

ADULT COMMUNITY LEARNING – 15/16 PERFORMANCE

Purpose of Report

1. This report prepares 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 County 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.

The prospectus for each learning strand can be found via the following link:

<https://goo.gl/5DFXcy>

Performance Data 15/16

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 2015-16 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.

Previous Scrutiny

9. The Economy and Culture Scrutiny Committee considered 2014/15 Performance Data for Adult Community Learning at its meeting on 14 January 2016. Members were informed that Cardiff Council had achieved a success rate of 87% against a target of 80%, and that the partnership as a whole had achieved a 92% success rate against an 86% target. The Committee made the following points:

- Members were pleased to be informed of a 27% improvement in success rates from 2012/13 results.
- Members requested that in future, actual figures be presented alongside percentages, allowing members to make comparisons in real terms and gain understanding of the scale of the service.
- Members noted they wish to consider a future item on English for Speakers of Other Languages provision and the Life in the UK Test

Way Forward

10. Councillor Daniel De'Ath (Cabinet Member: Skills, Safety, Engagement & Democracy) has been invited and may wish to give a statement. 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 Adult Community Learning 2015/16 performance.

Legal Implications

11. 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

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 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

13. 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.

Davina Fiore

Director, Governance and Legal Services

6 January 2017