

Brighton & Hove City Council

For general release

Meeting: Children, Families and Schools Sub-Committee

Date: Monday 29th November 2004

Report of: Director of Children, Families and Schools

Subject: Update on the Best Value Review of Adult Learning (2001 – 02) and Recommendations for future cross council work on Adult Learning

Ward(s) affected: All

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 This report provides an update on progress since the Best Value Review of 2001 – 02 and the changing context of Adult Learning. Specific recommendations are made to develop future cross council work relating to Adult Learning.
- 1.2 Changes are also highlighted in the purpose of Adult Learning and its potential contribution to corporate priorities is probably greater than might traditionally be expected. Therefore, whilst Adult Learning is managed within Children, Families and Schools, its wider impact requires a stronger cross council approach.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the city-wide Adult Learning Plan (see Appendix 2 for a draft outline), which will be included as part of the Directorate Delivery Plan for Children, Families and Schools be agreed.
- 2.2 That a new cross council group to explore cross-directorate opportunities for Adult Learning, at a regional and local level be formed.

- 2.3 That new forms of learning brokerage with the Learning & Skills Council, that can deliver against the Council's priorities outlined in the Corporate Plan, be developed.

3. Information/background

- 3.1 The Best Value Review was carried out from April 2001 to March 2002 and resulted in an improvement plan. The report in Appendix 1 provides an update on progress. It also explains some of the changes in context for adult learning since 2002 and makes recommendations for future development.
- 3.2 A detailed progress report on the seven original recommendations is attached. In summary, significant progress has been made in all areas and a strong foundation has been laid to take forward future cross-council working.
- 3.3 The context for adult learning has changed significantly since 2002. This includes the first major re-organisation of Sussex Learning & Skills Council; a new Corporate Plan for 2004-07 with clear priorities for the work of the Council as a whole; and the development of extended schools that can offer a wider range of learning opportunities.

4. Further information

- 4.1 Since 2002 the City Council has retained a strategic role and the provision of Adult Learning has been through a Consortium of Providers, chaired by the Adult Learning Manager. Recently the Council has taken a more direct role, through Community Outreach, that has taken adult learning opportunities into neighbourhood renewal areas to link with wider Council regeneration and renewal agendas. Given the changes in context there are further opportunities to work in partnership in order to widen the number of adult learning opportunities across the city that are directly linked to other Council priorities for an enterprising city.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 This report has been prepared in consultation with Consortium members, and Cllr Juliet McCaffrey.

6. Conclusion

6.1 The Best Value Review of 2001 – 02 was an opportunity to consider practice and the action plan has provided a platform for further development. The recommendations in this report for future cross-council working will enable those developments to continue.

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Financial implications

There are no additional financial implications for the action plan as the authority will receive additional funds from the Learning Skills Council. Further reports will be required to quantify in detail the financial implications if any cross-directorate opportunities are agreed by the proposed new group.

. Finance Officer consulted: Paul Brinkhurst Date November 2004

Legal implications

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report

Lawyer consulted: Natasha Watson Date 16th November 2004

<p>Corporate/Citywide implications These recommendations would provide clarity on the role of Adult Learning and maximize the strategic and practical potential of adult learning to achieve corporate targets in the future.</p>	<p>Risk assessment The opportunities to increase future funding for strategically aligned work across the city could be lost.</p>
<p>Sustainability implications Recent national research has concluded that ‘there is strong evidence that adult learning contributes to changes in attitudes and behaviours that promote social capital and, possibly, social cohesion.’ DfES, (2003) <u>The Contribution of Adult Learning to Health and Social Capital</u></p>	<p>Equalities implications Community outreach work has been very successful in attracting numbers of Black and Minority Ethnic learners onto courses and will also develop stronger progression routes into mainstream adult learning providers.</p>

Implications for the prevention of crime and disorder

According to the analysis of area level crime data for the 43 police forces of England and Wales from 1975-1996, conducted by Machin and Meghir in 2000, increases in education where this leads to higher wages is likely to reduce the likelihood of individuals engaging in crime. Although this only relates to property crime and not violent crime, a 10% increase in the 25th percentile wage could reduce the vehicle crime rate by 4.8 percentage points, the theft and handling rate by 0.4 and the burglary rate by 0.18. All these effects are strongly statistically significant.

Feinstein, L (2002) Quantitative Estimates of the Social Benefits of Learning, 1: Crime Centre for Research on the Wider Benefits of Learning

Background papers

National and regional plans & strategies

Adult Learning Inspectorate (2001) The Common Inspection Framework for Inspecting Post-16 Education and Training

Department for Education and Skills (2002) Success for All: Reforming Further Education and Training

Department for Education and Skills (2004) Five Year Strategy for Children and Learners

Department for Work and Pensions (2004) Building on New Deal: Local solutions meeting individual needs

Learning and Skills Council, South East Region (2004) Improving LSC Effectiveness in the South East Region

Local strategies and plans

Sussex Learning and Skills Council (2004) Annual Plan 2004-05

Brighton & Hove Council (2004) Corporate Plan 2004 - 2007

Brighton & Hove Council (2004) The Brighton & Hove and Adur Area Investment Framework: Executive Summary & Action Plan

Research papers

Department for Education and Skills (2003) Wider Benefits of Learning Research Report: The Contribution of Adult Learning to Health and Social Capital

Department for Education and Skills (2003) Early Impact of New Arrangements for ACL under the LSC'

Feinstein, L (2002) Quantitative Estimates of the Social Benefits of Learning.1: Crime Centre for Research on the Wider Benefits of Learning

Sussex Learning and Skills Council (2003) MORI Poll - Adult Learners in Brighton and Hove

Learning & Skills Research Centre (2004) Learning Brokerage: Building bridges between learners and providers

Contact Officer

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