

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, PLACE AND COMMUNITIES**INSPIRE LEARNING ANNUAL PLAN AND FEES 2021/22****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to:
 - report on performance and outcomes during the 2019/20 academic year
 - update on Covid-19 delivery in current 2020/21 academic year
 - seek approval for the service's plan for the 2021/22 academic year
 - seek approval for plans for use of Education Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) funding in the 2021/22 academic year
 - seek approval for the Schedule of Fees for the 2021/22 academic year – Appendix 1
 - seek approval for the service's Supply Chain Arrangements – Appendix 2

Information**Performance and Outcomes 2019/20**

2. During the 2019/20 academic year, the following key outcomes were achieved:
 - recruited 267 16/19-year-old students against a funding target of 306 learners
 - Achieved 83.3% 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 4,318 ESFA funded Community and Family Learning learners against a target of 6,308. Reduction in recruitment due to the impact of Covid-19 pandemic on the Spring and Summer Terms of 2019/20 academic year.
 - Achieved a 94.3% achievement rate for Community Learning (up 0.9% on 2018/19)
 - Achieved a 64% GCSE resit pass rate in maths and a 48% GCSE resit pass rate for English
 - Responded to Covid-19 pandemic and lock-down from 23rd March 2020 by moving to 100% remote delivery for both 16 to 18 and adult provision.

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

Covid-19 Delivery Arrangements in Current 2020/21 Academic Year

3. Since the start of the current academic year, the following actions have been taken:

- 16 to 18 Study Programme learners returned to face-to-face delivery from September 2020, then had to undergo another lockdown from 5th January 2021, and returned to face-to-face delivery from Monday 8th March 2021.
- Secured funding from the Department for Education (DfE) and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) to buy in excess of 200 laptops and WIFI connectivity devices for Study Programme learners and successfully deployed them to support remote delivery for the third lockdown.
- developed a new range of on-line courses for adults to take a range of community learning courses.
- delivered apprenticeships, access to HE courses and accredited provision to adults via on-line and 'e' learning.
- Awarded the Times Educational Supplement Further Education award 2020 for Adult and Community Learning Provider of the Year.

4. Inspire learning will ensure it contributes to the local economic recovery through its learning and skills programmes, the Way 2 Work employment support programme, traineeships and apprenticeships.

Approval for Strategic Aim and Objectives for 2021/22

4. The strategic aims and objectives for the 2021/22 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 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 300+ 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 Covid-19.
- 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. Extension of fee-paying courses will be introduced gradually to reflect the impact of the Covid-19 crisis

- Deliver £2.25m of adult community learning (i.e. non-accredited) and £385k of formula funded (i.e. accredited) learning to adults in 2021/22. Deliver £1.3m of 16 to 19 study programme learning to young adults in 2021/22. Delivery will be via a blended combination of face-to-face and 'e' learning

The Service's Schedule of Fees for the 2021/22 Academic Year

5. 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. It is proposed that the **standard** hourly tuition fee for community learning programmes for adults not qualified for fee remission should be maintained at £4.50 per hour. The service may decide to waive fees as appropriate to ensure that delivery supports Nottinghamshire residents who face the impact of the Covid-19 economic shocks. The proposed schedule of fees for 2021/22 is attached as **Appendix 1**.

The Service's Supply Chain Arrangements

6. 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 2021/22 is outlined in **Appendix 2**.

Other Options Considered

7. No other options have been considered.

Reason for Recommendations

8. 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

9. 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

10. The anticipated 2021/22 Community Learning funding of £2.7 million and the Study Programme of £1.3 million will be fully utilised delivering the services set out in this report.

Safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk Implications

11. 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) Considers the performance and outcomes during the 2019/20 academic year and if there is any further information Committee Members require.
- 2) Approves the service's plan for the 2021/22 academic year.
- 3) Approves the service's plan for use of the Education and Skills Funding Agency funding in the 2021/22 academic year.
- 4) Approves the schedule of fees for the 2021/22 academic year (Appendix 1).
- 5) Approves the supply chain arrangements for the 2021/22 academic year (Appendix 2).

Derek Higton
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Constitutional Comments (CEH 21/06/2021)

14. The recommendations fall within the remit of Communities Committee under its terms of reference.

Financial Comments [RWK 21/06/2021]

15. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from the report. The anticipated 2021/22 Community Learning funding of £2.7 million and the Study Programme of £1.3 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.