



Adult Education Role and Purpose Statement 2018-2019

Statement of Intent

Southampton City Council's Adult Learning Service will commission, broker, support and monitor adult learning and skills opportunities across Southampton; encouraging social, economic, educational and personal progression for individuals, families and communities.

Local and National Priorities

Southampton City Council recognises the key role that adult learning has in supporting social and economic wellbeing of individuals and the city as a whole. The council's priority outcomes 2016-2020 are listed below and the Adult Learning Services works to support these wherever possible:

- **Southampton has strong and sustainable economic growth**
- **Children and young people get a good start in life**
- **People in Southampton live safe, healthy, independent lives**
- **Southampton is an attractive modern city, where people are proud to live and work**

The Skills & Community Learning Service also supports the priorities of [A Healthy Southampton for All](#) and [Better Care Southampton](#), particularly in building resilience and using preventative measures to achieve better health and wellbeing.

Nationally, 'New Challenges, New Chances' (Further Education and Skills Reform Plan: Building a World Class Skills System, December 2011) confirms the purpose of Government Supported Community Learning is to:

- 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

'New Challenges, New Chances' also sets out the service objectives for Community Learning:

1. Focus public funding on people who are disadvantaged and least likely to participate, including in rural areas and people on low incomes with low skills
2. Collect fee income from people who can afford to pay and use where possible to extend provision to those who cannot.
3. Widen participation and transform people's destinies by supporting progression relevant to personal circumstances, e.g.
 - improved confidence and willingness to engage in learning
 - acquisition of skills preparing people for training, employment or self-employment
 - improved digital, financial literacy and / or communication skills
 - parents / carers better equipped to support and encourage their children's learning
 - improved / maintained health and/or social well-being.
4. Develop stronger communities, with more self-sufficient, connected and pro-active citizens, leading to:
 - increased volunteering, civic engagement and social integration
 - reduced costs on welfare, health and anti-social behaviour
 - increased online learning and self organised learning
 - the lives of our most troubled families being turned around.
5. Commission, deliver and support learning in ways that contribute directly to these objectives, including:
 - bringing together people from all backgrounds, cultures and income groups, including people who can/cannot afford to pay
 - using effective local partnerships to bring together key providers and relevant local agencies and services
 - devolving planning and accountability to neighbourhood / parish level, with local people involved in decisions about the learning offer
 - involving volunteers and Voluntary and Community Sector groups, shifting long term, 'blocked' classes into learning clubs, growing self-organised learning groups, and encouraging employers to support informal learning in the workplace
 - supporting the wide use of online information and learning resources
 - minimising overheads, bureaucracy & administration.

How this will be achieved

Commissioning

Southampton City Council uses a commissioning model across its services, and subcontracts its Adult Education Budget (AEB) budget provision to:

- Ensure value for money in line with our Procurement Strategy and Contract Procurement Rules, and Pound Plus;
- Provide a responsive and flexible service to learners, and
- Offer a wide range of courses and venues to utilise the experience and expertise of many different training providers.

Most 2018-19 provision is subcontracted under a four year framework running from September 2015 (some is delivered by internal delivery providers). All subcontractors have formal contractual agreements which clearly lay out the rights and responsibilities on both sides of the subcontracting agreement for the full length of the framework. Call-off contracts are entered into each academic year which detail delivery for that year.

Partnerships and quality improvement

Southampton City Council's Skills & Community Learning team is committed to raising the quality of every learning activity delivered through its subcontracting arrangements. A wide range of formal and informal support is provided for subcontractors in order to achieve this including:

- contract reviews
- observations
- target setting and monitoring
- staff training
- learner evaluation and analysis
- emails, phone calls and meetings with subcontractors as and when requested or necessary.

The Skills & Community Learning team works hard to form strong partnerships with all subcontractors, as well as facilitating the sharing of good practice and peer support across the range of subcontracted and internal provision.

More information and a copy of this statement can be found at:

<http://www.southampton.gov.uk/schools-learning/further-learning/adult-education.aspx>

Delivery Partners for 2018-19

Organisation	Main curriculum areas	Main priority groups targeted
Bfluent	ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages)	Black and minority ethnic communities, learners without English as a first language
Brighter Prospects (Pitman Training)	Online business and IT courses, accounting, bookkeeping, construction, warehousing	Unemployed
Children's Links	Early years, supporting teaching and learning	Parents
City College Southampton	Family Learning literacy, numeracy and IT	Parents and those without level 2 qualifications
CLEAR (City Life Church)	ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) and employment support	Unemployed, without level 2 qualifications, learners from black, minority ethnic and migrant communities
Enham Trust	Employability	Learners with disabilities and/or learning difficulties
Mayflower Theatre	Improving health and well-being through arts-based learning	Universal access; some courses targeted at learners with learning difficulties/health issues
No Limits	Life skills and employability	Low skilled, unemployed and those with learning difficulties or disabilities, particularly young adults
Southampton City Council – Cultural Services	Family learning, arts and cultural learning activities	Universal access; some courses targeted at learners with learning difficulties/health issues
Southampton City Council – Employment Support	Employability	Unemployed
Southampton City Council - Libraries	Library licence, IT support	Learners with learning difficulties/health issues and the unemployed
Southampton City Council – Sure Start	Parenting, personal finance and health	Families from priority areas
TWICS	Community development and support	Older learners, volunteers and priority areas
WEA	Maths, English and skills for employment, health and wellbeing, cultural studies and community engagement	Black and minority ethnic communities, women's groups and those with basic skills needs