



EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 8TH APRIL 2014

SUBJECT: REDUCED FUNDING FOR ADULT COMMUNITY LEARNING 2014-2015

REPORT BY: ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of Education for Life Scrutiny Committee of the reduction in funding for Adult Community Learning in the 2014/15 academic year.

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 current situation and a further report will be written as soon as more information is available from the Welsh Government and franchise partners. Current reduction in funding amounts to £134,552

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 received confirmation from the Welsh Government in January 2014 of a 37.5% reduction totalling £161,430 for the Adult Community Learning (ACL) grant in the financial year 2014/15. Following discussions with the WG this amount was revised to a reduction of £108,158. (See table below). This will allow us to deliver the planned term 3 provision from April to July 2014.
- 4.2 We have received notification from Coleg Cymoedd (CC) that the franchise funding will be reduced by 37.5% for the academic year 2014/15. In real terms this means that the franchise value will be £44,950. This is a reduction of £26,394 (see table below).
- 4.3 The service has been in discussion with Coleg Gwent (CG) regarding franchise allocations and at this initial stage the reductions look likely to be between 20 and 25%. However as the service had a 10% increase in 2013/14 this will not be as significant. We do not expect to know the reduction until later in March 2014.

- 4.4 The Welsh for Adults franchise for 2014/15 will remain stable however there could be a slight reduction due to an 8% cut to the centre's budget.

Adult Community Learning				
	Welsh Government Direct Grant	Coleg Gwent Franchise (with 25% top slice removed)	Coleg Cymoedd (with 11.25% top slice removed)	Welsh for Adults Centre (with 25% top slice removed)
13/14	£430,479 financial year	£394,674 academic year	£71,344 academic year	£136,057 academic year
14/15	£322,321 financial year	Not known but indication of a 20-25% reduction	£44,950 academic year	Not known but predicting a small reduction as the centre has an 8% reduction
Funding reduction	£108,158		£26,394	

- 4.5 A new funding mechanism has been introduced (LAP) with weighted hourly values for accreditations and qualifications. However, as yet neither the colleges nor the Welsh for Adults Centre have been told by the WG what their delivery targets will be against the monetary value of their contracts, it is difficult to predict what delivery targets ACL will be given for 2014/15. These will be shared with the service as soon as they are known.
- 4.6 The WG are suggesting that ACL funding should be totally directed toward literacy, numeracy and digital skills for those who are economically inactive and those in low- skilled employment. The WG have tasked ACL Partnerships Wales to develop a list of other programme areas where future funding could also be used effectively, for example vocational skills. All other provision will have to be self-supporting through learner fees. The Senior Community Education Manager has met with the development officer for older persons and discussed options for learning opportunities for this client group. The Senior Community Education Manager is meeting with Social Services with regard to learners with learning disabilities and difficulties (ILS) later this month.
- 4.7 The Senior Community Education Manager is currently working with finance to look at the budget to identify savings and is working with managers of the service regarding programme planning for 2014/15 against this reduced budget. This includes use of premises, staffing requirements, full cost recovery courses for learners who do not fit into the WG's priority sectors and how to ensure provision for older and ILS learners.
- 4.8 The 5 County ACL Partnership is also meeting in March to look at ways to deliver the service differently in order to meet the challenges we face in the future.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 A full Equality Impact Assessment has not been undertaken, however any reduction to the availability, location and type of adult community learning will have a significantly greater impact on certain groups in the community as it could affect : learning and skills for people of different age groups in terms of employment prospects and re-training
- similarly for people with learning disabilities
 - levels of isolation with elderly or disabled people who may use ACL courses as a means of socialising as well as learning.
- 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 Coleg Cymoedd franchise funding to the value of £134,552. Other financial implications will be considered when we receive confirmation of funding for 14/15 from Coleg Gwent and the Welsh for Adults Centre.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There may be personnel implications which will be clarified in due course once all the funding information is known.

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.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 To inform Members of the current funding reductions.

11. STATUTORY POWERS

- 11.1 Adult Community Learning is not a statutory service.

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