

Item No.	Classification: Open	Date:	MEETING NAME Executive
Report title:		Adult and Community Learning Plan	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All Wards	
From:		Strategic Director of Education & Culture	

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. That Executive approve the Adult Learning Plan (Appendix 1)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. The London Borough of Southwark recognises the social and economic significance of being a key partner in the delivery of adult and community learning for Southwark residents. The London Borough of Southwark is one of seven inner London boroughs which are contained within the London Central Learning & Skills Council. Under the Learning and Skills Act 2000, the Learning and Skills Councils' hold the responsibility for the allocation of Adult and Community Learning funds to adult learning providers and Local Education Authorities. The Adult Learning Plan attached to this report is the key strategic document which, when approval is given, allows the Council to receive Adult and Community Learning funds from the London Central Learning and Skills Council. The Southwark's Adult Learning Services has been integrated within the Library Service within the Education and Culture Department.
3. The Adult Learning Plan shows how the London Borough of Southwark meets the strategic adult and learning objectives of and Southwark Council priorities of tackling poverty and raising standards in schools. In summary, these objectives seek to increase the demand for adult and community learning by adults and equalising opportunities through better access to learning.
4. The Adult Learning Plan is designed to meet London Central Learning and Skills Council objectives and the Councils priorities of 'Tackling Poverty', 'Raising Standards in our schools' as well as contributing to the 'improving the health of the borough'. The Adult Learning Plan is constructed to meet the Education and Culture Department's overarching strategic objectives, which are:

Strategic Objective 1: To raise the educational attainment of all children and young people in Southwark at all stages in their development

Strategic Objective 2: To improve and develop the range of learning experiences and opportunities for personal enrichment available to people of all ages in Southwark

Strategic Objective 3:To improve the quality of life and enhance the life chances of everyone who lives, works and studies in Southwark by putting education and culture at the heart of the social regeneration of the borough

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

5. The Adult Learning Service delivers adult learning opportunities in the following way:
 - Direct delivery of the London Borough of Southwark’s Adult Education curriculum by the Adult Education service.
 - Direct delivery of professional advice information and guidance through the Southwark Education Training Advice for Adults Service (SETAA)
 - Managing the provision of professional support, advice and planning of resources to other learning organisations through the Southwark Network for Lifelong Learning (www.snll.org.uk)
6. In addition to provision provided directly through the LEA and funded by the London Central Learning and Skills Council, the Regeneration Department of the Council now manages the Development and Commissioning services which acts as a skills and economic development unit contributing to the Council’s Employment Strategy.
7. This section focuses on the tackling poverty priority through the development of employment and vocational training opportunities for adults in Southwark. The Development and Commissioning section has an annual grant-aid budget and links directly to local regeneration partnerships and European Social Fund (ESF) Objective 3 programs.
8. Policy implications and strategic delivery of adult learning
9. The demographic trends in Southwark show that there is a projected increase in Southwark’s population over the period 2001 to 2006. One quarter of the current population is over 50 and the demographic trend is for this to continue. Southwark’s Adult Learning Service will continue to deliver its ‘60+’ learning programme which will be through an integrated model with the adult learning mainstream curriculum.
10. Current demographic data also shows that there is a 25% of Black and Ethnic Minority population in Southwark. The student records for Southwark Adult Learning services show that recruitment, retention and achievement profiles are in line with the trends of this demographic data.
11. Tackling economic poverty and poverty of ambition is a major priority of the Adult Learning strategy. The Adult Learning Plan addresses the issues of low basic skill levels amongst adults in Southwark, which continue to be at the lower end of the national scale with over one quarter of the population having both poor literacy and numeracy skills. The Adult Learning Plan explains how the Adult Learning Services of the Council addresses low basic skills. (See Tables 3a/b)

TABLE 3a - Literacy

Local Authority	%Residents with Low Literacy	%Residents with Lower Literacy	%Residents with Very Low Literacy	%Totals of Total poor literacy
Southwark population 16-60	12.5	6.4	8.2	27.2

TABLE 3b – Numeracy

Local Authority	%Residents with Low Numeracy	%Residents with Lower Numeracy	%Residents with Very Low Numeracy	%Totals of Total poor Numeracy
Southwark population 16-60	10.9	7.8	8.5	27.2

