

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Education, Skills and Culture Cabinet Board

6th June 2019

Report of the Head of Participation – Chris Millis

Matter for Information

Wards Affected:

All wards

Adult Community Learning Update

Purpose of the Report

To inform Member of the progress of Adult Community Learning Service in Neath Port Talbot.

Executive Summary

This report contains an update of the work carried out by Adult Community Learning:

Staffing levels have decreased, however, the number of learners enrolled onto courses has started to increase and in 2016-17 numbers were up by 19% on 15/16 figures. 2016-17 figures are now only down by 13% on 2012-13 enrolments. ACL is on track to maintain and may improve slightly, on the number of enrolments for 17/18.

Adult Community Learning was successful in securing funding to provide a Family Learning Day on the 21st March in The Orangery, Margam Park. The event was very successful with over 200 people attending the day.

ACL and NPTC Group are again working in partnership to organising another Award Ceremony for learners and tutors. This will be held on the 4th July 2019 in Neath College. Last year's award ceremony was a great success and hearing learners' stories was very inspirational.

Background

Adult Community Learning (ACL) continues to deliver a range of learning activities for post 16 year olds in Neath Port Talbot. It is non-statutory and approximately 60% of adult community learning courses provided in Neath Port Talbot County are delivered by Adult Community Learning (ACL).

Adult Community Learning is externally funded through a grant from the Welsh Government and a franchise agreement with NPTC Group. Both contracts amount to approximately £500K. The ACL direct funding grant from the Welsh Government remained the same for 18/19 however, for 2019/20 funding will increase by 2.6%. Funding from the college covers the academic year – August - July and the service is on track to deliver the appropriate amount of learning to ensure the funding allocation for 18/19.

ACL is one of the lead partners of the NPT Learning and Skills partnership - new name and logo for 2019. The partnership, was set up in 2000 under the New Learning Network, is now well established and involves a range of public and voluntary-sector organisations in Neath Port Talbot County Borough including: NPTC Group; Neath Port Talbot Council for Voluntary Service; Adult Learning Wales; Swansea University Department of Adult Continuing Education; NPT Homes; Open University.

ACL continues to deliver courses in line with Welsh Government priorities as set in the Adult Learning in Wales policy, developing soft skills (including their confidence to learn) improving literacy/numeracy skills and ensures progression into more formal learning and/or employment. An example of this is the Introduction to Childcare which raises awareness of opportunities and helps learners improve their learning skills in preparation for undertaking more formal training onto the QCF level 2 and

then the level 3 in Children's Care, Learning and Development. Other courses delivered by ACL are literacy, numeracy, study skills, confidence building, employability skills, GCSE Mathematics and English etc. New courses delivered by the service this year have been Introduction to Mental Health, Interview Skills with a difference, Award in Health and Social Care and GCSE Psychology.

Adult Community Learning ensures that costs are kept to a minimum with numerous classes being free e.g. literacy, numeracy, study skills, employability, retail, hospitality etc. to enable all residents in NPT to be able to access learning to their improve skills. 63% of learners enrolled onto courses this year, live in the old Communities First areas.

ACL continues to have good links with Department of Work and Pensions (DWP), Remploy, Prime Cymru, NPT Primary Schools, etc. In partnership with DWP, looking to provide work placements in businesses around the borough e.g. Blancos, Castle Hotel, Café 46, Aberavon Beach Hotel. ACL has recently formed good links with the Local Area co-ordinators providing courses to improve confidence in Croeserw Enterprise Centre and Brynhyfrd House.

ACL continues to deliver a number of learning programmes in schools in NPT to provide as many free courses as possible to encourage parents back into education these include Popat, Child Psychology, Food Hygiene, British Sign Language etc. ACL this year have delivered a number of different courses in Central, Awel y Mor, Tywyn and Melin schools.

Staffing levels this year - 3 full time, 4 part time and 15 adult tutors. Will be monitoring delivery to see if there is a possibility to employ more adult tutors if demand increases.

ACL has always worked within budget and our sickness records indicate the commitment by staff to provide a high quality of service.

