4 Professional learning and development

The term Professional Learning and Development (PLD) is used, in a volunteering context, as it emphasises that teaching English and supporting language learning are professional skills that should be developed and nurtured.

The aim of PLD is that volunteers are suitably prepared for their role in working with adult learners, including vulnerable learners.

Teaching ESOL is a changing environment and skills and knowledge need to be updated and refreshed on an ongoing basis.

"Alan is a very competent and calm volunteer tutor. He is always prepared and tries to make the classes interesting."

– Learne

Good practice goals and challenge questions

	Good practice goals	Score*	Challenge questions
1	Volunteers are supported to keep a PLD plan and set personal learning goals to encourage reflective practice.		 How well do we support volunteers to identify and set their own learning goals?
2	Through consultation with volunteers, organisations provide resources to support PLD through in-house training; external training; independent study; peer observation; practice sharing with peers.		 How do we know if the PLD opportunities we offer build the confidence, knowledge and skill of volunteers in supporting our learners?
3	Partnerships or projects within local or wider areas work together to provide volunteer training opportunities or practice-sharing sessions.		 How well do we work with other volunteer projects in our local and wider area to support volunteer PLD?
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* Score your organisation on each good practice goal:

1= We are satisfied with this | 2= Let's consider a change | 3 = Let's make a change