

HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES SELECT COMMITTEE			
Report Title	Community Education Lewisham		
Ward	All	Item No	3
Contributors	Executive Director for Community Services		
Class	Part 1	Date: 5 February 2014	

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To update the Healthier Communities Select Committee on the adult learning services offered by Community Education Lewisham (CEL) in 2013/14.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 Members of the Healthier Communities Select Committee are asked to note the contents of this report.

3. Policy Context

- 3.1 Shaping our future – Lewisham’s Sustainable Community Strategy, establishes the Council’s and Lewisham Strategic Partnership’s vision for Lewisham and its citizens, “Together, we will make Lewisham the best place in London to live, work and learn.” Underpinning this vision are six priority outcomes that describe sustainable communities in Lewisham and provide a clear picture of what citizens and services can deliver together.
- 3.2 The work of CEL contributes to the delivery of these priority outcomes, primarily Ambitious and Achieving – where people are inspired and supported to fulfil their potential and the commitment to encourage and facilitate access to education, training and employment opportunities for all citizens. In addition, the benefits of Adult Education mean that CEL plays an important supporting role for other priority outcomes including Empowered and Responsible – where people can be actively involved in their local area and contribute to supportive communities, and Dynamic and Prosperous – where people are part of vibrant localities and town centres well-connected to London and beyond.
- 3.3 CEL also supports the Council’s corporate priority to deliver services that support Active, healthy citizens and Strengthen the local economy.

4. Background

- 4.1 CEL offers a wide range of adult learning across the borough. Services are designed to welcome adults, many of whom may not otherwise take part in education or training. Courses provide accessible entry routes for new or returning learners and good progression routes. As well as acquiring new knowledge and skills, learners develop confidence, motivation and raised aspirations, as well as

gaining health and social benefits. CEL also works across the borough to improve learners' progression into employment and provides courses for Jobcentre Plus.

4.2 CEL aims to be community led and responsive to need across the borough and has an overarching goal: 'to be an outstanding Learning Community'.

4.3 CEL monitors itself against 6 Key Performance Indicators:

- (1) Outstanding/good teaching and learning in 90% of the provision including the effective use of e-learning in delivery.
- (2) To ensure there are no significant areas of unaddressed underachievement across the service, leading to headline retention (93%), achievement (92%) and success rates (85%) within CEL.
- (3) Safeguarding – our responsibility for the safety and wellbeing of all.
- (4) The views of wider community and users will be used to shape future developments and ensure that CEL responds to meet these needs.
- (5) CEL buildings, services and resources enable learning to take place in a safe, secure and inspiring environment.
- (6) Skills development for all CEL staff are embedded as a key quality function.

4.4 CEL receives funding from the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) to provide adult education. This constitutes the bulk of CEL's income together with a small amount of fee income, which is usually around £400k to £500k per annum.

4.5 CEL operates out of three sites: Brockley Rise, Granville Park and Grove Park, all of which are council owned and managed by Lewisham Property Services. CEL also delivers a range of provision in community settings across the borough by working in partnership with Libraries and community groups.

5. CEL Funding

	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014
Adult Skills	£1,838,111	£1,675,676	£1,623,346
Community Learning	£1,873,761	£1,880,426	£1,880,426
Total	£3,711,872	£3,556,102	£3,503,772

5.1 The funding comes in designated funding streams and there have been substantial cuts in the funding since 2006/7. Funding cuts have impacted on the number of learners and the range of provision that is offered by CEL.

5.2 The Skills Funding Statement 2012-2015 was issued in December 2012 and this provides a commitment to maintain the same level of Community Learning funding until 2015.

5.3 In December 2011 "New challenges, New Chances: Further Education and Skills System Reform Plan" was published. The report provides a commitment to maintaining the funding for Community Learning with a clearer commitment to using

the funding to support access and progression for people who are disadvantaged and who are furthest from learning and therefore least likely to participate.

- 5.4 Community Learning funding has an increased emphasis on partnership working to ensure a learning offer which is underpinned by engagement and consultation with communities and is responsive to local need.
- 5.5 The Lewisham learning partnership which includes Lewisham College, Twin Group, Voluntary Action Lewisham, Economic Development, CEL and Lewisham Libraries actively engages in joint marketing activities to ensure that Lewisham residents are aware of the range of provision available across the borough.
- 5.6 Further cuts to the Adult Skills funding budget have been announced and confirmation to the final settlement is due in March 2014.
- 5.7 In September 2013 Learning Loans for learners over the age of 24 years who wish to study for a level 3 qualification were introduced. CEL provides level 3 courses in Childcare for learners who wish to progress to employment in this area. The introduction of Learning loans has caused a drop of enrolment from 46 in 12/13 to 22 in 2013/14.

