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Leading learning and skills

# 'See it my way...'

Reflections of learner experience

Of interest to anyone working with learners,  
particularly within the FE sector.





## Do we really appreciate what a difference we can make to the many learners we work with?

Teachers, tutors, lecturers, managers, leaders—we all have the power to do things that can transform people's lives. And we can use our influence more wisely if we understand more about how learners themselves experience the world.

The short films on this CD-ROM were created by three different groups of learners reflecting on their experiences of learning to arrive at viewpoints you may not have heard before.

**Reflection 1: Sexual orientation** - A group of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender young people at the *Staying Out* project in Hackney, London

**Reflection 2: Mental health** - A group of adult learners with mental health issues, recruited through the *National Institute for Adult Continuing Education (NIACE)*

**Reflection 3: Visible difference** - A group of young people with visible differences, recruited through *Changing Faces*

These films deliver messages that are direct and compelling. They *do not* deliver rules and prescriptions or tell us what to do. They *do* ask us to think for ourselves, share ideas and, above all else, talk to the learners we work with. And they do raise fundamental questions that are relevant not just to these particular groups, but to all the many different learners we work with. With this in mind, we hope that 'See it my way...' will be useful to people working in all areas of the education system.





## Using the films

The short films on this CD-ROM are relevant to anyone who works with learners. When shown to a group, they can stimulate discussion and innovative thinking, which can in turn have a direct impact on practice. You may want to use them:

- As part of a larger training session, for example, around issues of equality and diversity
- As the starting point for a staff or management meeting
- As a way of engaging learners in talking about their needs and their responsibilities to other students

Here are some questions you might like to think about or use as part of a facilitated discussion of any one of the pieces.

- What does this film make you think and feel?
- What do you think makes a difference to the learners who made this film?
- Do you work with learners who belong to this group? (Do you actually know whether any given learner belongs to this group? Does it make any difference whether you know?)
- Think about your own role. What kind of difference can you make to this group of learners? Will that make a difference to other learners as well?
- What are you going to do as a result of seeing this film? What are you going to stop doing?





## Useful resources

This list is not exhaustive, but may provide a useful starting point for other resources relevant to each of the three multimedia films.

### Reflection 1 - Sexual orientation

#### Joint Action Against Homophobic Bullying

[www.intercomtrust.org.uk/youngpeople/youngpeople.htm](http://www.intercomtrust.org.uk/youngpeople/youngpeople.htm)

**School's Out** [www.schools-out.org.uk](http://www.schools-out.org.uk)

**Stonewall Education For All** [www.stonewall.org.uk/education\\_for\\_all](http://www.stonewall.org.uk/education_for_all)

**Stonewall Equal at School** [www.stonewall.org.uk/documents/chuj\\_equal\\_at\\_school.PDF](http://www.stonewall.org.uk/documents/chuj_equal_at_school.PDF)

**Queer Youth Alliance** [www.queeryouth.org.uk](http://www.queeryouth.org.uk)

**Mermaids: Family Support Group for Teenagers with Gender Identity Issues**

<http://www.mermaids.freeuk.com>

**Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (FFLAG)** [www.fflag.org.uk](http://www.fflag.org.uk)

**National Gay Switchboard** [www.ligs.org.uk](http://www.ligs.org.uk)

**Safer School Partnerships** [www.safer-school-partnerships.org](http://www.safer-school-partnerships.org)

**Childline** [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

**Kidscape** [www.kidscape.org.uk](http://www.kidscape.org.uk)

### Reflection 2 - Mental health

Mather, J. and Atkinson, S. (2003) *Learning Journeys: A handbook for tutors and managers in adult education working with people with mental health difficulties*, NIACE [www.niace.org.uk](http://www.niace.org.uk)

Further resources and information available from:

NIACE [www.niace.org.uk/research/HDE/Projects](http://www.niace.org.uk/research/HDE/Projects)

LSDA (Learning and Skills Development Agency) [www.lsda.org.uk](http://www.lsda.org.uk)

SKILL: National Bureau for Students with Disabilities [www.skill.org.uk](http://www.skill.org.uk)

### Reflection 3 - Visible difference

Changing Faces is a national charity based in the UK that supports and represents people who have disfigurements of the face or body from any cause [www.changingfaces.org.uk](http://www.changingfaces.org.uk)

#### Learner engagement

Learning and Skills Council (LSC) Learner Engagement Programme (LEP). For more information on the LEP, or obtain an *Unlocking learner motivation* CD-ROM, please contact the LSC publications enquiry line on 0870 900 6800.

Learning and Skills Council. The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We have a single goal: to improve the skills of England's young people and adults to make sure we have a workforce that is of world-class standards. For more information visit our web site at [www.lsc.gov.uk](http://www.lsc.gov.uk).

© LSC November 2005. Publication reference: LSC-P-NAT-050594. For more information about 'See it my way...,' please contact Kit Roberts, LSC National Director of Equality and Inclusive Learning at [Kit.roberts@lsc.gov.uk](mailto:Kit.roberts@lsc.gov.uk)

## Credits

The LSC would like to thank all of the learners who took part in the workshop process that led to the development of the multimedia films:

### Reflection 1 – Sexual

orientation: young people from the *Staying Out* project in Hackney, London. For more information, please contact 020 8533 2174

Reflection 2 – Mental health: adult learners enrolled on the *Mindlift* programme, Community Education Lewisham. For more information, please contact Jane Myers on 020 8690 9528

Reflection 3 – Visible difference: young people involved with *Changing Faces*. For more information, please contact Helen Smith on 0845 4500 275

The LSC would also like to thank SHM (020 7242 5504), who facilitated the workshops and developed the concepts for each Reflection in partnership with the learners, and Zone (020 7267 4774) who compiled the Reflections and designed the CD-ROM.

