

# WEA: a provider's view

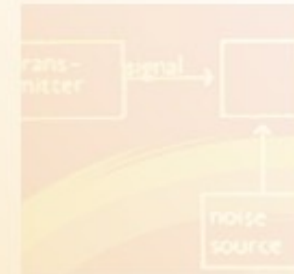
Margaret Todd

Eastern Region

Learning for Life

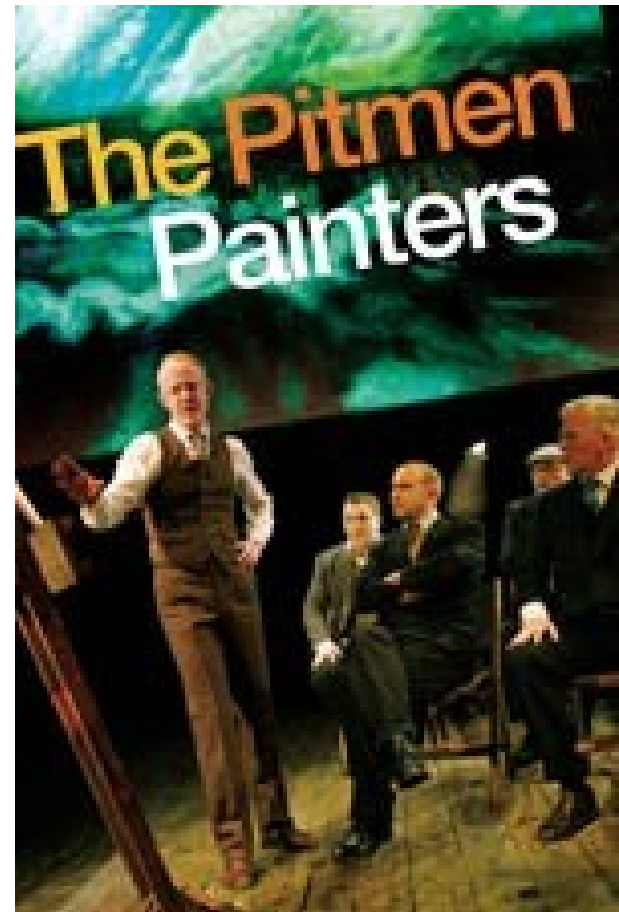
# Workers' Educational Association

- national charity
- voluntary organisation
- founded in 1903 by the trade union and labour movements
- to ... "offer university level education to working people"
- now nationally funded as further education
- SDI



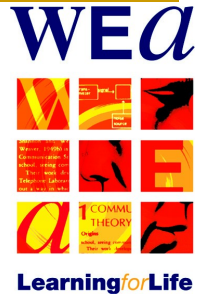
# WEA

- 1930s WEA art class in Ashington, Northumberland
- Play by Lee Hall at the National Theatre



- 1980s: worked with UNISON to create free courses for members
  - 1995: growth of support within public sector for lifelong learning
  - 1999: Moser Report began the focus on Skills for Life
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# Providers



- constant changes to funding and frameworks
  - ‘professional’ tutors
  - relate to learners’ apprehension
  - employers’ needs and priorities
  - resources
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# Employers

- commitment to Lifelong Learning
  - resources –
    - front line staff
    - management time
  - directly employed staff/contractors
  - stability
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# Union



- union partner provides communication with staff
  - support to keep the focus on the learner's needs
  - development of expertise through Union Learning reps
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# Success

- establish partnerships
- champion within management
- support by union(s)
- lifelong learning
- keeping a focus on the needs of the learner



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