



EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 22ND SEPTEMBER 2015

SUBJECT: REDUCTION IN FUNDING FOR ADULT COMMUNITY LEARNING

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To inform member of the outcome of the reduction of funding for the academic year 2015/16.

2. SUMMARY

2.1 Over the past 2 years there has been a significant reduction in funding for Adult Community Learning. (Funding reductions Appendix 1 attached). This has resulted in the service having to make changes in the delivery model and reduce the amount of provision it can support

2.2 The number of learners has decreased from 2664 in 13/14 to 2061 in 2014/15. This reflects the reduction in the number of courses the service was able to provide in 14/15. It is anticipated that this figure will continue to decrease due to the funding reductions for 15/16.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

3.1 The report links directly the 'Learning' section of the Single Integrated Plan for Caerphilly, linking into the L1 - Improve the level of basic skills and the number of achieved qualifications (formal and non-formal) to improve the life opportunities for families, L2 - Develop a multi-agency approach to address the impact of poverty on pupil attainment, and L3 - Children, young people and families have the skills and resources to access job opportunities.

3.2 This report also links with H2 and H5 of the Healthier strand and P3 of the Prosperous strand of the Single Plan.

3.3 All proposals directly deliver Delivering Community Learning for Wales 2010/2015.

3.4 Welsh language training provision under the Council's Welsh Language Scheme 2012, the Youth Service Strategy and the national Health, Social Care and Social Services strategy "More Than Just Words."

4. THE REPORT

In order to meet the savings needed within this service area the following will be implemented:

4.1 The lease at Bedwas Workman's Hall will expire on 15th October 2015. This facility is costly to maintain and as such the service will not be renewing the lease. The service will continue to deliver courses in the local area.

- 4.2 Voluntary Severance has been offered to all staff within the service area. Each application is being considered as a business case and as staff leave, these posts will be deleted from the system (Staffing structure Appendix 2).
- 4.3 Some 'Lifestyle Choice' (cost recovery) courses will change status to clubs and societies in order to ensure their sustainability in the future.
- 4.4 There will be reduction in the number of courses that can be offered but the service will continue to offer courses under the Welsh Government priority areas. Essential Skills, Employability, Independent Living Skills and Welsh for Adults.
- 4.5 The service will continue to have centres at Oxford House Risca, Blackwood Comprehensive School, Risca Basic skills Unit, The Hangar Aberbargoed, and Crumlin Institute.
- 4.6 Remaining staff will be deployed to these centres, and as for 14/15 some courses will operate in outreach venues.
- 4.7 All Management Information Systems functions will move to the colleges under the franchise arrangements. This will include the courses we offer through the Direct Grant for the Welsh Government.
- 4.8 A senior management post will be deleted from the structure to make the 20% saving on the MTFP by March 2017.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Adult Service demonstrates its contribution to the Council's Strategic Equality Objectives through targets, consultation and monitoring in the Single Plan, Gwent 5 County Adult Community Learning Partnership Self-assessment and Action Plan, Coleg Cymoedd Partnership Self-assessment and Action Plan, the Directorate's Service Improvement Plans and information provided for inclusion in the annual monitoring and improvement reports for Equalities and Welsh language to the relevant Commissions

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There is a need for the service to make considerable savings in the next financial year. In order to achieve the service has redesigned its services and structure to meet the budgetary requirements.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 HR has been involved with the Voluntary Severance applications and resulting business cases.

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 Staff and learners have been informed and consulted on regarding the reduction in funding for the service changes and how that would affect them.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 This item is for information only.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 Not applicable.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 Not applicable.

12. URGENCY (CABINET ITEMS ONLY)

12.1 Not applicable.

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 Funding table
Appendix 2 Staffing structure