

# “Life changing things happen”

How residential adult education transforms learning and lives

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“Our specialism is our students”

Social justice

Equality, diversity and Inclusion

Transformation

Changes lives and communities

# Theme one: The residential experience and the value of place/space/community

*“The tutors here and their services and support networks are outstanding, no words, there are no words to describe this place really, other than it’s a safe haven, a sanctuary for your education, for your health, for your mental health....”*

## Theme two: Pastoral/tailored support and the learning and academic experience

*“And they’re watching out for things, if you’re here all the time, they know you, they get to know you more I think, so ... if you’re having an off day, they know, and they’re prepared for it then....they get to know you so much better. And I mean because you’re here all the time, you get to know the catering staff, the cleaning staff, and they all work together, so they know, they’ll come and talk to you and they all pass information between themselves.”*

# Theme three: Andragogy and critical thinking – transformative learning

*“my understanding of politics, economics, has changed massively how that impacts on myself as a person, that impacts on the world around me. Those kind of nuts and bolts things that you learn in class, I’ve taken a lot of them to heart, looking at race, ethnicity, sex and gender studies, you know, what it means to be a man or masculine or feminine or how I was brought up in a really working class background with loads of problems and you know in part why that was, and why that was passed on to me, that second generational socialisation process of keeping me you know chained down, then coming here and trying to break free from it”*

# Impact of transformative learning in residential adult education

Transformative learning is “supercharged” within a residential setting

Calleja (2014:119), the transformative learning that happens in residential colleges “shapes people, they are different afterwards in ways both they and others can recognise”.

Residential adult education and transformational learning gives people choices and opportunities. It provides hope and builds pride and ambition.

# Question and discussion

“Our report concludes that the unique role of the residential colleges in providing second-chance educational opportunities for the most vulnerable in society should be recognised as a vital contribution to the community.”

In the current educational landscape and context how do this most effectively?

# Further reading

- Mezirow, J., (1991) Transformative Dimensions of Adult Learning, San Francisco Jossey- Bass
- 2. Mezirow, J., (1997) Transformative Learning: Theory to Practice in New Directions for Adult and Continuing education, no 74 Jossey-Bass
- 3. Holford, J. and Clancy, S (2017) Life-changing things happen” - How residential adult education transforms learning and lives, University of Nottingham
- 4. Lenehan, M. (2017) Residential Adult Education: Transforming the lives of educationally, socially and economically disadvantaged adults. Paper presented to SCTREA conference in July 2017.
- 5. Honneth, A. (1995) The Struggle for Recognition: The moral grammar of social conflicts. Cambridge: Polity Press