

**Health and Literacy: Constructing Curriculum for Health-Care Providers
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Jan has worked in adult and community education for 30 years in a wide variety of settings, including the voluntary sector, workplace and trade union learning, community education and tutor training. She has a commitment to widening participation. Her main interest and experience are in the field of Return to Learn and Skills for Life. Before coming to [NIACE](#), she was a Lifelong Learning Planning Officer for a Local Education Authority and an adult and community learning manager with a Learning Partnership. She also worked with the National Health Services University (NHSU) as Learning Co-ordinator for South Yorkshire, leading the Skills for Life initiative for a large region.

Jan has extensive experience in the health and social care sector. Currently she is working with the “[Skilled for Health](#)” (health literacy) initiative to develop a handbook for literacy, language and numeracy practitioners and is working in the NE of England on a regional sustainability strategy for health literacy. She has also supported [Skills for Health](#) (the sector skills council for health) to develop their [Literacy, Language and Numeracy website](#).

She has worked with the Department of Health’s Widening Participation Unit to identify good practice in widening participation in learning for NHS staff with the greatest skills needs. She supported a Workforce Development Confederation to enable 18 trusts to develop a Skills for Life action plan that included a template, staff support, and training in awareness raising. This work was showcased in a Department of Education and Skills for Life Employer Toolkit.

Other experience includes: work with mental health service users to influence access to learning, an evaluation of work-based learning for support staff at Oxford Radcliffe NHS Trust, a major university teaching hospital; and a needs assessment for the Education Department at Ashworth Hospital, Mersey Care NHS Trust.

Jan completed a research degree and trained in the early 1970s as a town planner before starting her career in adult learning.