# Alan’s Transcript

I started community-based adult learning because I’d been volunteering with the local community network and for my sins they voted me as chairman. I had no idea about community activism. I've done activism for the LGBT community, but when it comes to community activism, I had no idea. And Station House Media Unit (SHMU), where I volunteered for their radio and their magazines, offered a course that was facilitated by Lead Scotland, that was a community activist award. There was a serendipity to it, that this is the right thing to do.

The first piece of learning that I did was at Station House Media Unit. There were three of us that got together with the facilitator once a week to go through the Community Activist Leadership Award. I did a second piece of learning at home and was supported over the internet on a zoom call. When I started it, I was a bit nervous. I'm not a traditional learner and I learned that only about 15 years ago, that I can read a book and not take anything in. I need to learn in a specific way, and I didn't do very well at school because of this. So, I was really nervous to start with and had resisted all efforts at doing any kind of further education, really.

When I finished the community activist award, it really felt like I'd achieved something. I'd enjoyed the process. I'd enjoyed the conversations that we’d had at the weekly meetings.

At the end of it, it really was like I'd conquered a fear of doing any kind of educational activity, really. I think the only barriers I've faced were in my head. I was supported both by the station House Media Unit and Lead Scotland in this learning and it was very much tailored to the way that I learned and what I wanted to do.

As an organistion, Lead Scotland was just fantastic in the support and the help that they gave me to get through not only this, but, a further two courses as well. The learning’s given me a lot more confidence in the fact that I can learn things. I just can't do it in the traditional way.

The impact for the future will see me moving to somewhere warmer than Aberdeen to teach English. I did a TEFL course, a teaching English as a foreign language course and it's given me a future and as much as I love Aberdeen it's too cold for me and the aches and pains that I'm getting actually go away when I'm somewhere that's a bit warmer than the North East of Scotland. So, the impact for me has been life changing. If you're thinking about doing community-based adult learning, I would just say do it. All of the worries that I had literally went away within the first fifteen minutes of walking into that room.

And I walked out of it a more confident person with a plan for the future.