



EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 8TH JULY 2014

SUBJECT: REDUCED FUNDING FOR ADULT COMMUNITY LEARNING 2014-2015

REPORT BY: ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide information to Members of Education for Life Scrutiny Committee of the reduction in funding for Adult Community Learning in the 2014/15 academic year and to offer options to be considered for future delivery of the service.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Adult Community Learning is facing significant reductions to the budget in 2014/15 academic year. This report is to inform members of the reduction in funding which amounts to £235,470 in this financial year. It offers options to be considered regarding delivery of the service 14/15.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The Prosperous and Learning themes in “Caerphilly Delivers”, the Caerphilly Local Service Board’s Strategic Integrated Plan (SIP).
- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 Delivering Community Learning for Wales 2010/2015.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 The service has now received confirmation of a reduction in funding from the Welsh Government and franchise partners Coleg Gwent, Coleg Cymoedd and the Welsh for Adults franchise which, in total, equates to a reduction of £235,470 in the financial year 2014/15, £320,346 in the academic year. Table 1 below shows the analysis of the reduction.

Table 1 – Reduction in funding for Adult Community Learning 2014-15

Adult Community Learning					
	Welsh Government Direct Grant	Coleg Gwent Franchise	Coleg Cymoedd	Welsh for Adults Centre	Total
13/14	£430,479 financial year	£394,674 academic year	£71,344 academic year	£136,057 academic year	£1,032,554
14/15	£322,321 financial year	£246,002 academic year	£44,950 academic year	£98,935 Academic year	£712,208
Funding reduction in academic year 2014/15	£108,158	£148,672	£26,394	£ 37,122	£320,346
Impact in Financial Year 2014/15	£108,158	£89,203	£22,273	£15,836	£235,470

- 4.2 Whilst this level of funding has been confirmed by Welsh Government and the 2 Colleges, it remains dependant on Caerphilly achieving the targets for delivery that are laid out in the Agreements.
- 4.3 In order to accommodate the reduction in funding, it has been necessary to restructure the hours of tutors, clerical and catering staff. In addition, a rental payment to two schools is being negotiated.
- 4.4 Whilst reductions have been made in recent years, it is recognised that moving forward the infrastructure, which includes Management, Administration, Buildings and related costs will need to be reviewed and rationalised further. The difficulty in some instances is the intrinsic link with the Youth Service, where buildings and staff are shared.
- 4.5 To mitigate the impact of the reduction in tutor hours the Service is considering offering courses on a cost recovery basis. It is estimated that the cost would be £4 per hour per learner with an additional £3 per hour per learner for accreditation, if required. The benefits of continuing a full and comprehensive community learning programme is detailed in Appendix 1.
- 4.6 Courses will only continue if they are viable due to the number attending.
- 4.7 In addition there will need to be marginal increases in room hire charges which are comparable to those in community centres and other commercial venues. Some Independent Clubs and Societies currently pay a nominal amount for the use of service venues. This is not sustainable in the current economic climate. Therefore, it is proposed that these fees be increased to the level which remains competitive and is estimated to achieve an additional £12,000 per annum.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Equality Impact Assessments will be prioritised as part of the next stage in the review process. Where required the detailed Equality Impact Assessments undertaken will form part of subsequent reports to members for their information and consideration.
- 5.2 The Council itself can also be indirectly affected (now or in future as the national provision changes) as any reduction in Welsh for Adults in the community can affect the Council's ability to deliver on its Welsh language training requirements as many staff access community classes not workplace ones.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are financial implications through loss of grant and franchise funding to the value of £235,470 in the financial year 2014/15. In a full academic year the impact is a reduction of £320,346.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 As a result of the proposed interim structure, which effectively removes the Lead Tutor provision from the Adult Education Service the number of posts affected will be 8 – 1 fte as the posts are part-time.
- 7.2 As the proposal will be to remove this tier of the workforce, actions will be undertaken in line with the Authorities Redeployment and Redundancy Processes.
- 7.3 In this regard, where possible, redeployment will be explored robustly within the service, however, given the anticipated shortfall in budget it is anticipated this will not offer suitable alternative employment to the individuals currently employed within these roles, this will therefore need to be explored in the wider Authority redeployment pool in line with the Policy.
- 7.4 The proposals will be subject to consultation with the staff and trade unions before any implementation takes place

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 Further consultations will take place as soon as more information is known with regard to the impact on the service.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 That members note the content of the report and express their views on the proposed way forward.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 To ensure that the views of the Education for Life Scrutiny Committee are considered prior to the report being presented to Cabinet.

11. STATUTORY POWERS

- 11.1 Adult Community Learning is not a statutory service.

Author: Linda Travis: Senior Community Education Manager
E-mail: travil@caerphilly.gov.uk

Consultees: Senior Management Team
Tony Maher, Assistant Director Planning & Strategy, Education
Gareth Hardacre, *Head of People Management & Development, Corporate Services*
Nicole Scammell, *Acting Director of Corporate Services & S151, Corporate Services*
David Thomas, *Senior Policy Officer (Equalities and Welsh Language)*

Appendices:
Appendix 1 The Wider benefits of Adult Learning 2008