



iPAC (Individual Profile in Active Citizenship)

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 in self-confidence by being encouraged to explore different ways of taking part, with them at the centre of the journey, enabling them to make more informed choices in line with their interests in a mutually supportive environment and playing an active role in assessment. The iPAC process is based on a supportive mentoring and review process using the distance travelled method to record progress towards your agreed goals. This provides a personally profiled way of meeting individual learning needs, overcoming social barriers and in discovering solutions.

City & Guilds quality assured training and development ensures that learner knowledge and understanding is appropriately designed into the programme, presenting skills and practical applications as beneficial.

The Individual Profile in Active Citizenship is about individuals

- becoming more socially responsible
- preparing for meaningful retirement
- having their say with knowledge and confidence
- being involved as part of a developing community
- making things happen in line with their beliefs
- taking part in decision making that reflects the diversity within neighbourhoods

The iPAC is a structured learning and development provision where benefits also include soft skills like better understanding, action learning, participation and reflection on their journey:

1. using their imagination to consider other people's experiences and opinions
2. being able to think about, express, explain and critically evaluate others views
3. negotiating, deciding and taking some responsibility in community-based activities
4. understanding the relevance and effects of the process of participating
5. recording their journey outcome and identifying their distance travelled

In terms of National Curriculum Skills for England these outcomes should place the iPAC award at Key Stage level 4, for students, providing a City & Guilds certificate able to add value to the student portfolio. Adult learners will find the action learning challenges able to meet their own development needs while introducing all learners to the array of 500 opportunities in the City & Guilds vocational portfolio as learner progression routes. Careful authoring of the iPAC has brought connectivity between generations, addressing issues of diversity, inclusion, cohesion and mutual ownership of decision making in ways no other society award is able to produce.

Learners can

1. develop their skills: listening; speaking; representing views of others; negotiating; decision-making; taking pride in what is planned for the future and being effective
2. have opportunities to voice opinions and have their opinions taken into account
3. understand how the decisions are made and how they can contribute
4. recognise when they are taken seriously, resulting in self-confidence and self-esteem
5. improve relationships and become more responsible about politics and democracy
6. 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 others
3. the individual takes on more responsibility for their learning and development
4. the individual experience group discussion and mutual support networks
5. recognition of individual achievement is recognised by a major accreditation body
6. citizens become more aware and understanding about respect and empowerment

Community Benefits

1. improved community relationships
2. empowered people for informed decisions
3. greater understanding for social
4. improved behaviour
5. a confidence to engage with public service development
6. a readiness for meaningful consultation
7. visible valuable roles for citizens
8. enables social entrepreneurs
9. shared learning and activity
10. managing expectations
11. effective local governance

Beneficial progression

Progression options are built into the iPAC to produce the 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 valued recognition is a feature of the iPAC that should not be underestimated in how it can turn the taking part elements into the motivator for positive collective community action.

National and international levels of active citizenship

iPAC gives scope for national and international levels of active citizenship learning, including to experience democracy at work like lobbying parliament over important issues, sharing ideas on different cultures or join an international visit, for example where active citizens from different countries work together on a common task, such as health awareness.

An enthusiastic example of active citizenship in action is the PrideGames based in Manchester, where the amateur sporting and leisure initiative inspires the wider community, having grown from a small sports event to an international magnet for community based ownership and producing a volunteer legacy able to deliver high quality events. Pride Games volunteers assisted Proud City Co-operative to develop, structure and author the City & Guilds iPAC award.