

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>Health and Wellbeing Board</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Mike Taplin, Head of Adult Learning
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Kath Benson, Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning
<b>Date of Meeting :</b>	22 March 2018

## **CONSULTATION ON EMERGING PRIORITIES FOR THE BLACKPOOL COUNCIL ADULT LEARNING SERVICE**

**1.0 Purpose of the report:**

- 1.1 To consult on the draft Adult Learning Service priorities for 2018/2021 which are Health and Wellbeing related.

**2.0 Recommendation(s):**

- 2.1 The Board's views are sought on the emerging priorities for Adult Learning referred to in section 5.8.

**3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):**

- 3.1 The Health and Well Being strategy is one of the key drivers for the Adult Learning service and it is therefore important that any new developments under the Health and Well Being strategy informs the Adult Learning service priorities for 2018/21.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

**3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:**

The paper is a consultation on priorities so no decision with alternative options is sought

#### **4.0 Council Priority:**

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is: “Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience”.

#### **5.0 Background Information**

5.1 Blackpool Council Adult Learning provides courses for over 3,000 adults in Blackpool. The service is funded by various grants from the Education and Skills Funding Agency – there is no Council funding used for the service. The service is an education service and therefore is Ofsted inspected. The service also has a governing body – the Adult Learning Management Committee has members who are stakeholders and is chaired by Councillor Graham Cain.

##### **Priorities for Blackpool Council Adult Learning Service - national drivers**

The Government set out how Adult Learning funding should be used in the “New Challenges New Chances” Further Education and Skills Reform Plan 2011. There are three national objectives :-

- Maximise access to community learning for adults, bringing new opportunities and improving lives, whatever people’s circumstances.
- Promote social renewal by bringing local communities together to experience the joy of learning and the pride that comes with achievement.
- Maximise the impact of community learning on the social and economic well-being of individuals, families and communities.

There is an expectation that the funding is focused on people who are disadvantaged and least likely to participate, including in rural areas and people on low incomes with low skills. Fee income from people who can afford to pay should be collected and use where possible to extend provision to those who cannot.

##### **Priorities for Blackpool Council Adult Learning – local drivers**

There are 3 key local strategic drivers :-

- Blackpool Council Plan 2015 – 2020

The service mainly links to Priority 2 “Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience” as all courses aim to develop the skills of individuals so they can help themselves and others in their local community. However employability courses also contribute to Priority 1 – Maximising Growth and Opportunity through developing residents employability skills.

- Blackpool Joint Health and Well Being Strategy 2016 – 19

The service has a well-being offer which covers obvious well-being courses (confidence building, building resilience) but also weaves well-being into other courses (arts and crafts, employability)

- Lancashire Skills and Employment Strategic Framework 2016 – 2021

The service provides a pathway of employability courses in the community through voluntary sector sub-contractors (for example UR Potential), direct delivery in community centres (e.g Central Library, Salvation Army) and a sub contract with Blackpool and The Fylde College who provide bridging courses at the Seasider's Centre and Ashfield Road to encourage more learners progress into training.

In order to meet the needs of the town's most vulnerable residents, using the national and local drivers outlined above, the service has a defined core curriculum, priority groups and a delivery model

**5.4 Current Core curriculum :-**

- Basic Skills (English, Maths, Digital, Financial)
- Employability Skills – a Pathway To Work
- Lifeskills (including emotional wellbeing, volunteering)
- Family Learning

**5.5 Current Priority Groups**

- Adults in the top 30% Lower Super Output Areas
- Unemployed – on out of work benefits, more chaotic vulnerable long term, building up hours of work
- Low – moderate mental health needs
- Learning disabilities
- Homeless
- Domestic Abuse victims
- Vulnerable Families in Childrens Centres, Schools and other community settings

**5.6 Current delivery model – take the learning to the learner:-**

- Direct delivery in 50 different venues (including libraries, childrens centres, schools, Salvation Army)
- Sub contracting to community organisations – currently UR Potential and Lancashire Women's Centre
- Sub contracting to Blackpool and the Fylde College – to provide non qualification pathways in the Seasiders employability centre and the Bispham site.

**5.7 Impact 2016/17**

Adults completing lifelong learning courses (including well being) – 77% stated the course had a positive impact on their life, 45% progressed into further training, volunteering or into work.

- 5.8 Emerging information for priorities 2018/21  
**Core Curriculum** – the Adult Learning Management Committee feel the current core curriculum is still relevant for the 3 main strategic drivers (Blackpool Council Priorities, Health and Well Being Strategy, Lancashire Skills Strategic Framework)  
**Priority groups** – learning in later life a potential missing group?  
**Delivery model** – the developing six Integrated Neighbourhoods community groups and integrated teams provides a new opportunity to align adult learning courses
- 5.9 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No
- 5.10 **List of Appendices:**  
Appendix 5a: Community Learning Priorities 2015/18
- 6.0 **Legal considerations:**  
6.1 None.
- 7.0 **Human Resources considerations:**  
7.1 None.
- 8.0 **Equalities considerations:**  
8.1 The purpose of the consultation is to support equality considerations.
- 9.0 **Financial considerations:**  
9.1 None.
- 10.0 **Risk management considerations:**  
10.1 Not applicable as this is a consultation on priorities and is not seeking a decision.
- 11.0 **Ethical considerations:**  
11.1 None.
- 12.0 **Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**  
12.1 This item is part of a consultation exercise underway with key stakeholders.

**13.0 Background papers:**

13.1 None.