

## Learning in Lockdown | Episode 5

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### **Adult Education in Gloucestershire**

Gloucestershire County Council supports people in the community to help them progress from lower levels to accredited level education. During lockdown they have been offering English and maths, general community learning courses such as cookery, employability, computing qualifications, apprenticeships and education and training qualifications.

#### **How have adult community learning learners coped with lockdown?**

It is a challenge, but it has given some learners an opportunity and a focus. It gives them something to concentrate on that is not COVID. Some learners, though, are struggling, many have childcare issues, but they are enjoying the learning opportunities that they have. Many are being inspired by their learning. For example, the council has been able to supply cookery equipment to learners who need it so their cookery classes can continue online and people can continue to build the basic skills they need.

The lack of access to IT though, means not every learner is fully set up to access learning and it has disadvantaged some learners. The council has worked with partners to provide equipment where they can.

There has been a step change in levels of digital literacy. A year ago people were dropping out on course that moved online due to access issues, but people have since moved their digital mindset and have started accessing education more online. There has also been a big spike in learners wanting to do IT qualifications as there is a desire to be more focused and improve the credentials on their C.V.

#### **Top Tips**

- Providers should reassess their delivery models, the council has shown that many varied courses can be offered flexibly.
- Try and minimise the administrative burden on tutors.
- Use the resources that are already available.