

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT OF: Executive Director (Place)

TITLE: Adult Skills & Community Learning (ASCL) Self-Assessment (SAR) 2020/21

REPORT TO:	CABINET
Date of Meeting	06/04/22
Cabinet Member Portfolio	Place: Regeneration and Culture
Key Decision	No
Public or Private	Public

Purpose of report

To provide Cabinet with an evaluation of the quality and impact of the Adult Skills and Community Learning Service and its current improvement priorities

Council Plan priority

Learning Barnsley (contributing to Healthy Barnsley Growing Barnsley)

Recommendations

That Cabinet:-

- 1. Cabinet accept the Service's self-assessment report for the full academic year August 2020 to July 2021. (Appendix 1)**
- 2. Cabinet note and support the Service's development and improvement priorities**

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Adult Skills and Community Learning forms part of the Employment and Skills Service which, as part of the Regeneration and Culture business unit, is located within the PLACE Directorate of Barnsley Council. It directly delivers learning opportunities to Barnsley residents aged 19+

1.2 The Service delivers learning focused on:

- Employment, skills, and qualifications: getting people on to the skills ladder to gain, retain and progress in work

- Wellbeing: supporting people with physical and mental health issues to participate positively in their community and/or move into or retain work
 - Reducing isolation, promoting integration, and bringing communities together
 - Helping people acquire the characteristics to participate fully in life and work
- 1.3 As a result of the pandemic, its impact on access to community venues and in-line with Department for Education guidance face to face provision for the most vulnerable was delivered at Wellington House and was supplemented by on-line delivery.
- 1.4 During the academic year 2020/21 the Service was funded by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) through the Adult Education Budget (AEB). From September 2021 the AEB has been devolved to South Yorkshire MCA. This access to public funding brings the Service in scope for inspection by OFSTED and necessitates the completion of a self-assessment process as part of a quality improvement cycle to ensure quality of delivery and outcomes.
- 1.5 The Service is supported by an Advisory Board which oversees the work of the Service, provides support and challenge for continuous improvement and is fully involved in the self-assessment process. The Board is made up of; Members (Lead Member/Cabinet Spokesperson for PLACE plus a number of other with relevant interest/skills); BMBC Officers both strategic and operational (Executive Director for Place, Service Director Regeneration and Culture, Head of Employment and Skills, Public Health representative, Service Manager Adult Skills and Community Learning, relevant BMBC business partners) Further Education Sector Representatives (Vice Principal Barnsley College and Northern College) and a Voluntary and Community Sector Representative.

2. PROPOSAL

- 2.1 That Cabinet accept the SAR and the key development and improvement priorities that have resulted from it providing (where relevant) support for their achievement:
- Increase participation, particularly of those facing the greatest disadvantage and with the lowest level of skill/qualification, to pre-pandemic levels through the development of a locality model aligned to the Area Councils which increases engagement with individuals in their own communities
 - Following the introduction of Microsoft Teams for Education for the start of the academic year September 21, fully embed its use into delivery ensuring the quality of teaching and learning is maintained and the digital skills of both teaching staff and learners attending courses are strengthened
 - Strengthen collaborative working with local providers to avoid duplication of provision, provide clarity of the offer available to the adult population and maximise the impact of public funding on the economy
 - Reduce the proportion of learner records with unknown outcomes so that the impact of the Service can be fully evaluated
 - Improve the consistency and rigour of quality assurance and performance management processes at the individual team level to ensure all learners progress and achieve in line with expectations
 - Strengthen the leadership and management of English and ESOL

3. IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

3.1 Financial and Risk

3.1.1 Consultation on the financial implications have taken place with representatives of the Service Director – Finance (S151 Officer.)

3.1.2 No additional costs are expected to be incurred to address the development and improvement priorities identified in this self-assessment report. If any costs are incurred, these will be managed within existing budgets and so no additional funding is being requested. No appendix A is therefore required.

3.2 Legal

None

3.3 Equality

Not applicable – report is for information only. No decision required. .

3.4 Sustainability

Decision-making wheel not completed – report is for information only. No decision required.

3.5 Employee

None

3.6 Communications

None.

4. CONSULTATION

N/A

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 N/A

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Raise awareness of the Service and elicit support for achievement

7. GLOSSARY

AEB: Adult Education Budget

ASCL: Adult Skills and Community Learning

ESFA: Education and Skills Funding Agency

8. LIST OF APPENDICES

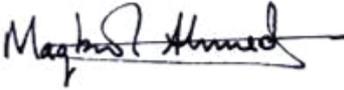
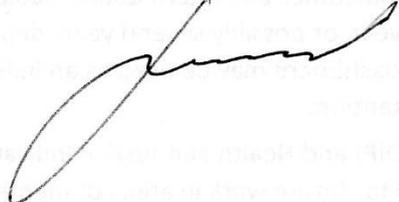
Appendix 1: ASCL self-assessment report for the full academic year (July to August) 2020/21

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Further education and skills inspection handbook

If you would like to inspect background papers for this report, please email governance@barnsley.gov.uk so that appropriate arrangements can be made

10. REPORT SIGN OFF

Financial consultation & sign off	Senior Financial Services officer consulted and date  18/03/2022 <i>This box must be signed to confirm that there are no financial implications. Alternatively, a signed Appendix A outlining the financial implications is required.</i>
Legal consultation & sign off	Legal Services officer consulted and date  21/03/22

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Date: 03/03/22