

COMMITTEE: WEST LUTON AREA COMMITTEE

DATE: 15TH JANUARY 2009

SUBJECT: ADULT EDUCATION - REPORT BACK FROM
FOCUS GROUPS

REPORT BY: SERVICE MANAGER – HOUSING AND
COMMUNITY LIVING

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IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL	COMMUNITY SAFETY
EQUALITIES	ENVIRONMENT
FINANCIAL	CONSULTATIONS ✓
STAFFING	OTHER

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

PURPOSE

1. To provide an overview of the Luton Adult Community Learning Service and an update on its activities across Luton as a whole and in the locality of the West Luton Area Committee
2. To provide feedback on the consultation exercise carried out with previous attendees of the West Luton Area Committee

RECOMMENDATION(S)

3. **West Area Committee is recommended to** take note of the developments in the Luton Adult Community Service and its responses to the consultation.

BACKGROUND

4. Luton Adult Community Learning was established in January 2007 and was formed from three separate organisations that were providing adult education opportunities in the Luton. The reorganisation of adult education came about as a direct result of an inadequate Ofsted inspection, May 2003.
5. The new Luton Adult Community Learning Service was inspected by Ofsted at the end of September and it achieved a “Good” Overall Effectiveness grade as well as a “Good” grade for the service’s ability to improve. In all the service received seven good grades and 3 satisfactory grades.
6. The service receives most of its funding from the Learning and Skills Council See table below (Fig 1):

Funding and Targets (2008/2009)

FE

	Learners	Funding
16-18 Year Olds	30	£13,211
(Other SSAs) Adult Learner		
Responsive	2100	£678,742
FE Totals	2130	£691,953

Safeguarded

	Learners	Funding
Personal Community Development Learning	2,300	£773,680
Family Learning	450	£117,965
Wider Family Learning	350	£69,710

Total Core Funding

	5,230	£1,653,308
OLASS (Probation Service)	30	£94,270

£1,747,578

Other Funding

Discretionary Learner Support Fund	19 + Hardship	£22,506
Discretionary Learner Support Fund	Childcare	£15,746
Adult Learner Support FE		£60,013

Adult Learner Support FE 16-18
ESOL Allocation

LBC Contribution

Total Funding

The service's key strategic aims are to:

£295
£2,276
£1,848,414
£71,000
£1,919,414

- Develop partnerships between LBC services, the voluntary sector the community and individuals to promote and facilitate community learning
- Provide activities for employers, adults and children in both educational and community settings to enhance learning, to encourage personal development and to build capacity within the community
- Achieve increased levels of participation and progression for targeted groups
- Ensure that there is equality of access, experience and outcome for all learners
- Ensure that all learning takes place in an accessible and safe environment and that the service promotes the concept of the safe learner
- Promote sustainability through reducing the negative impact of the service's activities on the environment
- Ensure that risks to the service's sustainability are managed effectively to ensure the long term effectiveness of the service

7. Luton Adult Community Learning provision has been planned taking into account the priorities of the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) and Luton Borough Council. The provision on offer includes: Further Education (FE) courses; a variety of Personal Community Development Learning (PCDL); Skills for Life provision (SFL) Literacy, Numeracy and English for Speakers of other Languages; and Family Learning (FL) programmes.

Enrolments and Courses (Totals)

Activity	Enrolments 2007/2008	Enrolments processed to the 16th December 08
FE	1.789	552
PCDL	2.536	1.394
Family Learning	932	312

SFL Literacy/Numeracy	525	356
SFL ESOL	763	515
Totals	6.545	3.129

Enrolments and Courses (West Luton)

Activity	Enrolments 2007/2008	Enrolments processed to the 16th December 08
FE	161	49
PCDL	168	66
Family Learning	315	81
SFL Literacy/Numeracy	162	123
SFL ESOL	161	92
Totals	967	411

REPORT

8. As part of the service's planning for future delivery a consultation was carried out with members of the public who had attended an Area Committee over the last three years. All participants were asked to complete a questionnaire and also invited to take place in a focus group where more detailed questions were asked. The West Luton focus group was held on 16th July 2008.

Focus Group Findings and Luton Adult Community Learning Responses:

Feedback	LACL Responses
Didn't know the difference between Barnfield, Challney and Luton Adult Community Learning; Marketing wrap in Luton on Sunday not seen by all	The service has increased the amount of marketing and following this consultation exercise it has begun to use Lutonline
Limited courses available for men	This is an issue for all adult community learning providers. The service is working to develop provision which targets men. In 08-09 enrolments of men have increased
Limited commercial courses	Train to Gain funding secured, this will enable service to increase employment related provision
Lack of construction courses	These course are mainly delivered by Barnfield, but we are exploring delivering some bite size and tasters course at the Lea Manor
Carer's training required	Working with LBC Carers Support, to put on course for carers
Training for neighbourhood watch required	Training planned
Courses should be local where possible	The strategy of the service is to deliver more learning through community venues
Too much paperwork	LSC requirement that all courses including non vocational ones are subject to a process known as RARPA, recognising and recording progression and achievement. This has caused a number of issues in some courses but the service agrees that the process is based on good teaching practice and it is working hard to ensure that any negative effects are kept to a minimum

For more details see Appendix 2.

