

Case Study

ASLEF Embraces the Digital Divide

Union: ASLEF

Location: Glasgow

Attendees: 11

Funding: Learning Fund

The skills required of train drivers are changing, due to advances in new technology within the rail industry. Employers are planning to introduce electronic communication systems, and drivers will be expected to operate hand-held IT devices. This is a massive undertaking in an industry with an ageing workforce, with many drivers requiring training in these new skills. Although employers will provide job-specific training, ASLEF identified the need to equip train drivers with the confidence and skills to deal with the new technology, and that some workers may, first of all, need to gain basic IT and digital skills.

Through the Learning Fund from Scottish Union Learning, the union has taken the first steps in addressing these Everyday Skills needs by organising Digital Deficit courses. The first course was delivered in Glasgow by Glasgow Clyde College for 11 learners. In partnership with ASLEF, ScotRail agreed to pay those attending the course through arrangements under the 'Earn as You Learn' model of workplace learning. The course focused on providing drivers with experience of working with tablets, and explored issues such as online safety and security, the legalities of Social Media use, particularly within the workplace, and relevant documents and apps for rail fares and train times.



Feedback from the learners suggests that it is essential that ASLEF provides learning for members who may be apprehensive in using the new technology. As a result, further courses are being delivered throughout Scotland.

For further information and to sign up for future courses, contact an ASLEF Union Learning Rep or Alan Reid, ASLEF Education Project Worker, on 07706 551 258.

