



## **A quality standard for non-accredited learning**

**Charmian Walter**

**Swansea, 11 April 2005**

## **Development of County Durham Learning**

- **1999-2001: FEFC Non-Schedule 2 Project**  
**1999-2005: SEB5 Widening Participation Project**
- **2000: Passport to Learning and CDL Certificates**
- **2001-2002: Manual of Guidance and Good Practice/Quality Framework**
- **March 2002: Official Launch of County Durham Learning**
- **January 2003: First Quality Kitemarks awarded**



This is to certify that  
**Charmian Walter**  
has successfully completed a  
County Durham Learning Programme in  
**Italian**

at  
**Thornley Community  
Association**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ (Tutor)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Bishop Auckland College

## The CDL Quality Kitemark

- Questions to potential partners listed in Manual of Guidance and Good Practice
- Production of relevant evidence of good practice
- Regular monitoring, including observation of classes, discussion with learners and tutors
- A supportive process

## **The County Durham Learning Certificate**

- **Holders of the CDL Quality Kitemark award CDL certificates for learning activities not accredited by a formal awarding body**
- **Guidance to tutors on achievement**
- **Certification recorded on CDL database, and certificates not awarded returned to CDL**
- **‘Automatic’ Local LSC approval for all CDL Kitemarked learning activities**

## **GROWING THE POTENTIAL OF COUNTY DURHAM LEARNING**

**A mechanism through which all non-accredited  
learning activities could be directed?**

**Research sponsored by Local Initiative Development  
Fund in conjunction with County Durham Lifelong  
Learning Partnership and the Learning & Skills Council  
County Durham 2004**

**Dr Kath Smith  
Swansea, 11 April 2005**

## **Stage 1: Establishing the local learning picture**

- **The experience of learning in County Durham**
- **What is non-accredited learning?**
- **Appreciating its status and value**

## **Conclusions**

- **Non-accredited learning has a high value but largely unappreciated**
- **Picture is changing with an increased willingness to work together and increase knowledge**
- **CDL is an innovative approach to re-engaging fragile learners**

## **Stage 2: Identifying feasibility**

- **Putting the learner at the heart of provision**
- **CDL in relation to: other learning initiatives, Learning & Skills Council, County Durham Economic Partnership**
- **Sustaining systems and structures**
- **Conclusion: Yes it's feasible!**

### **Stage 3: Identifying a model**

- **Reputation for quality (Quality Kitemark)**
- **Maintaining a rigorous quality assurance capability**
- **Not involved in provision**
- **Fully cross discipline**
- **Centre of Excellence for good practice**

## **Aspirations**

- **A curriculum for non-accredited learning**
- **Tutor bank service**
- **Course finder/matching service**
- **Strong support mechanisms for tutors and learners**
- **Securely structured and funded in the long term**