



## **Announcement of New Project: Learning, wellbeing and older people**

The Association for Education and Ageing (AEA) has been awarded a grant of £9,600 from the National Lottery Community Fund for a project entitled “Learning, wellbeing and older people”. The project will run from December 2019 to December 2020.

AEA has been active for over 30 years and is a membership organisation concerned with the learning of older people - for its own sake and also to help them to adapt as they grow older. It has had three main areas of activity: 1) promoting research 2) encouraging developments in teaching and learning methods 3) advocating improved national and local policies. “Older people” are loosely defined as 50 years and over

AEA has worked mainly with academics, researchers, teachers and providers of older adult education and policy-makers and policy-influencers. Through this new Project, AEA will seek to develop its areas of activity and to explore how it can engage more effectively with older people and older learners.

During the project we shall focus on older people and i) memory ii) well-being and iii) internet-based and digital learning. We shall:

- a) organise, plan, promote, run and evaluate two pilot national workshops concerned, respectively, with memory in later life and well-being in later life. The rationale for these pilot workshops is that we want to find out how to target and provide such workshops for older people successfully so that AEA will have a format that can be used in the years ahead. We shall actively seek and use feedback from older participants in the workshops to do so
- b) produce a guide aimed at older people (in both print and on-line learning format) on how to learn effectively on-line. Both formats will be trialled and tested with older people during the project.
- c) revise and extend the AEA website so that it is more user-friendly particularly for older people. We shall need to construct several new

web pages, specifically for this project and for use by older people.  
(<http://www.associationforeducationandageing.org>)

Great store will be placed on involvement and feedback at all stages from both AEA members and older people who participate. After the project, and the evaluation of project activities, AEA will disseminate project outcomes through feedback workshops, its publications, its Annual Conference, on-line reports and, above all, in its future activities with older people.

Enquiries: Prof Keith Percy [kozmapercy@gmail.com](mailto:kozmapercy@gmail.com)

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