

## LAMBETH ADULT LEARNING

### Adult Community Learning Strategy 2016-2019 – Version 1

#### 1 Mission

The mission of Lambeth Adult Learning is:

- To widen participation in lifelong learning and promote social inclusion in Lambeth;
- Through working in partnership with learning providers and voluntary organisations;
- To give Lambeth citizens the skills and confidence to progress to further learning, become more actively involved in their communities, and/or move into jobs and achieve their full potential.

#### 2 Lambeth Adult Learning

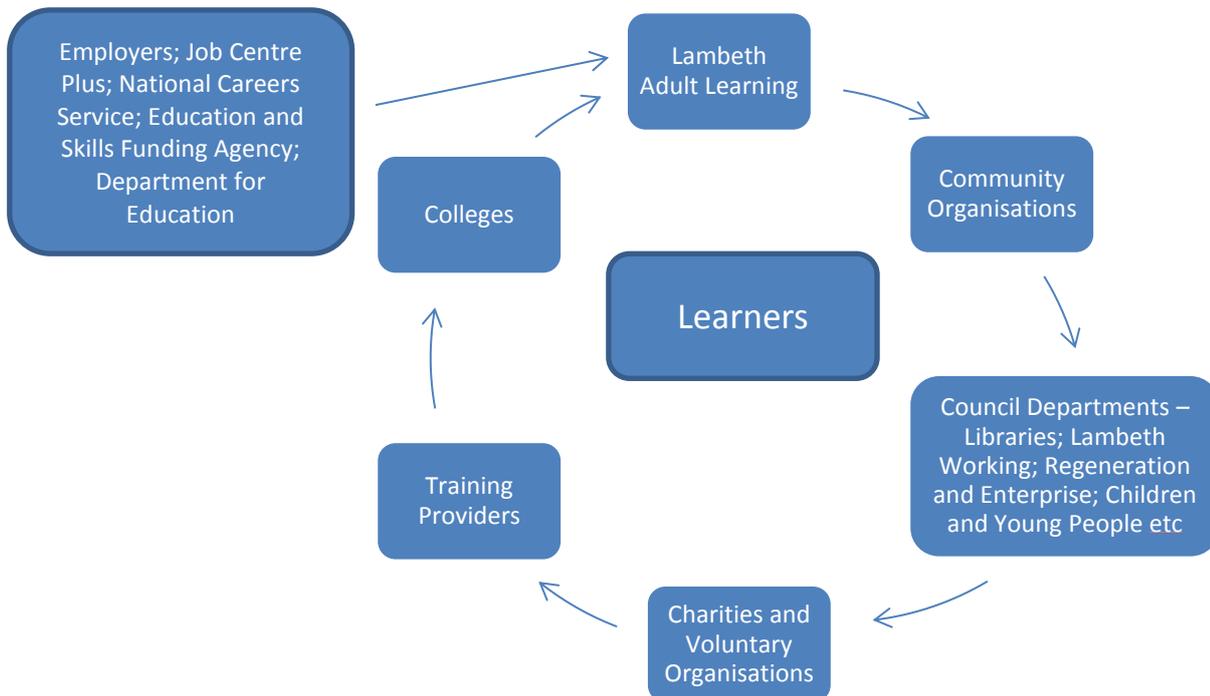
Lambeth Adult Learning Service is an integral part of Lambeth Council's Education, Learning and Skills department. The service secures funding from the Education and Skills Funding Agency to provide training and education across the borough to people living and working in Lambeth. Courses are delivered in over 100 community venues across the borough to help residents access training locally. Courses are run at entry level to level 2 (equivalent to GCSE level) and focus on a wide range of community learning including active citizenship, arts and crafts, digital and financial skills, enterprise, volunteering, health and well-being, and family learning. For those wishing to get into work, to volunteer or progress to more advanced further and higher education, courses help residents improve English, maths, IT, vocational, personal and social skills.

Lambeth is ethnically diverse and has a rich mix of social groups with areas of wealth and deprivation close to each other. The borough is the 14th most deprived district in England, comparable with Southwark, Lewisham and Haringey, but less deprived than the most deprived London boroughs of Newham, Tower Hamlets and Hackney. Those residents living in the most deprived areas are spread throughout the borough but are particularly concentrated in Coldharbour ward. The most affluent areas include the Thameside part of Bishops ward and the Dulwich border area of Thurlow Park. Lambeth has 177 super output areas (SOAs), each with roughly 1,500 residents. According to the 2010 IMD data only 8 of these 177 areas are in the 10% most deprived in the country compared to 26 (15%) in 2007. This indicates that there are far fewer pockets of extreme deprivation than a few years ago. The borough is set to benefit from the development of Nine Elms Vauxhall.

