

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, PLACE AND COMMUNITIES****INSPIRE LEARNING ANNUAL PLAN AND FEES 2020/21****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to:
  - report on performance and outcomes during the 2018/19 academic year – appendix 1
  - update on Covid-19 delivery
  - seek approval for the service's plan for the 2020/21 academic year
  - seek approval for plans for use of Education Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) funding in the 2020/21 academic year
  - seek approval for the Schedule of Fees for the 2020/21 academic year – appendix 2
  - seek approval for the service's Supply Chain Arrangements – appendix 3

**Information****Performance and outcomes 2018/19**

2. During the 2018/19 academic year, the following key outcomes were achieved:
  - recruited 243 16/19-year-old students against a funding target of 308 learners
  - Achieved 82.8% Achievement rate for Study Programme learners (against a national bench-mark of 82.6%)
  - Achieved a 75% (an increase of 9% on 2017/18) positive progression rate for 16 to 18-year-old learners
  - recruited 7,968 ESFA funded Community and Family Learning learners against a target of 6,000
  - Achieved a 93.1% achievement rate for Community Learning
  - Achieved a 59% GCSE resit pass rate in maths and a 43% GCSE resit pass rate for English (against a national rate of 23% and 31% respectively)
  - Opened two new Study Programme centres in Hucknall and Arnold (based in the Young People's Centres)

A detailed performance review has been published of accredited provision during the 2018/19 academic year (and it is attached as **Appendix 1**), which compares Inspire learning achievement rates against national rates. In summary this review outlines that Inspire learning is delivering both 16 to 18 Study Programmes and 19 + accredited provision above the national achievement rate benchmark and outperforming a number of Further Education providers.

## **Covid-19 delivery arrangements**

3. Since the imposition of the lockdown from 23<sup>rd</sup> March, the service has undertaken the following adjustments to keep staff and learners safe:
  - supported existing study programme learners with a full programme of on-line learning, and from 6<sup>th</sup> June provided face-to-face delivery to vulnerable learners and the children of key workers;
  - developed a new range of on-line courses for adults to take a range of community learning courses; and
  - delivered apprenticeships, access to HE courses and accredited provision to adults via on-line and 'e' learning

Inspire learning will ensure it makes a contribution 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 2020/21**

4. The strategic aims and objectives for the 2020/21 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 Strategic Economic Plan and Local Industrial Strategy 2019 - 2030: to support safe and thriving communities; support economic growth and employment; provide care and promote health; and invest in our future. This approach will consider the revisions to D2N2's Local Industrial Strategy to support the Covid-19 recovery strategies and to respond to new learning demands
- Focus ESFA public 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 10 centres across the county using a 'blended' delivery model combining face-to-face provision and 'e' learning as appropriate
- Provide a range of 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 challenges from Covid-19 by offering focused support for learners to re-train and help them to find secure employment
- 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 £2.28m of adult community learning (i.e. non-accredited) and £385k of formula funded (i.e. accredited) learning to adults in 2020/21. Deliver £1.25m of 16 to 19 study programme learning to young adults in 2020/21. Delivery will be via a blended combination of face-to-face and 'e' learning in order to ensure that learners and staff are socially distancing and are kept safe at all times.

### **The Service's schedule of fees for the 2019/20 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 proposed schedule of fees for 2020/21 is attached as **Appendix 2**. 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 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 2020/21 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 2020/21 is outlined in **Appendix 3**.

### **Other Options Considered**

7. No other options have been considered.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

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 2020/21 Community Learning funding of £2.6 million and the Study Programme of £1.25 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 2020/21 academic year.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

That Committee:

- 1) Acknowledges the performance and outcomes during the 2018/19 academic year, including the performance of accredited learning against national achievement rates (appendix 1)
- 2) Approves the service's plan for the 2020/21 academic year;
- 3) Approves the service's plan for use of the Education and Skills Funding Agency in the 2020/21 academic year;
- 4) Approves the schedule of fees for the 2020/21 academic year (appendix 2)
- 5) Approves the supply chain Arrangements for the 2020/21 academic year (appendix 3)

**Derek Higton**  
**Service Director, Place and Communities**

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

## **Constitutional Comments (EP 24/07/20)**

14. Communities and Place Committee is the appropriate body to consider and approve the content of this report in accordance with its Terms of Reference.

## **Financial Comments (SES 08/09/2020)**

15. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from this report. The anticipated 2020/21 Community Learning funding of £2.6 million and the Study Programme of £1.25 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.