

Learner Voice Training

AONTAS, The National Adult Learning Organisation

AONTAS has been working with staff and learners in Education and Training Boards (ETBs) across Ireland to develop Learner Voice as a process that is embedded in Further Education and Training (FET). To achieve this, we offer training for both staff and learners. Please visit the AONTAS website if you are interested in [Learner Voice Training for staff](#).

Each session is tailored to suit the specific needs of the learners. If there is a topic you would like covered that is not listed below, please let us know. Training is typically offered in person and can accommodate up to 25 learners.

Included in each session:

- Opportunity for learners to get to know each other through interactive group exercises
- Introduction to Learner Voice theory
- Short break

If you are interested in the booking training or would like to learn more, please get in touch with Ruby at rcooney@aontas.com

All Learner Voice training for learners and staff is free of cost

Committee Skills - 2.5 hours

The 'Committee Skills' session is ideal for a recently formed Learner Council or an established Learner Voice Council that needs a refresher on how to run effective and efficient meetings. Participants will explore the different kinds of decision-making processes and develop their communication skills including tips on planning and time management.

The session has a practical focus with two clear aims for learners:

- To develop a clearer understanding of how an efficient Learner Council functions
- To equip learners with the practical knowledge, tools and resources to run their own Learner Council meetings



“Learners said they liked the “active listening and the friendly atmosphere”, “listening to other people’s experiences”, “learning about the different roles in a meeting” and the group exercises.”

Your Story, Your Voice, – 2.5 hours

The 'Your Story, Your Voice' session is ideal for learners who are passionate about adult education and looking to use their experiences to inspire others to engage in learning. The session is a supportive and respectful environment for learners to gain confidence and practise telling their stories.

Cathy Clear from Laois and Offaly Education and Training Board attended this training and now shares her experience of learning to read and write, encouraging others to do the same. Watch Cathy talk about her experience of [returning to education here.](#)

Understanding Advocacy – 2.5 hours

In the 'Understanding Advocacy' session, learners are introduced to the concept of Learner Voice and advocacy. The sessions focus on building confidence with learners to advocate for themselves and become active participants in their educational journey. Themes covered in this session include recognising what is important to us as people and identifying our own strengths as advocates.

Making Change Happen– 2.5 hours

'Making Changes' is the perfect session for learners who are part of a Learner Voices group and wish to identify key issues to address and plan next steps together to improve adult learning in their setting. If requested, this session can be tailored as a consultation facilitated by the AONTAS team with the Learner Council to discuss a chosen issue/topic by the ETB.



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