Source: Basic Skills Agency 2000. Estimated from sample of adult population

12. The draft Adult Learning Plan 2003/4 proposes the following strategic objectives:

1. Tackling poverty through widening participation in adult and community learning , building communities' self confidence and capacity and to promote good citizenship
2. Deliver adult learning with reference to Southwark's Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy through the Southwark Network for Lifelong Learning as the overarching cross-sector Adult and Community Learning planning forum. This will:
 - instigate a planning led approach to ACL provision in Southwark agreeing overarching strategic objectives for coherent service delivery .
 - Plan and deliver adult and community learning in conjunction with the Local Strategic Partnership, the Local Area Plans and the Priority Neighborhoods for the borough.
 - Widen participation and stimulate the demand for learning through the provision of a quality adult and community education curriculum to Southwark residents who experience barriers to learning
 - Raise the levels of basic skills and increase access to quality English as an Additional Language provision.
 - Provide a professional and inclusive service of adult advice and guidance and learning information in conjunction with Southwark Online Learning.
 - In partnership with the London Central Learning and Skills Council's deliver Southwark's priorities of raising schools standards through the Southwark Family Learning Programme

13. The Adult Learning Service is committed to stimulating the demand for universal provision of Adult Learning, but prioritises its delivery to the following groups:

- All Adult Learners with basic and key skills learning needs
- Adults with specific English as an Additional Language learning need.
- Young people who are currently not in training education or employment.
- Those ethnic minority groups who are currently under represented in Adult Education
- Parents, Carers of school students
- Older Learners
- People with learning difficulties and disabilities

14. The proposed Local Performance Indicators are as follows for Executive quarterly monitoring are as follows:
1. Number of Adult Learners (aged 19+) per thousand of the population
 2. Male adult learners (aged 19+) from Black and Minority Ethnic Communities as a percentage of total Adult Learners
 3. Adult learners (aged 19+) from Black and Minority Ethnic Communities as a percentage of total Adult Learners
 4. Percentage of 16-19 year olds in post 16 Education and Training
 5. Male adult learners (aged 19+) as a percentage of total Adult Learners
 6. Percentage of Adult Learners (aged 19+) taking Basic Skills Agency accredited courses
 7. Percentage of Adult Learners (aged 19+) with Disabilities and Learning Difficulties

15. **Adult Learning Services Key Action programmes for Learning and Skills**

The following is a synopsis of the key learning and skills programmes of the three areas, which together contribute to meeting the overall objectives of Adult Learning Services:

16. Key Learning and Skills Action 1. Southwark Adult Education Service

The Adult Education programme will provide both specialist and 'widening participation' courses for particular groups within the community. The adult education curriculum is offered at two main centres in Peckham and in a wide range of local venues including community centres, leisure centres, swimming pools and Social Service day centres, working in partnership with the voluntary sector and other Council departments. Provision is delivered by a team of full and part time teaching staff supported by under 5s, administrative and specialist staff.

17. Key Learning and Skills Action 2 – The Southwark Education and Training Advice for Adults Service

This service is located at the Learning Centre in the New Peckham Library and the Alyesbury Learning Centre and will provide a programme access to learning, continuing professional advice and guidance service for Southwark residents in addition to on-line distant learning opportunities.

Southwark Education and Training Advice for Adults will deliver its professional and independent access service for Southwark residents seeking learning opportunities throughout the borough and beyond. SETAA will provide the following programmes:

18. Key Learning Action 3 -To manage and co-ordinate the SNLL to ensure the following:

- Develop the www.southwarklearning.info interactive website and co-ordinate The importance of coherent strategic planning
- Identifying and addressing skill gaps as identified by employers

- Supporting innovative and effective community organisations
- Strengthening recruitment and progression routes between providers
- Investment to reduce barriers such as childcare costs
- Promoting work experience

19. The Southwark Network For Lifelong Learning will established a Southwark Online Learning sub-group to drive forward the Neighbourhood Learning Network for the borough. This will establish up to 7 new UK Online Learning Centres stimulating a greater demand for Learning.

20. As part of its contribution to Southwark Online Learning, Southwark's Adult Learning Services will establish two UK Online Centres in two priority neighbourhoods. These will be based at the Thomas Calton Centre and the Kingswood House.

21. Contributions to Family Learning

Adult Learning Services with its partner organisations will deliver the Family Learning programme in the following ways:

- Co-ordinate a coherent programme of Family Learning provision in Southwark linked to the Educational Development Plan priorities of Social and Educational Inclusion: Improving Participation and the Quality of Education for All.
- Expand the provision of Family Learning programmes in Southwark schools, particularly those in Neighbourhood Renewal Fund areas.
- Promote and deliver Family Learning programmes in schools, particularly where there is no history of provision.
- Provide access to Family Learning programmes for target groups in order to help tackle social disadvantage.
- Join up services and maximise the benefit of provision for Family Learning in Southwark.

