
FINANCIAL EDUCATION IN THE UK: A REVIEW OF PROGRAMMES AND THEIR EFFECTIVENESS

JANET HILL

**Head of Planning and Saving for Retirement Policy
UK Department for Work and Pensions**

21 July 2005

Scope of UK literature review

- Financial education programmes providing general basis of knowledge and skill:
 - in schools (to age 16) - in the 'classroom'
 - for adults -
 - community level
 - workplace
 - students (post age 16)
- Excluded financial advice and information

Background

- Since late 1990's – a positive response in UK to:
 - Examine financial education in school curricula
 - Increase innovation in tools and resources
 - Recognise financial education as an adult basic skills need
 - Recognise that a more strategic approach is needed

UK education is devolved: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland



UK total population c. 60m

England

21,171 schools, 7.5m pupils*

Wales

1,815 schools, 0.49m pupils*

Northern Ireland

1,144 schools, 0.32m pupils*

Scotland

2,634 schools, 0.72m pupils*

*figures rounded

Financial education in schools



England

- **Non-statutory - can be taught as part of personal and social studies, citizenship, mathematics or other subjects**

Wales

- **Non-statutory - can be taught as part of personal and social studies or mathematics**

Northern Ireland

- **Non-statutory - can be taught through mathematics and home economics**

Scotland

- **Non-statutory - can be taught through a range of subjects across the curriculum**

Schools - examples of good practice

- Lessons learned from 'Excellence and Access' in schools (pfeg)
- Tailoring financial education lessons
- Making the subject attractive to young people – see attached video clip

Picture today - adults

Type	Audience
Adult and community learning	Focus on basic skills and the disadvantaged
Web based	General population
In the workplace	Employees
Post compulsory education	Students age 16 and over

Working in partnership

- Key characteristic is partnership working
- Example – the Adult Financial Capability Framework
- UK Financial Capability Strategy

Examples of investment

Sponsor	Programme Type	Investment £	Period
Capital City Partnership, Scotland	Small project to improve social exclusion in Edinburgh	£150,000	Over 3 years
Royal Bank of Scotland	'Face to Face' programme in schools	£1.2m a year	To expand existing programme from 2004

Challenges facing the UK

- Teacher/tutor competence and competing timetable pressures in schools
- Not routinely assessed in school inspections
- Coverage for 'capable' adults limited
- Coverage on pensions uneven
- Effectiveness not measured systematically

Addressing the challenges

- Partnership to create 'step change' in schools
- Partnership to address retirement planning education, information and advice
- Looking at incorporating financial education more explicitly in mathematics
- FSA financial capability survey to capture improvement over time

Policy implications

- Promote best practice – children and adults
- Teach the basics in compulsory education
- Importance of partnerships

Financial Education in the UK

Thank You

**Our published report will be released by
the 15th August at: www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/**

Janet Hill

Contact details:

Tel: +44 (0)20 771 22036

E-mail: janet.hill@dwp.gsi.gov.uk