

CIC 36

Declarations on Formation of a Community Interest Company¹

<i>Please complete in typescript, or in bold black capitals.</i>	Company Name in full	The Joseph Cowen Lifelong Learning Centre	
			Community Interest Company
	SECTION A: COMMUNITY INTEREST STATEMENT – beneficiaries		
<p>We, the undersigned, declare that the company will carry on its activities for the benefit of the community, or a section of the community</p>			
<p>The company's activities will provide benefit to residents of North-East England who wish to pursue lifelong learning over a broad spectrum of subjects.</p>			

COMPANY NAME

The Joseph Cowen Lifelong Learning Centre

SECTION B: Community Interest Statement – Activities & Related Benefit

Please indicate how it is proposed that the company's activities will benefit the community, or a section of the community. Please provide as much detail as possible to enable the CIC Regulator to make an informed decision about whether your proposed company is eligible to become a community interest company. It would be useful if you were to explain how you think your company will be different from a commercial company providing similar services or products for individual or personal gain.

Activities (Tell us here what the company is being set up to do)	How will the activity benefit the community? (The community will benefit by...)
General: providing a programme of short courses, seminars, study groups and lectures, of varied content and style, accessible to those on modest incomes, in a companionable environment.	The Centre's aim is the enrichment of life. Though the programmes will be available to all adults, the majority are likely to be retired. For many people the most unwelcome aspect of retirement is the loss of mental activity and the sense of stagnation and isolation it can bring. Usually formal courses have a narrow focus, are expensive, and emphasise formal qualifications which for most are not relevant. Hundreds of people in our area have been benefitting from a distinctive Lifelong Learning programme under the aegis of Sunderland University; Government Higher Education Policy and funding now forces this support to cease. The Joseph Cowen Lifelong Learning Centre will benefit the community by offering a very similar programme at a comparable subscription, thus promoting personal fulfillment and the health benefits of continuing mental stimulus and achieving the retention of an award winning educational presence unique to the region.
Taking and continuing to take action to maintain contact with and between members, and to promote the Centre and its programme to residents of the north-east	<p>The relationships formed between students in the programme are one of its great benefits, and offer opportunities for learning from each other as well as from tutors. The Centre aims to maintain and promote this interaction, and will seek through feedback and ideas from all members to develop the Centre's community character as a new feature of the programme.</p> <p>An important feature of the planned programme is the offer of a choice of sessions morning afternoon and evening of every weekday at a cost comparable to courses offering one session a week, thereby giving many more opportunities for social interaction.</p>

<p>Acting to preserve the network of tutors who have offered courses and lectures through the University</p>	<p>The Centre will not only provide a means to preserve and extend the community of learners, but will also keep the tutors who have provided that learning in touch with the Lifelong Learners and with each other. This will be of professional benefit to them, and will also continue to enable much communication and co-operation between societies, interest organisations, and centres of learning across the NE region; which again enables members of the programme to extend their interests and social contacts and to make a contribution to the cultural life of the region.</p>
<p>To link the programme as much as possible to the culture, history, diversity and environment of the North-East region</p>	<p>This fosters a deeper understanding and appreciation of the region, both for long-term residents and those who have recently moved here. Courses based on an inter-action with the local environment involving fieldwork and visits give stimulus and opportunity for physical as well as intellectual activity, while benefitting the wider community by introducing new visitors to areas and activities, maybe widening membership and participation. This aspect of the programme also enables individual members with significant local awareness and connections to contribute to the development of the programme.</p>
<p>In support of our submission we would like to quote from two research reports:</p> <p>http://www.niace.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/policy/Niace%20Policy%20Report%2028pg.pdf</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Making a difference for adult learners</u> <u>NIACE policy impact report 2009</u> <u>Page 10</u></p> <p><u>Facts</u> England's population is ageing and this trend will increase rapidly over the next 20 years. In 2009 around 17.7 million people are aged 50 or over; by 2029 this will have increased to 22.9 million. Studies by the Institute of Employment Studies 3 show that investment in learning for older people can reduce the costs of medical and social care, and improve the quality of life for older people, their families and communities. For people aged between 50 and 71, being disabled or in poor health is a barrier to participation in learning. However, higher proportions of learners with disabilities or health problems reported various positive benefits of learning, compared to those in good health. The same study showed that 80 per cent of older learners reported a positive impact of learning on at least one of the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • their enjoyment of life; • their self-confidence; • how they felt about themselves; • satisfaction with other areas of life; • and their ability to cope. <p>Furthermore, it showed that 42 per cent of older learners reported an improvement in their ability to stand up and be heard and/or their willingness to take responsibility. Twenty-eight per cent reported an increased involvement in social, community and/or voluntary activities as a result of learning.</p>

<p>And also:</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/34671/12-1243-review-wider-benefits-of-adult-learning.pdf</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Review & update of research into the wider benefits of</u> <u>Adult Learning</u> <u>November 2012</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">“In a nutshell, adult learning has its greatest impacts in the domain of health and wellbeing; the impacts on civic participation and attitudes are less pronounced.</p> <p>Mental health and wellbeing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements in reported life satisfaction and happiness • Improvements in self-confidence (especially for formal learning) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o This is more than twice the impact of being employed • Improvements in own perceptions of self-worth • Reductions in self-reported depression • Increases in satisfaction with social life • Increases in satisfaction with use of one's leisure time <p>Physical health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reductions in the number of visits to a GP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o this is about one-seventh of the impact of being employed • Improvements in self-reported overall health satisfaction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o this is about half of the impact of being employed”
<p>If the company makes any surplus it will be used for...</p> <p>We hope to generate a surplus from trading. We expect that this will all be reinvested in the business. Such surplus would be used to extend the programme in various ways. In particular we aspire to:</p> <p>1) - be able to offer bursaries or other appropriate arrangements to enable participation by those unable to afford the standard subscription.</p> <p>2) - employ more staff: at first the Centre will be depending upon volunteer input for its administration, but as resources allow we hope to be in a position to employ relevant categories of paid staff to optimize administrative efficiency.</p> <p>3) - increase access and regional impact by increasing the number and location of venues</p>	

¹ This form will be placed on the public record. Any information relevant to the application that you do not wish to appear on the public record, should be described in a separate letter addressed to the CIC Regulator and delivered to the Registrar of Companies with the other documents.