

Individual Executive Member Decision

Title of Report:	Adult and Community Learning Strategic Plan 2009/10- 2010/11
Report to be considered by:	Individual Executive Member Decision
Date on which Decision is to be taken:	13 January 2011
Forward Plan Ref:	ID2198

Purpose of Report:	Refresh of Adult and Community Learning Plan for 2010-11
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Recommended Action:	To approve the 2010 -11 refresh
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Reason for decision to be taken:	As part of our preparation for Ofsted Inspection, to refresh our plan by the updating of information and revision of targets.
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Statutory:

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Non-Statutory:

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Other options considered:

Key background documentation:	Refreshed Adult and Community Learning Plan 2010-11 EIA Stage 2.
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Portfolio Member Details	
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Contact Officer Details	
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Implications

Policy:	There are no implications for the Fee Concessions Policy as this policy was agreed last year and another plan will be put forward for 1 st August 2011 onwards after the new funding regime for further education has been communicated by the Government Department for Business Innovation and Skills
Financial:	None, external funding for 2010/11 has been agreed until 31 July 2011.
Personnel:	ACL Team salaries are funded through the external grant from the Skills Funding Agency
Legal/Procurement:	New contracts based on existing templates updated in 2010 will need to be written for new PCDL providers
Environmental:	None
Partnering:	New partnerships with Reading College, West Berkshire Minority Ethnic Forum and other small providers of Personal and Community Development Learning (PCDL). Reduced contract for PCDL with Newbury College.
Property:	None
Risk Management:	None
Community Safety:	None
Equalities:	Yes a Stage 1 EIA shows that a Stage 2 should be completed It is attached.

Consultation Responses

Members:

Leader of Council: No comment

Overview & Scrutiny Management Commission Chairman: No comment

Select Committee Chairman: No comment

Ward Members:

Opposition Spokesperson: Mollie Lock :Should we aim for a higher % of our learners " of low participation" say even just by 5% ? In the current job situation with the proposed cuts to benefits for long tem unemployed and youngsters who have left school and need encouraging to improve their skills.

Local Stakeholders:

Adult and Community Learning Curriculum Manager

Newbury College:

I have met with Anne and Fadia to discuss the WBC Strategic Plan and there is nothing we have to add or disagree on.

Newbury College is in complete agreement with the priorities for adult and community learning in West Berkshire for 10/11, as many of these are also priorities for the college

In addition, we are also in agreement with the key strategic challenges facing the ACL service.

The attendance target for contracted provision seems low at 78%. The college has an 88% target for 10/11.

Officers Consulted:

Janet Scott Service Manager- more emphasis on the use of Children's Centres. - plan has been changed to reflect this

Elaine Walker Principal Policy Officer (Equality and Diversity) Looks like a good EIA please check date for review and ensure it is in the next 3 years -

Trade Union:

no comment

Is this item subject to call-in.	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>
If not subject to call-in please put a cross in the appropriate box:		
The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Considered or reviewed by OSC or associated Task Groups within preceding 6 months	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Item is Urgent Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Supporting Information

1. Background

1.1 The Adult and Community Development Plan 2010 /11 sets out the priorities and targets for the provision of adult and family learning opportunities for people living and working in West Berkshire.

The Plan is supported by external funding from the Skills funding Agency (previously the Learning and Skills Council) and other organisations like the Berkshire Neighbourhood Learning Centre Partnership and NIACE who are also funded by the Skills Funding Agency. Other opportunities to acquire funding are regularly considered.

This Adult and Community Learning Plan builds on the success of:

- the 3 year Strategic Adult and Community Learning Development Plan 2005/06-2007/08
- the 2006 update for to the Development Plan 2006/07 - 2008/09.
- the 2007 update to the Development Plan 2007/08
- the 2008/09 – 2010/211 Development plan

They were the basis for receiving grant funding from the Learning and Skills Council now the Skills funding Agency until the end of the funding safeguard for Adult Safeguarded Learning in 2010/11.

Aims of Personal and Community Development Learning are

- The overarching principle is to provide general access to Adult and Community Learning provision
- To concentrate some of the budget on those that need help most; lost out at school or would not otherwise be able to afford a course

Aims of Family Literacy Language and Numeracy and Family Learning Impact programmes are

Designed for those with Skills for Life needs and aim to improve:

- The literacy, language and numeracy skills of parents
- Parents' ability to help their children
- Children's acquisition of literacy, language and numeracy skills

Aims of Wider Family Learning programmes are

Designed to enable adults and children to learn together and/or enable parents/carers to learn how to support their children's learning by:

- Developing the skills or knowledge of both the adult and child participants and
- Helping parents/carers to be more active in the support of their children's learning and development and to understand the impact of that support.

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Aims of Formal First Steps programmes are

- To deliver a short free episode of learning to learners designed to build their confidence and support their planned progression into longer (often pre level 2) formal learning.

In 2009 -10 the Council contracted out most all of its adult education provision that attracted fees to Newbury College but new plans to contract out up to 500 learners to

Reading College are currently being researched in order to try to meet Skills Funding Agency targets and to increase provision in the east of the district.. The Council will also be looking for new PCDL providers in order to meet Skills Funding Agency targets.

The refreshed plan updates the mapping of the provision against Council Priorities (pages 2 and 3) , includes the decision to sign up to the Informal Adult Learning pledge and refreshes the priorities for the service. New priorities are:

- Increasing learner numbers and meeting Skills Funding Agency contract targets, in line with government policy
- Preparing for Inspection by Ofsted which is expected late in 2010 or early in 2011.
- Maintaining the percentage from priority target groups at 2009-10 levels to make our targets more challenging.

2. Proposals

- To approve the detail of the Adult and Community Learning Development Plan 2009/10 - 2010 /11.

3. Conclusion

3.1 To ensure the delivery of a high quality adult and family learning service that offers a wide range of learning opportunities that meet the needs of people living and working in West Berkshire prioritising those that need the most help.

Appendices

Appendix A – Adult and Community Learning Strategic Plan 2010- 11

Appendix B – EIA for the Adult and Community Learning Strategic Plan 2010 -11