

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, PLACE AND COMMUNITIES**INSPIRE LEARNING ANNUAL PLAN AND FEES 2022/23****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to:
 - report on performance and outcomes during the 2020/21 academic year;
 - update on delivery in current 2021/22 academic year including ongoing impact from the Covid 19 pandemic;
 - seek approval for the service's plan for the 2022/23 academic year;
 - seek approval for plans for use of Education Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) funding in the 2022/23 academic year;
 - seek approval for the Schedule of Fees as outlined in – **Appendix 1**;
 - seek approval for the service's Supply Chain Arrangements – **Appendix 2**.

Information**Performance and Outcomes 2020/21**

2. During the 2020/21 academic year, the following key outcomes were achieved:
 - Recruited 221 16/19-year-old students against a funding target of 240 learners.
 - Achieved 80.4% Achievement rate for Study Programme learners (against a national benchmark of 82.6%*).
 - Achieved a 70% positive progression rate for 16 to 18-year-old learners.
 - Recruited 2,727 ESFA funded Community and Family Learning learners against a target of 5,469. Reduction in recruitment due to the impact of Covid-19 pandemic on the Spring and Summer Terms of 2020/21 academic year.
 - Achieved a 93.5% achievement rate for Community Learning (Inspire Direct Delivery achieved 96.4%).
 - Continued to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic and lock-down from 5th January 2021 by moving to 100% remote delivery for both 16 to 18 and adult provision when needed**.

*National Benchmarks were not published for the 2019/20 academic year due to Covid-19 so 2018/19 National Benchmarks have been applied.

**Children of Key workers and 16 to 24-year-old High Needs learners (i.e. who have an Education Health and Care Plan and receive 'Element 2 and 3 funding from Nottinghamshire County Council continued to be taught face to face during this lockdown.

Covid-19 Delivery Arrangements in Current 2021/22 Academic Year

3. Since the start of the current academic year, the following activities have been undertaken:
 - 16 to 18 Study Programme learners continued with face-to-face delivery from September 2021.
 - Secured 'contract for services' Adult Education Budget funding from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of £224,479 for the 2021/22 academic year to deliver accredited adult provision in addition to our 'core' allocation of 'grant' funding of approximately £466,000.
 - Secured £45,000 (up from an original allocation of £7,900) to deliver National Skills Fund Level 3 qualifications to adults.
 - Secured £45,000 (up from an original allocation of £30,500) to deliver 19 to 24 Traineeships.
 - Secured £65,000 in Digital Bootcamp funding from D2N2 and launched a new L3 qualification in coding.
 - Secured £370k of ESF funding from the Back 2 Work project to support unemployed residents of Nottinghamshire to access employment (project completes on 31st December 2023).
 - Successfully delivered 47 Kickstart placements (across Inspire and with our partner employers) providing ongoing employment for more than 12. Inspire was recently recognised by the DWP as one of the most successful Kickstart Gateway providers across the Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, and Rutland (LNR) DWP sub-region.
4. Inspire Learning is going to undertake the following activities by the end of the current academic year to plan for the 2022/23 academic year:
 - Undertake a comprehensive curriculum review in March 2022 covering both 16 to 19 Study Programmes and 19 + adult provision
 - A review of staffing arrangements to make sure that the service is best able to adapt to future needs and requirements of funders and employers.
 - Continue preparations for an OFSTED inspection including undertaking a 'Deep Dive' in early March 2022 to ensure that our quality of provision is sufficiently robust.
 - Exploration of options to provide premises that are fit for purpose to house the Study programme provision currently based at Eastbourne House.
 - Development of learning programmes at the Newark Buttermarket and the YMCA 'Activity Village' including a new digital qualification programme up to Level 3 from and a new Level 2 Personal Social Development Employability programme.
 - Opening a new Inspire Learning Study Programme centre in Arnold.
 - Plan through Towns Fund investment the delivery of an additional learning programme from Stapleford Library and re locating the Stapleford Study Programme provision into the new Pavilion centre.
5. Governance arrangements for Inspire Learning will continue to be exercised by the Learning and Skills Committee of the Inspire Board, and by reporting to this Committee.

Approval for Strategic Aim and Objectives for 2022/23

6. The strategic aims and objectives for the 2022/23 academic year are as follows:

Aim

To ensure that local people have access to an appropriate range of flexible learning opportunities that contribute to personal, social, educational, and economic development.

