
Meeting of Executive Members and Children's Services Advisory Panel

12 June 2007

Report of the Director of Learning, Culture and Children's Services

ADULT EDUCATION INSPECTION REPORT AND ACTION PLAN

Summary

1. This report provides Members with information about the recent inspection of the council's post-16 adult and community learning and work-based learning provision and asks them to approve the post-inspection action plan, as agreed with the body responsible for funding this provision, the Learning and Skills Council (LSC).

Background

2. The Adult and Community Education Service (ACES) was inspected by the Adult Learning Inspectorate (ALI) during the week 13-17 November 2006 and the inspection report was published on 5 January 2007 (Annex A). It was a 'multi-remit' inspection in which ACES and the work-based learning provided by York Training Centre (YTC) were inspected jointly. The inspection was one of three ALI pilots for local authority 'multi-remit' inspections.
3. A single grade was awarded for 'overall effectiveness' (grade 2, 'good') and leadership and management (also grade 2, 'good'). All the curriculum areas inspected were grade 2 (good), except ACES' Family Learning provision, which was awarded a grade 1 ('outstanding'). Following the inspection, the two services produced a joint action plan to address areas for development identified during the inspection (Annex B).
4. Members are asked to note the successful manner in which the ACES and YTC worked together during and after this inspection, despite being two distinct services in two different directorates with only limited working contact in the past.

Issues raised about future working

5. Members are also invited to comment upon the implications of this development for the future. Since OFSTED took over the duties of the Adult Learning Inspectorate in April 2007, multi-remit inspections have become established as the norm for local authorities. OFSTED has explicitly stated that there is no expectation that local authorities will reorganise the different elements of their LSC contracts into a single management structure.

However, as it is now clear that the council as a whole is being inspected, rather than separate services as previously, a number of issues will need to be addressed. These include the implications of managing different aspects of the same LSC contract across different directorates within the Council.

Consultation

6. The post-inspection action plan was agreed in consultation with the LSC, who are also providing additional funding to support the plan.

Options

7. Not applicable

Analysis

8. Not applicable

Corporate Priorities

9. The work of the ACES and YTC contributes to the corporate priority - 'Increase people's skills and knowledge to improve future employment prospects'.

Implications

- Financial implications - the Learning and Skills Council has allocated £10,000 additional funding towards implementation of the plan.
- There are no human resources implications
- There are no equalities implications, other than where equality and diversity improvements have been identified. Staff will consult with the equalities team for support and advice as appropriate.
- There are no legal implications
- There are no crime and disorder implications
- There are no IT implications. Where new hardware and software requirements are identified in the plan, procurement will be through the Council.
- There are no property implications.

Risk Management

10. Once approved, the action plan should be uploaded onto the LSC's 'provider gateway', a portal through which the LSC and OFSTED can view the document alongside the service's self-assessment report, inspection report and statistical data. Failure to do this would contravene the LSC's

requirements and failing to implement the agreed improvements could result in the additional funding, or parts thereof, being withdrawn.

Recommendations

11. The Executive member is recommended to:
- Receive the inspection report
 - Approve the action plan
 - Comment on the implications of managing different aspects of the same LSC contract across different directorates within the Council.

Reason: To approve the Post Inspection Action plan.

Contact Details

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Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Patrick Scott
Director of Learning, Culture and Children's Services

Report Approved

Date 24 May 2007

Patrick Scott
Director of Learning, Culture and Children's Services

Report Approved

Date 24 May 2007

Specialist Implications Officer(s) None

Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

Annexes

Annex A - ALI inspection report, 5.1.2007 (short version)

Annex B - Joint post-inspection action plan for Adult and Community Education Service and York Training Centre