6. Course Offer

- 6.1 CEL offers a wide range of adult learning across the borough. There are over 1100 courses offering both accredited and unaccredited learning.

Courses are offered in these Subject Sector areas	
SSA01	Health and Childcare
SSA06	Information and communications technology
SSA09	Arts and Leisure
SSA09	Textile and Floral Design
SSA09	Design, Media and Food
SSA12	Languages
SSA14	Supported Learning Computer Project Mindlift
SSA14	ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) English Maths Neighbourhood learning in deprived communities.
SSA14	Family Learning

- 6.2 Lewisham's learner profile varies considerably, from those looking to achieve a formal qualification to adults who are re-engaging with learning after having had poor school experiences or interrupted learning.
- 6.3 An adult engaging with CEL for the first time is therefore offered a wide range of opportunities and provided with help and support to enable them to make their own individual choices about their future progression. Learners value the opportunities and the social interaction that their classes provide and this is in itself a valuable outcome.

- 6.4 CEL has a large provision of supported learning. These are classes for Learners with learning disabilities, physical disabilities, sensory Impairments or mental health difficulties.
- 6.5 These learners can access a range of non-accredited learning opportunities including art, dance, keep fit, fashion, floristry and health. Progression for these students includes increased confidence, development of new skills and an increased independence to help in further education or towards employment. Many learners move on from these classes to gain an accredited qualification.
- 6.6 CEL has continued to develop the course offer which is run from Deptford Lounge, and this has had the effect of engaging new learners. This provision includes English, ESOL, Maths, ICT- Get Into Work beginners and Improvers, Wider Family Learning- Creative Jewellery and Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities - Healthy Eating.
- 6.7 CEL also delivers learning with a range of other providers. The family learning offer has increased the course offer from 96 (total 12/13) courses to 130 (13/14 to date) across the borough. The focus is on improving the quality of provision and key partners where the learning offer focuses on the hardest to reach. Success rates have increased by 7% to 89% in Family Language, Literacy and Numeracy and by 6% to 95% in Wider Family Learning. Currently Family Learning is delivered in 6 primary schools, 6 children's centres, 2 libraries and 5 community centres as well as from our 3 main sites.
- 6.8 The supported learning provision for adults with learning difficulties and disabilities also works in partnership across the borough. The curriculum is delivered from CEL's sites as well as in outreach community centres, for the purposes of maximising accessibility for the wider local community, at Wesley Halls and the Mulberry centre. CEL has continued to work in partnership with Lewisham Clinical Commissioning Group to deliver Arts Lift and MindLift programmes.
- 6.9 Within the vocational learning section learners studying courses in health and childcare use a variety of school and childcare placements across the borough.
- 6.10 CEL delivers a range of informal learning opportunities through Studio courses which were launched in September 2013. Studio courses enable learners to continue their learning in areas where they have previously completed a range of courses.
- 6.11 These courses offer learners an opportunity to continue to update and develop their skills and practice in these subject areas outside of Skills Funding Agency funding. These areas include Botanical illustration, tailoring and clothes making, glasswork, pottery, printing and upholstery.
- 6.12 These courses have proved to be very popular and CEL has exceeded overall target numbers. These courses will continue to be offered to learners in 2014/15 and CEL is exploring other curriculum areas to widen this offer, subject to learner feedback and demand.

7. Grove Park Relocation

- 7.1 The current CEL site at Grove Park is adjacent to Coopers Lane Primary School. There is an overwhelming need for additional primary school places in this part of Lewisham and the most appropriate site for pupil expansion would be for the school to expand into the existing CEL premises.
- 7.2 CEL is currently consulting learners and the public about a proposal to relocate the Grove Park site to 333 Baring Road, Grove Park which is 0.6 miles from the existing Pragnell Road site.
- 7.3 This site has many advantages and would provide CEL with an opportunity to transfer the existing course offer from the Pragnell Road site and increase the range of classes available in this area of the borough.
- 7.4 This site would provide CEL with a central location within Grove Park being located on the main road near to the station and serviced by several bus routes. The central location and increased visibility of the site will enable CEL to increase the opening hours of the centre to include evening class provision, initially two evenings per week with the ability to further increase hours subject to funding and learner demand.