#### 3 Partnerships

Lambeth Adult Learning commissions provision through delivery partners to ensure that a wide reach is maintained across the borough. Provider partners secure a 4-year framework agreement following a formal tender process every 4 years; and funding is commissioned annually following the submission of curriculum bids and is dependent on performance. Contribution to the design and delivery of the curriculum is sought through involvement and feedback from a wide range of key stakeholders including learners, residents, employers, community organisations such as libraries, schools, children's centres, elected members, and partner staff. All commissioned partners are required to deliver courses from venues in the borough of Lambeth to ensure maximum access to learning is maintained for residents. Lambeth Adult Learning and its partners work in collaboration with over 80 organisations throughout the borough to maximise responsiveness to identified needs and ensure up to date and relevant curriculum development and planning.

### Lambeth Adult Learning Partnership Map



#### 4 Priorities

The priorities of Lambeth Adult Learning are to:

- 4.1 Maximise access to community learning for adults, bring new opportunities and improve lives, whatever people’s circumstances.
- 4.2 Support progression in its widest sense, for people who are disadvantaged and who are furthest from learning and therefore least likely to participate.
- 4.3 Promote social renewal by bringing local communities together to experience the joy of learning and the pride that comes with achievement.
- 4.4 Maximise the impact of community learning on the social and economic well-being of individuals, families and communities.

#### 5 Objectives

The objectives of Lambeth Adult Learning are to:

- 5.1 Widen participation in learning and transform people’s destinies through targeting community learning to meet the needs of local residents, employees and community organisations; by providing a means for residents that currently do not participate in learning to enjoy and benefit from learning.
- 5.2 Enhance individuals’ life opportunities by providing a wide range of relevant learning contributing to employability skills, community cohesion and citizenship, health and well-being and stronger family relationships.
- 5.3 Provide outstanding teaching, learning and assessment that enable each learner to achieve their learning aims and make positive progression relevant to personal circumstances.

- 5.4 Build organisational capability and infrastructure to deliver new and innovative community learning and skills education and training that secures a sustainable future.
- 5.5 Maintain financial stability through transparent procurement, commissioning and curriculum planning; to maximise opportunities for collaborative project bids with partner organisations to generate income; and to secure added value through 'in kind' contributions and adding to the public pound.

## 6 Curriculum Offer

A wide range of both accredited and non-accredited provision is run by Lambeth Adult Learning. The curriculum offer is divided into packages to meet citizens' needs. These are:

### 6.1 Accredited Provision – Entry 1 to Level 2

These are courses that lead to a nationally recognised formal qualification. Learners are able to access as many courses as they need to, to improve their skills in preparation for work or volunteering.

- **Functional Skills English** – helps learners improve their English and Literacy skills and obtain a qualification recognised by employers and colleges.
- **Functional Skills Maths** – helps learners improve their maths and numeracy skills and obtain a qualification recognised by employers and colleges.
- **Functional Skills Information Communication Technology (ICT)** – helps learners improve their skills in using a computer and develops their understanding of standard software used in business and at home.
- **Vocational Skills** – includes the development of work skills such as customer service and preparation for specific roles in the retail, hospitality, and health and social care sectors. The areas offered change according to the demand for skills across the borough from residents and employers.

**Priority learner groups** for accredited courses are people who are:

- Unemployed and in receipt of state benefits
- 19-23 year olds – with Level 1 qualifications or below
- 19+ who have not yet achieved English and Maths qualifications at Level 2

### 6.2 Non-accredited Learning Packages – pre-entry to Level 2

In most cases learners will access a course to help them develop the confidence and skills to reach their personal aims. In some cases learners will access non-accredited provision before moving on to courses leading to qualifications.

- **Active Citizenship** – includes volunteering skills, community champions and peer mentors. Also includes support for people with English as a second language to help them integrate and access essential services.
- **Arts, Media and Publishing** – includes digital photography, working with textiles, crafts, and music recording and production.

