to provide much needed additional support and help for vulnerable young people and their families who are residents of Melton Mowbray and its Borough. These young people are usually at risk of school exclusion, involvement in crime or anti-social behaviour, have poor mental or physical health or have poorer life chances because of poverty or ineffective parenting. The Charity's annual report doesn't cover the broad range of work the team does and therefore we encourage you to click on the links below to view Engage's Year 3 report.

<http://meltonlearninghub.org/engage/>

This year saw themes of work come together for Engage. The development of a Women's group, which started in September 2021, came from the number of referrals the team received relating to young women and anxiety. The group runs every Thursday at the Venue after school.

Transitions are key times in a young person's life, and the transition to secondary school can be a challenging time. The team identified this was a common theme of referrals and therefore approached both our local secondary schools. The team now runs support groups for Year 7 and 8 at both Long Field and John Ferneley schools.

The summer saw Engage being awarded with a Heritage Grant for a Paint the Town Red project. This project was such a success it featured in the national press for youth work. Young people working with Engage developed a heritage trail and supporting pack for families in the town and for visitors. The young people were involved in researching, designing and costing the project. Many helped on the market stall in town, challenging themselves to use communication skills. This was a fantastic opportunity and was well received in the town.



Holiday Activities and Food Summer Scheme (HAF)

The Melton Learning Hub has run the HAF summer scheme for a number of years. This is our opportunity to share with the community any surplus we have made over the year. HAF is a funded programme however the charity chooses to fund additional activities during the scheme. This year the group was able to go to Planet Bounce, Wollaton Hall, bowling and a private screening for a cinema all at no cost.

The scheme itself supports young people to eat healthily and engage in a sporting activity for 4 hours a day, 4 days a week, for 4 weeks of the Summer holiday. We offered a variety of sporting activities to engage all young people in sports they might never have tried before. We visited an air rifle range, took groups magnet fishing and played foot golf as some examples, as well as traditional sporting activities.



Trustee statement

The Melton Learning Hub is a company limited by guarantee, governed by its memorandum and Articles of Association. It is a registered charity with the Charity Commission.

Its main purpose is to promote charitable purposes for the benefit of the community and is contracted to act as a community hub, providing a range of services directly to the community.

There were 9 trustees at the start of the financial year, each of whom agrees to contribute £10 in the event of the Charity winding up.

The Melton Learning Hub Trust Board and Company Directors

Pam Posnett - Individual Member - Chairperson

Kate Theobald - Individual Member

Linda Moore – Individual Member

Steve Taylor – Vice Chair

Peter Treadwell - Individual member

Rob Whittingham - Individual member

Doug Clements - Individual member

Sharon Brown - Individual member

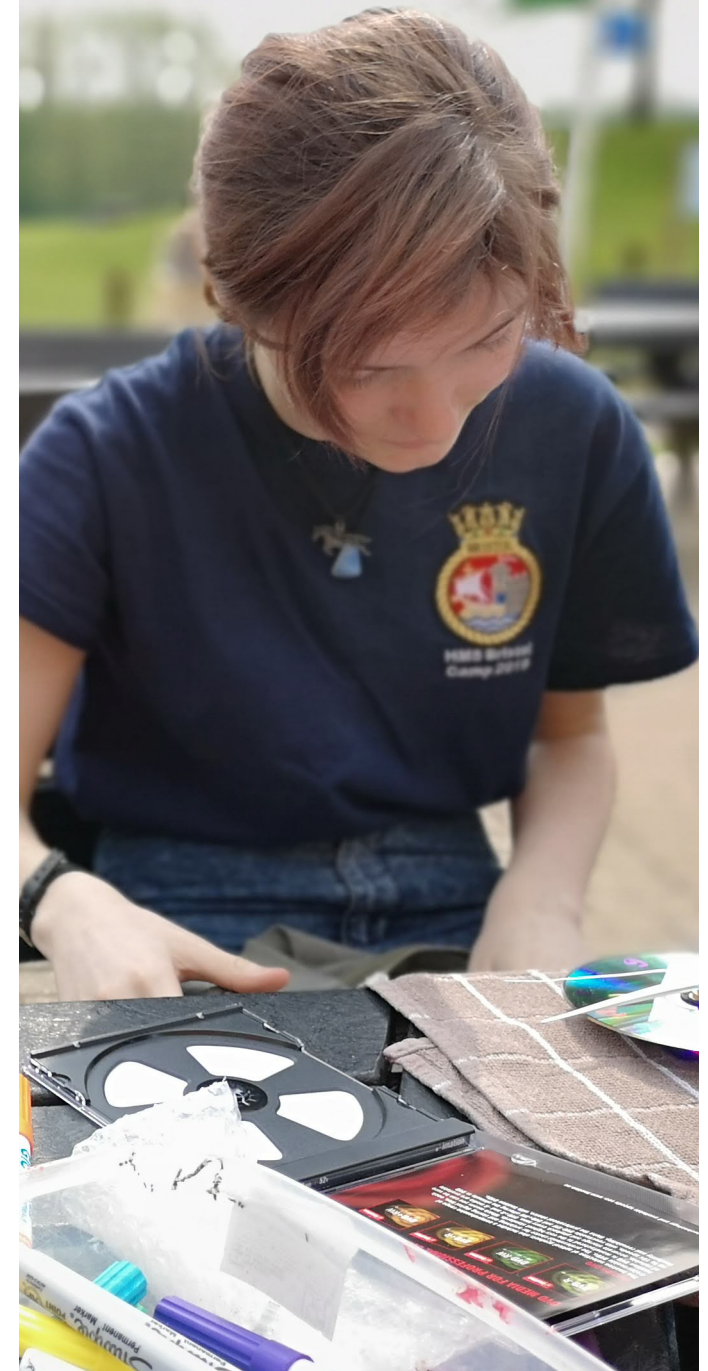
Paul Saxby- Individual Member



Thank You to our Funders

The Melton Learning Hub is extremely grateful to the following funding bodies who have helped and supported its work through the year:

- The Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Community Foundation.
- Transport Project - Leicestershire County Council
- Children in Need
- All three Melton Rotary Clubs: The Melton Club, Aurora & Belvoir Clubs
- National Lottery Community Fund
- Your Shire Community Grant
- Leicester Fire and Rescue Service
- The Rausing Foundation



Operational and Financial Statement

The Melton Learning Hub continues to operate a sound financial accounting system in accordance with its status as a charity (1139747)

Despite the ever-challenging financial climate that charities are facing, our Charity remains in a sustainable position. The focus of the Charity's financial position is to reduce the requirement for external funding and to ensure that all areas of operation are self-sustaining.

A copy of our year end accounts will be published on our website.

Kate Theobald

Finance Director

Bankers **HSBC Melton Mowbray**

Auditors **TC Accounts**
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Ilstock,
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LE67 6HF

