Richmond upon Thames
Children and Young People's Trust

wishes

Learning together, creating opportunity

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Wishes is an intensive programme to support parents who lack a Level 2 qualification to address their learning needs, to obtain qualifications and to move into employment. *Wishes* has been designed to be responsive to individual learning needs and aspirations and to be capable of engaging and supporting those who are most in need.

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Wishes launched in Richmond upon Thames in 2009/10.

Before this, *Wishes* won two awards, from Adult Learners Week, in 2007, for *outstanding innovation, creativity and commitment to learning* and from ESF/LSC in the East of England, for *helping adults to develop life-changing skills.*

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Why?

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4,345 children in Richmond are living in poverty

60% are aged between 0-10

75% are in families with no-one in employment

74% are in lone parent families

In some LSOAS, 40% - 45% children are poor

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Investing in families

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Poor basic skills are a major factor in intergenerational poverty: low education levels in parents affect their children's development and progress, yet adults on limited incomes have the lowest participation rates in post-compulsory education.

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Wishes participants

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57 parents

90% are unemployed
63% are lone parents
25% have disabilities or chronic health problems
33% have children with special educational needs
A significant number are in families with multiple needs

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Profiles

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- Ill-health or disabilities (17 learners, 20 children)
- Poor basic skills (19 have no qualification)
- Low income (43 – under £15k per anum)
- Workless-ness (40 learners)
- Family problems
- Domestic violence
- Prison
- Depression
- Low self esteem
- Alcohol or drug problems

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Wishes

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- Nurse
- Business admin.
- Photographer
- Hairdresser
- Cake Maker
- Gardener
- Counsellor

- Teacher
- Caterer
- Police service
- Lorry driver
- Child-carer
- Teacher of English
- Learning Needs TA

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Every Learner

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In-depth interview

A learning Plan

Skills check

Mentoring

Help with childcare and other needs

Passport

Regular reviews

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The offer

Taster courses
Help with literacy and numeracy
Full accredited courses
Financial health check
Information, advice and guidance
Family support
Outings
Social events and newsletter
Job preparation

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Outcomes

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- Family Links parenting course
- Set up a toddler group at her local church
- Joined a parents forum
- Co-facilitating a parenting course
- Childcare course
- Homestart volunteer
- Digital photography L1 and 2

- NVQ 3 Catering
- Counselling Level 2
- NVQ 2 Supporting teaching & learning in schools
- Certificate in English Language Teaching
- ESOL Level 1 and 2
- Beginners TEFL
- Level 1 Literacy
- work

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Who is involved?

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- Children's centres
- Childcare settings
- Schools
- Voluntary organisations
- Libraries
- Jobcentre Plus
- Health
- Adult training providers
- Family Learning providers and tutors
- Education Welfare
- Richmond Adult College
- Homestart
- Stay & Play Plus childminders
- Family Information Service

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Additional Outcomes

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- Improved English or Maths
- Confidence
- Motivation
- Sociability
- Raised Self Esteem
- Optimism
- Able to help children more
- Fitter and healthier
- Can plan better
- Improved appearance

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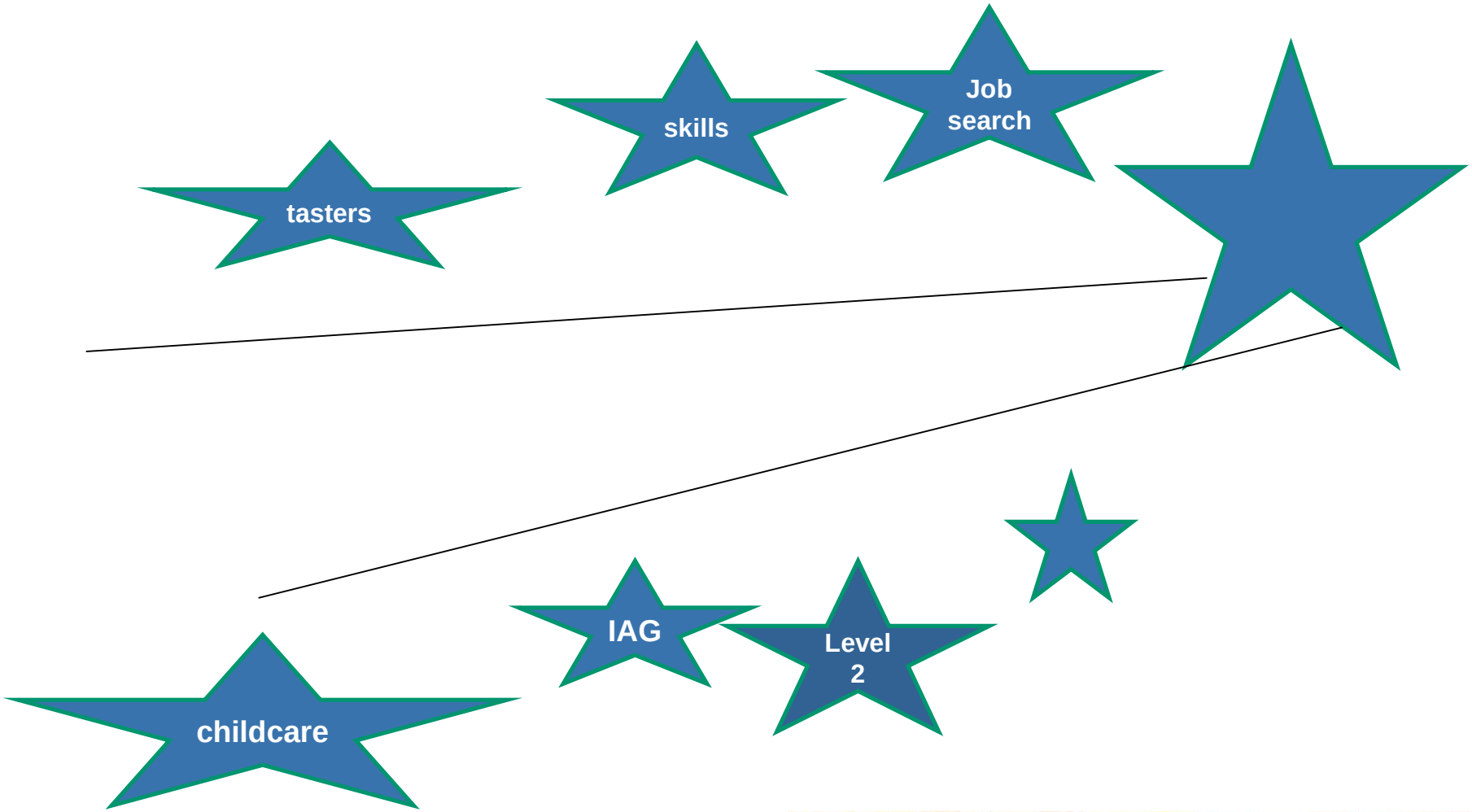
tasters
skills
Job search
childcare
IAG
Level 2