Questionnaire Findings and Luton Adult Community Learning Responses:

Feedback	LACL Responses
<p>23% had attended a LACL Course in the last three years</p> <p>27.5% said that they thought they would enrol on a LACL Course in the next two years</p>	<p>In terms of the general population of Luton this is high. It shows that there are a great number of people who value lifelong learning. The services role is to provide courses that meet the needs and interests of the local community</p>
<p>36% had seen the LACL Prospectus</p> <p>54% said that they knew where LACL provision was being held locally</p> <p>57% said they would know how to contact LACL</p>	<p>This highlights the need for the service to develop a comprehensive marketing strategy to ensure that knowledge of the service reaches all potential learners</p>
<p>35% said they would think about contacting LACL for employment related training</p>	<p>This figure was higher than expected as we thought most potential learners would associate non accredited, leisure learning with the service. Courses aimed at employment training will increase as this is a government priority.</p>
<p>40% said they would be prepared to travel to other venues if the course was not available locally</p>	<p>Further research has shown that almost 50% of learners travel across Luton to our courses. It is a priority of the service however, to deliver learning locally where possible.</p>

Course suggestions and Luton Adult Community Learning Responses

A range of course suggestions were made, most of these course suggestions are now included in our provision or are being planned or explored for future delivery (See Appendix 1).

CONSULTATION IMPLICATIONS

9. Luton Adult Community Learning to ensure that cognisance is taken of the suggestions from the consultation.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10. There are no legal implications in this report and this has been agreed by Mary Cormack , Legal Services on 17th December 2008.

Appendix 1

Course Suggestions	LACL Responses
There is a lack of construction/engineering type courses.	These course are mainly delivered by Barnfield, but we are exploring delivering some bite size and tasters course at the Lea Manor.
Lewsey Park and Tennis area are not always used, could they be available for bowls or other sport?	Pass this on to active Luton
Carers know little about what caring involves, they could do with training.	Working with LBC Carers Support, to put on course for carers
Training for Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators needed.	Training planned
Photography (Digital)	Being delivered
Would like Intermediate IT course – others agreed.	Being delivered
Yoga; Upholstery; Guitar Lessons/Keyboard	Yoga included in Jan 09 provision, Exploring possibility of delivering music related courses
Astrology	No teacher found at present
Short - one off course example: workshops for specific topics.	Short courses and workshops planned for 2009
Most courses are traditional, need for training in modern technology eg: mobile phone etc.	Mobile phone course planned for 09
Creative Writing	Being delivered
Apple Mac	Being delivered
Employers. working on greater links	employed Business Development manager delivering Train to gain
Photoshop	Being delivered
DIY	Being delivered
Flower Arranging	Being delivered
CS2 - Computer Suite 2 (Photos)	Being delivered
Preparing for Retirement	Planned delivery
Keep fit for the older learner	Planned delivery
Healthy eating	Planned delivery
Art Appreciation	Planned delivery
DIY: decorating, mixing paint, tiling;	Being delivered


sewing, pattern making,	Being delivered
relaxation eg painting; cake decorating (x2), music – story behind the music, how the composer comes to compose;	Being delivered
sign language (x2),	Being delivered
something that would benefit others eg where person could share their knowledge (eg. painting)	Being delivered
informal tutor going into a housebound person's home	Exploring the possibilities
Internet.	Being delivered
computer maintenance	Being delivered
languages,	Being delivered
garden design,	Being delivered
cooking, cooking for 1 especially for elderly single men, healthy eating,	Being delivered
first aid,	Being delivered
dance classes (tea dances)	Being delivered

Appendix 2

Luton West Area Committee Focus Group **AREA COMMITTEE**

Reason: Consultation on Adult Learning and future introduction to LACL.
Funding from LSC → government. No funding from LBC.
Employed by LBC.

£1 million for non-accredited

Access to learning available from Internet 

- Learning
- Taking in information not the same

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Views on what we should provide:

- Lady 3 In her mid 50's, started learning and considers learning continuous stimulation. Did an Accountancy course with Barnfield. Did not know we existed.
- Lady 4: Has done evening courses but is unaware where we are or if we are part of Challney or Barnfield? She was informed of the differences.
- Male 2: Commented that other providers have their programmes out already, why not us? Speed of delivery not very good so we miss opportunities. Explained that Bedford was separate to LACL.
- Male 3: Considers Luton & Beds should be unitary.
- Male 1: Social development more important as one gets older.
EG: People living on their own.
Different needs at different stages in life.
Younger people are interested in accredited courses while older learners are interested in vocational and social.
- Male 2: Limited commercial courses available. There are more feminine type courses than male.
- Male 3: Is that because of the type of course?
- Roger: Our aim is to evaluate the needs of the community.