- **Digital Skills** – helps learners use technology more effectively, including use of computers, digital cameras and phones, and enables learners to stay safe online and manage their digital reputation.
- **Enterprise** – helps participants find out about self-employment with support in starting your own business.
- **Family English, Maths and Language** – helps parents and carers to support children in English and maths from early years.
- **Financial Skills** – helps learners to understand and manage their own finances more effectively with budgeting skills and better awareness of income and expenditure.
- **Health & Wellbeing** – includes improved mental wellbeing; fitness such as yoga and dance as well as cookery courses that aim to help learners provide healthier meals for their families.
- **Wider Family Learning** – complements the work carried out under Family English, Maths and Language and helps parents and carers to support their children’s learning through a wide range of courses including Community mosaic, Family art and E-safety for parents.

**Priority learner groups** for non-accredited provision include:

- People from black and minority ethnic backgrounds
- Parents and carers with English, Maths and language needs
- Lone parents
- Older people
- People for whom English is a second or other language
- People with low skills and no skills
- People who are unemployed
- Homeless people
- People who need to develop skills to be actively involved in their community

Learners completing their courses successfully are able to progress to positive destinations that include:

- Employment or self-employment.
- Further training and education at a college of further education or higher education.
- Volunteering opportunities – such as working as a class support assistant or in a real work environment.
- Involvement in community and civic engagement.

## 7 Outcomes

Lambeth Adult Learning aims to achieve the following outcomes:

- 7.1 Improved confidence and willingness of citizens to engage in learning.
- 7.2 Enhanced skills and personal effectiveness preparing people for training, employment or self-employment.
- 7.3 Improved digital, financial and communication skills.
- 7.4 Parents and carers better equipped to encourage and support their children’s learning.
- 7.5 Improved or maintained health and social well-being.
- 7.6 Increased volunteering and involvement in the community.

## 8 Measures – Key Performance Indicators



Each of the key performance indicators has specific criteria by which provision is monitored and measured. Monitoring of quality and performance is central to the delivery of the courses and Lambeth Adult Learning focuses on the development and delivery of a high quality curriculum offer by ensuring that managers, teachers and support staff are appropriately qualified and supported in continuing development to maintain up-to-date knowledge and professional standards.

### Key Performance Indicator Criteria

#### Value for Money

- Delivery costs per learner
- Management costs maintained at no more than 20% of total budget
- Maximisation of funding allocations

#### Equality and Diversity

- Closing the achievement gap between different groups of learners and social groups
- Enrolment reflects the profile of residents across the borough

#### Progression and Destination of Learners

- Analysis of learners' destinations
- Skills needs analysis of local adult population

#### Learner enrolment, retention and achievement

- Analysis of data against targets set for each provider and each curriculum package
- Strategies to ensure that learner achievement rates remain at or above national average

#### Satisfaction surveys

- Analysis of feedback received from learners, employers, partners and staff

### **Social Inclusion and community well-being**

- Learner involvement in volunteering
- Value added evidence
- Social return on investment

## **9 Financial Strategy**

Lambeth Adult Learning's strategy is to provide a universal community learning offer, with public funding targeted at those who need it most. Fee policies are in place across the partnership that ensure that fees are collected from residents who can afford to pay, with no fees or reduced fees for those least able to pay. Income generated is used where possible to extend provision to those who cannot afford to pay, and to provide equipment and resources. Citizens who meet the eligibility criteria and are in receipt of benefits or on a low income will continue to benefit from free or low cost training and education. Funding Rules are set by the Education and Skills Funding Agency and are updated annually. Lambeth Adult Learning will review our financial strategy and fees policy annually to ensure we continue to meet Education and Skills Funding Agency requirements.

Lambeth Adult Learning aims to maximise funding generated through Pound Plus initiatives. This includes:

- maintaining an up to date and relevant Fees Policy across the partnership;
- identifying and bidding for additional funding to support the curriculum provision;
- maximising resources in kind;
- identifying alternative sources of funding and income generation.

## **10 Formulation and Revision of Strategy**

This Adult Community Learning Strategy sets out the strategic direction of Lambeth Adult Learning for the next three years. It includes a summary of our vision as a learning partnership which engages and supports the most disadvantaged citizens in the borough, while remaining open to all. The strategy also outlines our priorities, objectives and key performance indicators. We will consult widely with learners, residents, provider managers and staff, elected members, Council officers, employers, community organisations and other interested stakeholders over the life of this strategy to ensure that the priorities are the right ones and meet citizens' needs. Your views and comments on this document are very welcome. Please contact us to give us your feedback:

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