Objectives

- Deliver a programme of high-quality learning which clearly contributes to the priorities of the County Council and D2N2's Local Skills Report to support safe and thriving communities; support economic growth and employment; provide care and promote health; and invest in our future.
- Focus funding on people who are disadvantaged and least likely to participate in learning, including Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) young people, people on low incomes, those with low skills and furthest away from the labour market, particularly focusing resources to assist Nottinghamshire residents to respond to the economic challenges presented by aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Continue to deliver a universal community learning and skills offer with access for all and set a fees policy to ensure fees are paid where learners can do so, including waiving fees where appropriate.
- Provide Study Programmes for young people (aged between 16 and 19 years) from 9 centres across the county using a 'blended' delivery model combining face-to-face provision and 'e' learning as appropriate.
- Provide a range of community learning programmes under the themes of: Employability; Health and Wellbeing; Family Learning and Learning for Learners with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities (LLDD) with a clear focus upon supporting Nottinghamshire residents to respond to the current economic and well-being challenges from the aftermath of Covid-19.
- Create progression pathways from non-accredited to accredited provision with a greater emphasis upon supporting the employability of adults across all adult provision.
- Deliver learning to fee paying adults including courses designed to appeal to a broader cross-section of learners at a higher rate, using their fee income to support the service's offer where appropriate.
- Deliver £2.25m of adult community learning (i.e. non-accredited) and £385k of formula funded (i.e. accredited) learning to adults in 2022/23. Deliver £1.1m of Inspire Learning Academy provision to young adults in 2022/23. Delivery will be via a blended combination of face-to-face and 'e' learning.

The Service's Schedule of Fees for the 2022/23 Academic Year

7. A transparent schedule of fees is required to ensure that adults within Nottinghamshire are treated fairly by each delivery partner within the service provider network.
8. It is proposed that the **standard** hourly tuition fee for community learning programmes for adults not qualifying for fee remission should be maintained at £4.50 per hour.
9. It is also proposed to end the provision of free family learning courses and include them in the approach to community learner programmes. Family learners will therefore qualify for

fee remissions as outlined in Appendix 1. This change would be implemented in Autumn 2022.

10. The service may decide to waive fees as appropriate to ensure that cost does not create barriers to the recruitment of learners. In the light of the impact of offering free courses during the Covid period and the current pressure on household budgets a temporary reduction of the hourly fee to £3.00 is proposed. This lower rate would apply from 1st April 2022 and be reviewed in advance of each new term and adjustments made if appropriate.
11. The proposed schedule of fees for 2022/23 is attached as **Appendix 1**.

The Service's Supply Chain Arrangements

12. As Inspire learning (via Nottinghamshire County Council) intends to sub-contract a proportion of the Adult Education Budget (AEB) non-formula funded community and family learning provision for the 2021/22 academic year, Inspire Learning needs to publish an annual statement of our supply chain arrangements on our website in order to comply with the ESFA requirements. Our intended approach to supply chain arrangements for 2022/23 is outlined in **Appendix 2**.

Other Options Considered

13. No other options have been considered.

Reasons for Recommendations

14. The recommendations are made to ensure effective spend of the ESFA grant against relevant government and Nottinghamshire County Council priorities and to set a fair fees policy.

Statutory and Policy Implications

15. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

16. The anticipated 2022/23 Community Learning funding of £2.7 million and the Study Programme of £1.1 million will be fully utilised delivering the services set out in this report.

Safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk Implications

17. The service fully supports fundamental British values, the Prevent agenda and all forms of safeguarding for all its learners and staff. To this end the service has arranged a series of training sessions for staff and subcontracted providers in 2021/22 academic year.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Committee:

- 1) Notes the performance and outcomes during the 2020/21 academic year.
- 2) Approves the service's plan for the 2022/23 academic year.
- 3) Approves the service's plan for use of the Education and Skills Funding Agency in the 2022/23 academic year.
- 4) Approves the schedule of fees as outlined in Appendix 1.
- 5) Approves the supply chain arrangements for the 2022/23 academic year as outlined in Appendix 2.

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For any enquiries about this report please contact: Ian Bond, Inspire Director of Learning, Tel: 0115 977 2875, E: ian.bond@inspireculture.org.uk

Constitutional Comments (LW 08/02/2022)

18. Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report.

Financial Comments (SES 08/02/2022)

19. The financial implications are set out in paragraph 16 of the report.
20. The anticipated 2022/23 Community Learning funding of £2.7 million and the Study Programme of £1.1 million will be fully utilised delivering the services set out in this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

- None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All.