

Cabinet Committee on Performance Improvement

Meeting to be held on 12th April 2016

Electoral Division affected: All

Lancashire Adult Learning

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

Eddie Sutton, 01772 535171, Director of Development and Corporate Services

Eddie.sutton@lancashire.gov.uk

Executive Summary

The report provides an update for the Cabinet Committee on Performance Improvement on the County Council's response to the Ofsted inspection of Lancashire Adult Learning.

Recommendation

The Cabinet Committee on Performance Improvement is recommended to note that the Ofsted full re-inspection of Lancashire Adult Learning, has assessed the overall effectiveness of the College as good. The overall effectiveness at the previous inspection was inadequate.

Background and Advice

1. Fourth Ofsted re-inspection monitoring visit

On 2nd December 2015, Ofsted carried out its fourth and last follow up re-inspection monitoring visit to Lancashire Adult Learning (LAL) following publication of the inspection report on 11 December 2014, which found LAL to be inadequate overall. The areas for improvement were: success rates; the quality of teaching, learning and assessment; initial assessment and the monitoring of learners' progress; the rigour of quality assurance including self-assessment and the process for observations of teaching, learning and assessment; the use of data; and the effectiveness of leadership, management and governance, particularly the challenge and scrutiny by governors. Visual arts and family learning were judged to require improvement, business management and employability training were good.

The first monitoring visit took place in January 2015. It identified a number of priorities for improvement and recommended that urgent action was needed on several issues. A new interim principal and an interim vice principal, both from Nelson and Colne College, an outstanding college, took up post just before the first monitoring visit.

At the second visit in March 2015, inspectors found reasonable improvement for learners, especially in terms of improvements to teaching, learning and assessment;

the effectiveness of leadership, management and governance; self-assessment and the use of data, although weaknesses remained in each of these areas.

The third visit in June 2015 found further improvement. The effectiveness of leadership, management and governance and the quality of teaching, learning and assessment had significantly improved. Self-assessment and the use of data continued to show reasonable improvement.

The fourth visit in December 2015 found further improvement across all areas.

2. Ofsted Full Re-Inspection

Ofsted's full re-inspection took place between the 2nd and 5th February 2016. A copy of the Ofsted Report is attached at Appendix 'A'. Ofsted's key conclusions are as follows:

- Leaders and managers took swift and successful action to improve the quality of provision and outcomes for learners following the previous inspection.
- A strong and effective board of governors now drives forward a good pace of improvement through robust and determined support and challenge.
- The strategy to engage and recruit the very large majority of learners from the most disadvantaged areas and groups is highly effective.
- The proportion of learners who successfully achieve their qualifications has rapidly improved since the previous inspection and is now high.
- Passionate tutors set high aspirations and expectations, using a wide range of activities to enable most learners to reach their potential.
- Tutors use the results of initial assessment of learners' individual needs well to plan and provide effective learning and additional support to help learners overcome problems which might otherwise prevent success.
- Many learners from marginalised communities develop the skills, confidence and self-esteem to make better life choices.
- Learners' development of functional skills in English and mathematics, and English for speakers of other languages (ESOL), are good.

The following table summarises the overall Ofsted assessment

Overall effectiveness	Good
Effectiveness of leadership and management	Good
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment	Good
Personal development, behaviour and welfare	Good
Outcomes for learners	Good
Adult learning programmes	Good
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Inadequate

Ofsted highlighted three areas for improvement:

- Rapidly implement the plans to establish permanent senior leadership arrangements for the service.
- Share best practice internally to ensure that individual targets for all learners are of a consistently high quality. Ensure that tutors use targets well to plan individual learning and to measure learners' progress on their course.
- Implement the systematic analysis of non-accredited learning to identify any differences in achievement between groups of learners. Ensure that

managers and staff take effective actions to identify, tackle and reduce any identified differences.

3. Lifting of a Notice of Concern including all schedules

On 15th December 2014, the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) issued a Notice of Concern (the Notice) to the County Council .This was because the County Council had received an inadequate Ofsted inspection rating.

The SFA has now confirmed that it is satisfied that the County Council has complied sufficiently with the conditions set out in the Notice. This is because Ofsted's recent re-inspection judged the County Council to have improved to Good.

Consultations

The County Council has consulted Ofsted and the SFA on the response to the Ofsted inadequate assessment.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

Following the Ofsted inadequate assessment in November 2015, the County Council has put in place a series of measures to ensure that the Lancashire Adult Learning is able to respond positively to the planned Ofsted re –inspection. This has resulted in Lancashire Adult Learning having an overall effectiveness assessment of good.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
-------	------	-------------

Nil

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A