22. Neighbourhood renewal

The need for Information, Advice and Guidance services in the priority neighbourhoods' was identified by our local LSP in their recent Employment Strategy document and in the coming year SETAA plans to further develop its Information, Advice and Guidance provision in the NRF Priority neighbourhoods. This work has already been established for some time in the Aylesbury neighbourhood, with a satellite SETAA base at the Aylesbury Learning Centre and in the Bermondsey neighbourhood where SETAA has several well-established advice surgery bases at Bede House, Beormund Centre and Womens Education & Building

23. **Consultation and draft submission process**

The Adult and Community Learning Plan have been made available for consultation with the following partners and organisations: Summary responses in italics.

- **Executive Member for Education and Culture:**
In consultation with the Executive Member, the Adult and Community Learning Plan need to be updated with reference to the changed relationship with Atkins

Education. There also needs to be an explicit reference on the Centre for Literacy in Primary Education, which is currently carrying out Family Learning initiatives on behalf of the Council.

There needs to be a clearer understanding of which Libraries are currently delivering Adult Learning in there building.

- **Southwark College – Basic Skills and ESOL Faculty**
The Southwark College welcomes the Adult and Community Learning Plan and recommends a greater cohesive planning forum for Basic Skills and ESOL provision between the LEA Southwark College and other Adult Learning partners. It also recommends a broader overarching ‘one stop’ Adult Learning prospectus for all courses for adults across the various sectors.

- **Southwark Network for Lifelong Learning (SNLL) - Proposed Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) forum for post-19 Learning.**

The Southwark Network for Lifelong Learning proposes that the Adult and Community Learning plan should be more explicit on the SNLL targets and the LEA Adult Learning provision needs to be more joined up across the voluntary sector and FE sector.

- **Staff Consultation**
The Staff of the Adult Learning services have been consulted through their section managers as to how their component of the service should be expressed in the Adult and Community. This involved the Adult Education Section, the Southwark Education and Training Advice for Adults Service and the Lifelong Learning Project Manager Learning Plan. The reponses of the staff have all been fed into the overall draft of the Adult and Community Learning Plan.

24. As part of the Adult Learning consultation process a Local Cultural Strategy MORI survey was conducted in November 2002, which asked specific questions bout the provision of Adult Education in the borough. The main findings from this survey will be fed into the long-term actions for the service. Adult Learning service through the Southwark Network for Lifelong Learning has over 200 partner members and consultation is carried out through the SNLL Website discussion forum, the CONNECT newsletter and the SNLL sub-groups.
25. Following Executive approval the final Adult and Community Learning Plan will be submitted to the Central London Learning Partnership for final consultation and approval. The Adult Learning Services in will submit proposed activities for 60+ learning, which will go forward to the Pensioners Forum.

26. The Adult Learning Services will be submitting the proposed Adult Learning Plan to The Local Management Committee of the Southwark Connexions Service, the Local Strategic Partnership and Southwark College for consultation. The LEA has engaged electronically through the Southwark Network for Lifelong Learning to all the SNLL members in setting its original Strategic Objectives and Mission statement for the Adult Learning Plan.
27. Additionally in the preparation for the Local Areas Plans and the Priority Neighbourhoods, which the Local Strategic Partnership has identified, the Adult Learning Services new priorities around Basic Skills and Family Learning have been identified. This will be going to the Local Strategic Partnership for approval in 2003. The Southwark Adult Learning Plan will be submitted for consultation to the London Central Learning Partnership Executive Steering Committee.
28. The Executive Member has been consulted and amendments incorporated into the 2003/4 Adult Learning Plan

Resource Implications

29. There are no financial, budget or staffing implications as this is an allocation of funding from the London Central Learning and Skills Council.

Legal Comments

30. The responsibility for the provision of adult and community learning was transferred to the Learning and Skills Council under the Learning and Skills Act 2000. The Council retains the power to provide post 16 education and adult education under sections 15A and 15B of the Education Act 1996: in exercising both these powers the Council is required to have particular regard to the needs of persons with learning difficulties.

Funding for adult learning is provided by the Learning and Skills Council and in order to bid for funding for adult learning activities it wishes to carry out the council is required to submit an Adult Learning Plan in the form set out in guidance issued by the Learning and Skills Council. Under the Council's Constitution approval of the Adult Learning Plan is an Executive function.

Details of the consultation carried out on the draft Adult and Community Learning Plan and the consultation responses are set out at paragraph 23 of the report.

APPENDIX A

Audit Trail

Lead Officer	Dr Roger Smith, Strategic Director of Education and Culture, Southwark.
Report Author	Sam Eastop – Strategy and Commissioning Manager
Version	Draft version 1 of Adult Learning Plan before final approval from London Central Learning and Skills Council

Dated	9 th April 2003	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Borough Solicitor & Secretary	Yes	None
Chief Finance Officer	No	No
<i>List other Officers here</i>		
Executive Member	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional Support Services	30 th May 2003	