Q: What courses does the community need?

Male 7: Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators need to be trained. Maybe we could offer relevant to day to day life support.

Male 6: What percentage of the ethnic community make up our take up.

Roger: About 35% relative to community.

Male 1: There is a lack of construction/engineering type courses.

Roger: Lea Manor has a new construction area which we are looking to use. A tiling company has allowed us to provide courses on tiling.

Lady 8: Do we provide equal day/evening course.

Roger: More evening courses due to access to venues.

Male 1: Lewsey Park and Tennis area are not always used, could they be available for bowls or other sport?

Lady 4: Possibly, liaise with bowls club to provide courses.

Roger: University of the Third Age run in Luton → WEA

Q: What learning have you done?

Lady 8: Invigilator in education and as a mentor in high school.

Male 7: Psychology course 10 years ago.

Male 6: Ron Wilson did 7 years of evening classes which led to become an engineer. Not all clubs listed in local paper. - Scrabble club! Was a school governor for 8 years. Helped children read.

Male 5: Invigilates for Barnfield and others, not interested in doing exams enjoys learning for pleasure.

Lady 4: Enjoys learning for pleasure.

Lady 3: Not recently but has done Arts & Crafts courses.

Male 2: "A" Level Sociology and other accredited courses but has not found a specific interesting course to do yet.

Male 1: Not done any recently.

Roger explained that the Government invest in aims for vocational courses to help build qualifications/workforce.

Now realised that with the aging population there is the necessity for a range of courses required by the community.

Male 7: Do we offer skilled specialist course?

Roger: Not at the moment but we offer a variety of necessary skills courses eg: Teaching Assistants and Vocational IT.

Male 7: Provision of social/apprentice type of course?

Male 1: Carers know little about what caring involves, they could do with training.

Roger: Curriculum Manifest has recently arranged for support for carers.

Male 7: Training for Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators needed.

Q: Which courses do you associate with LACL?

Male 2: Thinks we offer appropriate courses

Male 5: Thinks we offer appropriate courses for our area.

Male 2 Thinks we miss opportunities.

Q: Where would you enquire?

Male 7: Would ring LBC and ask for directions

Lady 8/9: Others agreed.

Q: What kind of courses should LBC be offering?

Male 1: Photography (Digital)

Lady 8: Her friend went on a Beds IT course but as she did not receive support, stopped going.

Male 7: Would like Intermediate IT course – others agreed.

Lady 8: Yoga; Upholstery; Guitar Lessons/Keyboard

Lady 9: Astrology

Male 7: Short - one off course example: workshops for specific topics.

Male 2: Continuity of classes, GCSE available but no "A" level for some courses.

Q: Would you travel to courses or prefer local?

Male 7: Thinks majority of people would prefer local.

Male 6: Wife went on a course at Lea Manor. Had to take a bus but had problems so stopped going.

Lady 8: Most courses are traditional, need for training in modern technology eg: mobile phone etc.

Male 1: Wanted to know if they as an Association, had given us ammunition to help us with provision and government intentions?

Roger: We put forward the needs of community to government.

Male 7: Vocational associated with younger (under 50s).

Male 1: Maybe LBC could provide minibuses for certain groups to centres – like Daycare centres.

10 attended

16 July 2008 - Points to take back

- Marketing wrap around – could be ignored → many don't notice.
- How does our publicity get out across boundaries → i.e. Flitwick
- Need for social inclusion → all but especially older
- Accessible for people local..... → preferred classroom environment
- Feedback from teacher important
- Interest in vocational → both needed
- Prices → important – some feel should not need to pay

- Distinction between Barnfield/ Luton ACL → not clear
- Luton ACL only for immigrants and unemployed
- Family Workers Links → with parents. Very effective encouraging into learning.
 - Financial Access
 - Shift Work Access
- Open Learning opportunities → could be considered
- Paperwork → create barriers for some
 - Enrolment form
 - ILPs
- U3A going to courses → mostly free
- Look at use of libraries → for evening provision
- More qualification courses → required
- Lutonline website link Simple → easy to read
- University → Could better links be make.

COURSES WANTED:

- Creative Writing
- Apple Mac
- Employers → working on greater links
- Photoshop
- DIY
- Antique App... → to be considered
- Flower Arranging
- CS2 - Computer Suite 2 (Photos)
- Preparing for Retirement → to be considered.

