



## ***i*PAC - Individual Profile in Active Citizenship**

The individual Profile In Active Citizenship, a City & Guilds Award - A personal journey for self development and achievement. Great for engaging people in communities and can provide a framework for broader learning and development.

**Units & Choices** (\* are mandatory for the full award)

How Does it work?

The profile is divided into five themes, and each theme contains a number of units relating to it. They are grouped as follows:

### **Theme 1**

*Your community (all in this section are mandatory for the full award)*

- \* your community - past and present*
- \* your community - your experience*
- \* thinking about change - recognising challenges*
- \* discovering themes and groups*

### **Theme 2**

*Taking up a challenge*

- \* public health*
- \* community safety and security*
- \* improving the environment*
- \* learning, education and employment*
- \* encouraging sustainability*
- \* live the action (local initiative)*
- \* navigating through the challenge\**
- \* communicating effectively\**

### **Theme 3**

*Celebrating difference*

- \* bridging the gap between generations*
- \* respecting diversity, beliefs and cultures*
- \* disability and society*
- \* exploring alternative lifestyles*

### **Theme 4**

*Participating in a responsible society*

- \* discovering the decision makers*
- \* participating in organisations*
- \* understanding local governance*
- \* developing co-operation and trust*

### **Theme 5**

*Heart and mind decisions*

- \* rights and responsibilities*
- \* extending social inclusion*
- \* building better relationships*
- \* making a difference*

Learners choose up to 10 units from across the themes and are guided through their choices and their journey by a tutor or mentor.



## **Learner Benefits**

Learning to take an active role in society means developing a positive and practical vision based on the values and principles of an Active Citizenship. Learners gain confidence by being encouraged to explore different actions about taking part while placing the person right at the centre of their journey and making choices through prioritising their interest.

Benefits to the learner are their greater awareness about rights and responsibilities and growing in a positive learning environment where personal development is motivational, inspired and empowers the individual into taking action.

Quality training and development ensures knowledge and understanding is designed into the programme, ensuring new skills and practical applications are beneficial. The iPAC is based on a supportive mentoring and review process using a distance travelled method to record progress. The method provides for individual need and develops their progressive involvement to overcome barriers through applying practical solutions.

Active Citizenship - is about people having their say, being involved, making things happen and taking part in making the decisions. The iPAC is a structured learning and development provision where the individual benefits from a better understand, participation and reflects upon their journey:

- (a) using their imagination to consider other people's experiences and opinions.
- (b) being able to think about, express, explain and critically evaluate others views.
- (c) negotiating, deciding and taking some responsibility in community-based activities.
- (d) understanding the relevance and effects of the process of participating.
- (e) recording their journey outcome and identifying their distance travelled.

Learners can:

- (a) Develop their skills: listening; speaking, representing views of others; negotiating; decision-making, taking pride in what is planned for the future and being effective.
- (b) Have opportunities to voice opinions and have their opinions taken into account.
- (C) Understand how the decisions are made and how they can contribute to them.
- (D) Recognise they are taken seriously, resulting in self-confidence and self-esteem.
- (E) Improve relationships and become more responsibly about politics and democracy.
- (F) Respond to meeting their prioritised needs by understanding the local governance.

Additional benefits:-

- (1) People gain confidence and behaviour skills through engaging in the activities.
- (2) Learning becomes a shared activity, not one controlled by teachers or authorities.



(3) The individual takes on more responsibility for their learning and development.

(4) Recognition of individual achievement is awarded by a major leading body.

iPAC – Individual Profile in Active Citizenship

Community Benefits:-

Interaction with neighbours and work colleagues improves community relationships.

The learning experience engages people into thinking about their communities and the environment that affect their lives.

Academy Schools and voluntary groups can include an Active Citizenship programme as part of improving behaviour and attendance, recognising people may have different priorities.

People better understand their neighbourhoods and how negotiating can help resolve disputes, improve local relationships and bring about a more inclusive, calmer and caring environment.

Taking part encourages improved behaviour and attendance to finding solutions.

The community becomes a more inclusive and caring environment.

People will contribute to exploring options on health, wellbeing, crime reduction, social and public services and other issues by considering the effects of a democratic community.

Regeneration and consultations are not seen as bricks and mortar but are people focused, taking in the opinions as the community defines the engagement of an active citizenship.

All the members of the geographical, thematic or interest based community are seen as having an important part to play as active citizens in deciding on service progression.

Knowledge and skills enhances opportunities for creating new social enterprises through talking about ideas and by meeting with community members and other active citizens.

The iPAC is able to develop active citizens to become specialists in different subject areas, where their collective knowledge and experience adds qualities into their community life.

Groups in the community can experience shared activities with other groups through a respected agenda of beneficial events based on recognising local people taking part.

Citizens taking part in effective local governance has a positive impact on the atmosphere of a community. Benefit comes about if the representation is not controlled, or symbolic or manipulated but is driven by listening and engaging the local people in the community.

Beneficial progression options are built into the iPAC

Progression options are built into the iPAC to produce a new opportunity to build community based mentors, rather like a peer mediator who after receiving adequate training is able to feel confident about inspiring others to take part in local governance. This multiplier effect based on valuing recognition is a



feature of the IPAC that should not be underestimated in how it can turn the taking part into a motivator of positive collective community action.

National and international levels of active citizenship learning

IPAC gives scope for national and international levels of active citizenship learning, including to experience democracy at work. Lobby Parliament over important issues. Meet and share ideas on different cultures or arrange international visits, for example if people from different countries work together on a common task like building a school in an African community.

One most enthusiastic example of local, national and international active citizenship is the PrideGames, in Manchester, where the community sports and leisure initiative is inspired through volunteers to produce a world class event.

The Proud City team authored the iPAC and is best placed to help prepare you for delivery, or deliver it for you. If your organisation lacks City & Guilds accredited centre status, then you can apply to become a Proud City Satellite Centre by request.

To arrange a meeting or for more information about what Proud City can offer, please ring Mike Felse on 07941 384 987 or leave a message for us at 0161 872 1990

You can also use the contact us facility on our web site [www.proudcity.org](http://www.proudcity.org)