

ADULT COMMUNITY LEARNING – 14/15 PERFORMANCE

Purpose of Report

1. This report enables Members to assess and scrutinise the current performance and progress of the Council's Adult and Community Learning (ACL) Service within the Cardiff and Vale Community Learning Partnership

Background

2. The Cardiff and Vale Community Learning Partnership (CVCLP) was established on 1 September 2013 as the successor body to the former Cardiff Community Learning Network (CCLN). This was in response to Estyn inspections of Adult Community Learning (ACL) in Cardiff (January 2013) and the Vale of Glamorgan (February 2013) which identified significant shortcomings in respect of learner outcomes, provision and leadership and management.
3. The Adult Community Learning providers within the partnership are Cardiff and Vale College, Vale of Glamorgan Council, City of Cardiff Council, WEA Cymru and YMCA Wales Community College.
4. In January 2015, Estyn undertook a monitoring visit of the CVCLP to review progress in relation to the recommendations made in the 2013 inspection reports. The outcome of the monitoring visit was as follows:

'The Cardiff and Vale Adult Learning Partnership is judged to have made sufficient progress in relation to the recommendations from their separate core inspections. As a result, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales is removing the Cardiff and Vale Adult Community Learning Partnership from any

further follow-up activity. Estyn will monitor progress against the recommendations during link visits to the partnership.'

5. Adult Community Learning in Cardiff is delivered through three main strands:
 - **Learning for Work:** This focuses provision on priority learners as defined by the Welsh Government, and these learners include those currently not in Education, Training or Employment and those aged 50+ who are currently unemployed. Key learning categories include English for Speakers of Other Languages and Basic Skills, Digital Literacy and Welsh medium provision.
 - **Learning for Life:** This element provides opportunities for recreational lifelong learning courses on a cost recovery basis. These courses are available to all community members.
 - **Learning for Adults with Additional Needs** (Disability Inclusion in Community Education [DICE]) covering both courses for learners who wish to progress and achieve a work-related qualification and recreational courses for adults who wish to participate in an enjoyable activity to improve their health, well being and social skills.

Performance Data 14/15

6. Success Rates for the Adult Community Learning Partnership are produced by the Welsh Government (Department for Education and Skills) once all ACL providers within the Partnership have submitted their data for each academic year. The most recent performance figures relate to the 2014-15 academic year.
7. Welsh Government performance data relates to courses funded by the ACL grant, providing learning opportunities for the following priority groups:
 - anyone aged 16 and above accessing an ACL basic skills and/or ESOL programme, including contextualised basic skills and citizenship courses.
 - those who are not currently in education, training or employment and are in receipt of state benefits or support (excluding state retirement pension).

- those aged 50 plus who are not in full-time employment (and who have not previously engaged in learning or who are at risk of not engaging in learning in the future).
8. Courses provided through Learning for Work, Learning for Adults with Additional Needs (Disability Inclusion in Community Education) and elements of Into Work Services contribute to the Welsh Government performance data. The results are calculated from the number of learners who have completed their course in full and attained the relevant accreditation from the course.
 9. The Welsh Government performance data measuring progress against Partnership targets for 2013/14 and 2014/15 can be found attached at **Appendix A**. Members will note that the target for both Cardiff Council and the Cardiff and Vale Community Learning Partnership have been met.

Previous Scrutiny

10. The Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee considered items on Cardiff and Vale Community Learning Partnership Estyn Monitoring Visit and the Learning for Life Cost Recovery Model in May 2015. Members of the Committee made the following observations to the Cabinet Member – Education and Skills:

The Committee wishes to express its congratulations for the positive monitoring visit report received from Estyn, and for the turnaround in performance for Adult Community Learning provision. [...] Members were also encouraged that there is an awareness of areas where further improvements are required, such as widening the demographic accessing courses and targeting Community First areas. It is pleasing that improvements have not solely focussed on addressing the Estyn Monitoring visit but have been focussed on improving the whole provision of Adult Community Learning.

Way Forward

11. Councillor Peter Bradbury (Cabinet Member: Community Development, Co-operatives and Social Enterprise) has been invited and may wish to give a statement. Sarah McGill (Director of Communities, Housing and Customer Services), Isabelle Bignall (Assistant Director of Communities and Customer Service) and John Agnew (Corporate Customer Services Manager) will be in attendance and will provide an overview of the 2015 Summer Reading Challenge and targets for 2016.

Legal Implications

12. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

Financial Implications

13. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with

or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/ Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

Recommendations

14. The Committee is recommended to give consideration to the information attached to this report and received at this meeting, and to submit any recommendations, observations or comments to the Cabinet.

Marie Rosenthal

Director of Governance and Legal Services

8 January 2016