

Appendix 2 – briefing paper Adult Education and Community Learning

1. The Department for Education apportions the Adult Education Budget (AEB) between the Education Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and the six mayoral combined authorities. The ESFA awards direct non-procured grants to local authorities on an annual basis. AEB funds flexible tailored programmes of learning for adults aged 19+.
2. The council is subject to Ofsted; at the last inspection in February 2020 the council was awarded an overall Grade 2 Good judgement.
<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/42/50835>
3. The councils AEB allocation includes funding ring fenced for Community Learning which is used to develop the skills, confidence, motivation and resilience of adults of different ages and backgrounds in order to:
 - progress towards formal learning or employment and/or
 - improve their health and well-being, including mental health and/or
 - develop stronger communities
4. The Adult Education Budget supports three legal entitlements to full funding for eligible adult learners (set out in the Apprenticeships, Skills and Children's Learning Act 2009), for the following qualifications:
 - English and maths, up to and including level 2, for individuals aged 19 and over, who have not previously attained a GCSE grade A* - C /grade 4, or higher, and/or
 - first full qualification at level 2 for individuals aged 19 to 23, and/or
 - first full qualification at level 3 for individuals aged 19 to 23
5. Community Learning Courses are reported to the ESFA under four delivery strands:
 - **Personal and Community Development Learning** - for personal and community development, cultural enrichment, intellectual or creative stimulation and for enjoyment (generally not leading to a formal qualification)
 - **Family English, Maths and Language** - learning to improve the English, language and maths skills of parents, carers or guardians and their ability to help their children
 - **Wider Family Learning** - learning to help different generations of family members to learn together how to support their children's learning

- **Neighbourhood Learning In Deprived Communities (NLDC)** - supports local Voluntary and other third sector organisations to develop their capacity to deliver learning opportunities for the residents of disadvantaged.
6. £40,000 of BHCC's allocation for 2019/20 is awarded to Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities (Whitehawk Inn and Hangleton and Knoll).
 7. Community Learning Funding providers are required to have a Pound Plus Policy. Pound Plus is additional income, savings, or in kind benefit generated from other sources, it must be invested in the people with most need who can least afford community learning provision. For transparency, providers are also required to have a Local Fee Remission Policy which sets out clear eligibility criteria for individuals who, due to their circumstances, qualify for either partial or total fee remission.
 6. Partnership working underpins the community learning objectives and is critical to developing and delivering an effective community learning offer. Providers must engage and work closely with a wide range of relevant partners and stakeholders in their local area to help shape their community learning offer to engage specific groups.
 7. Currently in the City, other providers in receipt of AEB and Community Learning Funding directly from the ESFA work together to achieve these aims through the ESFA Network, a sub-group of the Adult Learning and Skills Partnership (ALSP). The network terms of reference are:
 - Ensuring a varied curriculum offer which meets the needs of learners and is responsive to local demand for skills
 - Effectively utilising the Adult Education Budget to minimise under-recruitment or oversupply of provision
 - Ensuring progression opportunities and pathways
 - Increased awareness and understanding provision available to enable signposting and cross-referral of students
 - Policy oversight: including funding, sub-contracting, finance, auditing
 - Responding to consultation on behalf of the City as a professional network
 - Capturing, reporting and responding to the Learner voice
 - Reports to ALSP significant issues, including barriers to progress at a city and regional level.
 8. Current ESFA City Network Members are in receipt of the following AEB allocations for 2019/20.

Member	Adult Education Budget	Community Learning allocation proportion	Notes
Brighton & Hove City Council	£560,349	£412,289	Delivery sub-contracted

Varndean College Adult Learning	£269,029	£68,487	
Portslade Adult Community Learning (PACA)	£290,155	£101,416	Part of the Aldridge Academy
Greater Brighton Metropolitan College	£5,114,188	£653,880	Brighton & Hove and West Sussex

