

Individual Decision

Title of Report:	Annual Performance Report for Adult and Community Learning Development Plan		
Report to be considered by:	Graham Pask	on:	9 June 2005
Forward Plan Ref:	ID1011		

Purpose of Report:

To note the annual performance report of adult and community learning in 2003/04 and to approve the draft Three Year Development Plan 2005/06 to 2007/08

Recommended Action:

To approve the draft Three Year Development Plan for Adult & Community Learning

Reason for decision to be taken:

To ensure that adult & community learning meets the Council's strategic priorities as well as incorporating national policy changes

List of other options considered:

None

Key background documentation:

- Self Assessment Report for ACL 2003/04
- ALI Re-Inspection Report Feb 2004

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Supporting Information

1. Background

- 1.1 This report draws Members' attention to the achievements in the adult & family learning provision delivered by the Council in 2003/04
- 1.2 The draft Three Year Plan for Adult & Community Learning outlines the strategic direction and targets for 2005/06
- 1.3 Members should note there is a national policy change to increase the contribution adult learners make towards the cost of learning for personal development and active citizenship. In 2005/06 adult learners are expected to contribute 27.5% of the cost of their course, rising to 35% in 2006/07. This will result in fee increases for part-time non-accredited courses. Courses that will continue to be free are those where the main aim is:
- Skills for independent living, where learners have learning difficulties and disabilities
 - Skills for Life, where learners have literacy, numeracy or English language needs
 - Skills for Work courses which enable people to develop skills for paid or voluntary work
 - First Steps programmes for people without a level 2 qualification
- 1.4 The Plan proposes to maintain the current 50% fee concessions for the following categories:
- people aged 60 or over
 - people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities
 - carers accompanying a friend or relative with a disability
 - people in receipt of a means tested benefit
- 1.5 It is likely that some concessions, including the 50% concession for people aged 60 plus, will need to change in the near future, as the Learning and Skills Council changes the priorities and funding of adult learning.

Appendices

Appendix A - Annual Performance Report 2003/04 of Adult & Community Learning (*A copy of this newsletter will be sent to Members under separate cover, a copy can also be requested from Anne Hunter 01635 519241 and a copy will be held in the Members' Room*)

Appendix B - Draft Three Year Development Plan for Adult & Community Learning 2005/06 to 2006/07

Implications

Policy:	There are no policy implications for the Council other than those integral to the report.
Financial:	Approval of the Three year Development Plan is an important process to secure the adult and Family Learning grants from The Learning and Skills Council. £484,216 has been allocated for 2005/06
Personnel:	The ACL grant funds some of the staff costs of members of the ACL Team.
Legal:	None
Environmental:	The Plan encourages adult learners provision in rural areas to reduce the need to drive.

Equalities:	The Plan sets targets for groups under-represented in learning and areas of deprivation.
Partnering:	The Plan includes developing partnerships to deliver adult & family learning
Property:	None
Risk Management:	These are addressed in the Plan
Community Safety:	None

Consultation Responses

Members:

Leader of Council: Graham Jones

Select Committee Chairmen: Sally Hannon

P&L Committee Chairman
(where appropriate):

Ward Members: Not consulted

Opposition Spokesperson: Sally Hannon

Advisory Members: Not consulted

Local Stakeholders: The Berkshire Learning and Skills Council has accepted and commented positively on the draft Three Year Plan.

The Three Year Plan has also been circulated to partner adult learning providers through the Providers Curriculum and Quality Steering Group and some revisions to targets may be required.

Officers Consulted: Ian Pearson

Sara Hanson

Trade Union: Not consulted