

Cabinet Member (Education)

16th July 2013

Name of Cabinet Member: Councillor D Kershaw

Director Approving Submission of the report: Director of Community Services

Ward(s) affected: All

Title: Adult Education Service 3 Year Strategic Development Plan 2013-2016

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary:

The Adult Education Service (AES) delivers accredited and non-accredited learning opportunities to adults in a wide range of venues across Coventry, with a particular focus on working in priority neighbourhoods and supporting learners who have not yet achieved a first level two qualification. The AES strategic development plan includes the key actions for the Service to undertake over a three year period to improve its performance and delivery. The improvements are required to ensure that AES continues to meet learner expectations as well as the requirements of Ofsted and to support it in meeting funding body targets and its on-going sustainability.

Recommendations:

The Cabinet Member is recommended to approve the Adult Education Service 3 year Strategic Development Plan for 2013-2016.

List of Appendices included:

Appendix: 3 Year Strategic Development Plan 2013-2016

Other useful documents:

Document: Common inspection framework for further education and skills 2012 - September 2012
Location (URL): <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/common-inspection-framework-for-further-education-and-skills-2012>

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

No

Report title: Adult Education Service 3 Year Strategic Development Plan 2013-2016

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1 The Adult Education Service (AES) delivers accredited and non-accredited learning opportunities to adults in a wide range of venues across Coventry, with a particular focus on working in priority neighbourhoods and supporting learners who have not yet achieved a first level two qualification. In order to ensure that AES continues to meet learner expectations as well as the requirements of Ofsted, and to support it in meeting funding body targets and its on-going sustainability the Service needs to have an improvement strategy in place. The 3 year strategic development plan includes the key actions for the Service to undertake over a three year period to improve its performance and delivery to learners.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 As AES requires an improvement strategy to support its development, no other options were considered.
- 2.2 Proposal: The Cabinet Member approves the proposed 3 year strategic development plan for 2013-2016 (copy of plan attached).

3. Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1 Consultation took place with multiple groups including all managers in AES; tutor representatives; learners via formal feedback on courses and through specific learner involvement events; and partner organisations to clarify and develop areas for improvement. Discussions also took place with other Local Authority Adult Education Services to share ideas and good practice. In addition other organisations were approached for specialist advice, e.g. JISC (Joint Information Systems Committee) and relevant City Council departments. City Council departments were also approached to ensure that any policies or procedures which were being proposed were in line with Council and statutory requirements.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

- 4.1 Implementation: Immediate
- 4.2 Monitoring: termly and at the end of the academic year.

5. Comments from Director of Finance and Legal Services

5.1 Financial implications

There are no additional financial implications arising from this plan. Where any future changes to national funding regimes have significant impact in terms of financial implications, these will be subject to further member reports.

5.2 Legal implications

None.

6. Other implications

None.

6.1 How will this contribute to achievement of the Council's key objectives / corporate priorities (corporate plan/scorecard) / organisational blueprint / Local Area Agreement (or Coventry Sustainable Community Strategy)?

The wide range of programmes offered by AES will support adults in Coventry to: gain skills and qualifications that will allow them to improve their job prospects, thus supporting economic activity in the city (e.g. via Essential Skills courses, vocational qualifications); live longer, healthier lives (e.g. via fitness classes, cookery courses); and it is hoped it will allow them to play a larger part in their local community (e.g. via volunteers programme, Essential Skills courses).

6.2 How is risk being managed?

No additional measures are required in addition to those in place in all Council services. The plan provides proposed timing for actions to be implemented. Unexpected priorities may arise which mean some timings may not be achieved. The plan will be reviewed on a regular basis by AES's Strategic Management Team to ensure that actions are put in place for any concerns raised.

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

No additional level of activity is required to implement the plan other than that which is already expected through the on-going quality improvement activities of the Service. It is expected that the plan will have a positive impact on the quality of the service AES is able to deliver to learners and the overall learner experience, as well as supporting the development of its staff.

6.4 Equalities / EIA

AES positively promotes equalities thorough its provision, e.g. financial support to access courses; location of the majority of courses in community venues in priority neighbourhoods; and a process to identify additional needs of learners with disabilities and or learning difficulties & the provision of support and adjustments. No negative impacts have been identified and there are no significant gaps in achievement rates between differing groups of learners.

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment

None.

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

None.

Report author(s):**Name and job title:**

Heather Blevins, Service Manager, Adult Education Service

Directorate:

Community Services

Tel and email contact:

024 7678 7978

heather.blevins@coventry.gov.uk

Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

Contributor/approver name	Title	Directorate or organisation	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
Contributors:				
Simon Brake	Assistant Director	Community Services	20-06-13	04-07-13
Lynne Amery	Service Manager	Community Services	20-06-13	04-07-13
Margaret Cunningham	Academic Manager	Community Services	20-06-13	04-07-13
Diane Hammond	Academic Manager	Community Services	20-06-13	04-07-13
All other Academic Managers (12 members of staff)	Academic Manager	Community Services	20-06-13	04-07-13
All Programme Managers (31 members of staff)	Programme Manager	Community Services	20-06-13	04-07-13
Names of approvers for submission: (Officers and Members)				
Diane Jones	Finance	Finance and Legal Services	20-06-13	04-07-13
Elaine Atkins	Legal Services	Finance and Legal Services	20-06-13	04-07-13
Carol Williams	Human Resources	Customer and Workforce Services	20-06-13	04-07-13
Simon Brake (on behalf of Brian Walsh, Director)	Assistant Director	Community Services	20-06-13	04-07-13
Michelle Salmon	Governance Services Officer	Customer and Workforce Services	20-06-13	21-06-13
Councillor D Kershaw	Cabinet Member (Education)		20-06-13	04-07-13
Councillor D Howells	Deputy Cabinet Member (Education)		20-06-13	04-07-13

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