Even though staffing levels have decreased, the number of learners enrolled onto courses has started to increase and in 2016-17 numbers were up by 19% on 15/16 figures. 2016-17 figures are now only down by 13% on 2012-13 enrolments. ACL is on track to maintain and may improve slightly, on the number of enrolments for 17/18.

One of the main reasons why ACL has been able to maintain these figures is because of the management information service that has been designed for the service and which is maintained internally. As Adult Community Learning website/MIS is fully web enabled, learners are able to enrol and pay for their course online. We still provide other methods for people, so that they can choose how to enrol onto a course. As the system has developed over the years, staff and tutors are able to use the website to record learners' progression, complete/review registers and pay claims, view internal feedback and external reports etc. However, in 2017 the IT Officer who maintained and developed the website, left the authority and as a result, the ACL service has had to update the system and upload data to Welsh Government, which has been a big learning curve for all staff. IT has also mentioned that the system will need to change in order to maintain the same level of functionality.

Another reason for maintaining good enrolments figures is the partnership working that the service has with organisations. ACL attends regular events arranged by different organisations e.g. DWP, Crisis, Communities for Work+ etc. These raise ACL's profile and generate many referrals for work skills courses such as Hospitality, Retail, Admin and other provision e.g. literacy, numeracy, Childcare. It also allows ACL to anticipate changes such as the introduction of universal credit, monthly employment themes.

Family Learning Day

Adult Community Learning was successful in securing funding to provide a Family Learning Day on the 21st March in The Orangery, Margam Park. The event's aim was to encourage people with low skills back into education by providing a range of taster sessions and information regarding learning opportunities that are available (or could be available) in their local school / area. The Family Learning Day taster sessions did include a number of different activities for parents and their children to participate in together, focusing on literacy, numeracy and digital literacy. This included the use of iPads by using speech and language apps, a treasure hunt using numeracy; story time, including making puppets; using communication through arts and crafts and a knowledge of Welsh culture. There were also two storytelling activities as well as an Easter egg hunt. The event was very successful with over 200 people attending the day.

Award Ceremonies

ACL and NPTC Group are again working in partnership to organising another Award Ceremony for learners and tutors. This will be held on the 4th July 2019 in Neath College. Last year's award ceremony was a great success and hearing learners' stories was very inspirational.

An ACL learner was also recognised nationally last year at the Inspire Award in Cardiff and was awarded the Life Change and Progression Award. To read her story click onto the link

<http://www.learningandwork.wales/our-work/promoting-learning-and-skills/adult-learners-week/inspire-award-winners-2018/emily-harding/>

Emily has also been asked to participate on the Erasmus and Mobility Project arranged by Learning and Work Institute. She will be visiting the Netherlands, Estonia, Ireland and Slovenia - for someone who has never been abroad before, this is and has been a huge confidence boost for her.

Benchmarking data in 17/18

Direct Funding - Completion – 99.5% (↓0.5%) Attainment ↓ 96.6% (-0.9%) and Success – 95.9% (↓1.6%) Although data has decreased slightly this year, it is still well above the National figures - Completion - 98% Attainment 93% and Success 90%

Franchise data - Completion – 99.5% (↓ 0.1%) Attainment 93.9% (↑1.1%) and Success – 93.8% (↑1.2%).

Adult Community Learning will continue to look at ways to improve the service. This is evidenced by the learner survey and the steps taken to implement feedback. ACL will also be sending out a survey to organisations who refer learners onto courses, to gain information regarding our service.

Financial Impact

There are no financial impacts in relation to this report.

Equality Impact Assessment

There are no equality impacts associated with this report.

Workforce Impacts

There are no direct workforce or staffing issues in relation to this report.

Legal Impacts

There is no legal impact in relation to this report.

Risk Management

There is no identified risk to this report.

Consultation

Not applicable.

Recommendations

The report is for information purposes only.

Appendices

None

List of Background Papers

None

Officer Contact

Chris Millis - Head of Participation -Telephone: 01639 763226

E mail: c.d.millis@npt.gov.uk

Angeline Spooner-Cleverly - Participation Co-ordinator -Telephone:

01639 686044Email: a.spooner-cleverly@npt.gov.uk

Joy Khaghanian - ACL Manager -Telephone: 01639 686377 Email:

j.khaghanian@npt.gov.uk