8. Enrolment

- 8.1 It is difficult to make direct comparisons regarding learner numbers with previous years as CEL made significant changes to course provision for 2012/13 & 2013/14 in offering shorter courses rather than year long provision. For comparison, data has been extracted for enrolments at 14th Jan in each year.
- 8.2 The number of learners from the Borough of Lewisham is stable at 82%. Enrolments of Lewisham residents have shown no significant changes at ward level.
- 8.3 There has been no change in the proportion of enrolments by male learners at 24% at the same point in 2012/13 & 2013/14.
- 8.4 The number of enrolments by learners 65 and over is up, though changes in curriculum design to courses not normally accessed by older learners had caused the % of over 65s to fall slightly (changes to Skills for Life curriculum design). Fee concessions remain for this group.
- 8.5 The % of learner enrolments who have declared a learning difficulty or disability remains broadly stable, despite some fee remission changes made by Skills Funding Agency.
- 8.6 There has been a slight increase in the number of new and progressing learners who now account for 59% of all learners, up 1%.
- 8.7 Even though there have been significant reductions in funding over the last few years CEL has continued to increase enrolment numbers across the service and is providing better value for money by operating with increased class sizes.

8.8 The following tables provide the detail as to enrolment numbers taken at January 14th in each year.

Gender	Enrolments		
	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Male	1239	1466	1830
Female	3993	4661	5757
Total	5232	6127	7587
% Male	23.7%	23.9%	24.1%

Age Range	Enrolments		
	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Under 25	269	263	393
25-34	907	979	1405
35-44	1219	1469	1874
45-54	1185	1316	1620
55-64	734	983	1048
65-74	687	834	916
75+	231	283	331
Unknown	0	0	0
Total	5232	6127	7587
% 65+ of known	17.5%	18.2%	16.4%

LDD	Enrolments		
	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Yes	1669	1980	2461
No	3436	4031	4947
Not provided	127	116	179
Total	5232	6127	7587
% Yes of known	32.7%	32.9%	33.2%

Borough	Enrolments		
	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Lewisham	4260	5033	6327
Non	972	1094	1260
Total	5232	6127	7587
% Lewisham	81.4%	82.1%	83.4%

Ethnicity	Enrolments		
	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
31 White – British	2007	2357	2720
32 White – Irish	95	128	142
33 Gypsy or Irish Traveller	0	0	2
34 White – any other White background	531	608	888
35 Mixed – White and Black Caribbean	71	111	194
36 Mixed – White and Black African	44	67	89

37 Mixed – White and Asian	36	35	55
38 Mixed – any other Mixed background	75	78	104
39 Asian or Asian British – Indian	65	80	106
40 Asian or Asian British – Pakistani	25	21	48
41 Asian or Asian British – Bangladeshi	28	29	33
42 Chinese	139	176	177
43 Asian or Asian British – any other Asian background	196	296	369
44 Black or Black British – African	565	719	927
45 Black or Black British - Caribbean	925	964	1160
46 Black or Black British – any other Black background	151	181	236
47 Arab	28	31	47
98 Any other	191	182	231
99 Not known/not provided	60	64	59
Total	5232	6127	7587
% BME of known	49.1%	49.0%	50.2%

9. Improvements

- 9.1 Service wide there is outstanding achievement at 95%, retention at 94% and success rates at 90%.
- 9.2 Headline success rate for Adult Skills Budget has risen by 8% from 79% in 2010/11 and is now very good at 87% in 2012/13.
- 9.3 Success rates for learners who receive additional support are very good at 89%
- 9.4 Headline success rates for Literacy (80%) and Numeracy (87%) have improved significantly from 71% and 67% respectively in 2010/11.
- 9.5 Significant progress has been made in narrowing achievement gaps in key areas of gender, disability and widening participation.
- 9.6 Success rates are at 80% and above for all of the Curriculum areas and 8 out of the 15 curriculum areas have overall success rates of 90% and above.
- 9.7 Rigorous Pre-course assessments have improved the success of diagnosing and providing support for learners with a range of learning difficulties. This has in part led to the overall increase in success rates across the curriculum areas.
- 9.8 There have been considerable improvements to the premises at Brockley Rise. A new building has created two large classrooms which are fully ICT equipped and which replace the old pre-fabricated hut buildings. Room 6 has been redesigned and resourced to provide for a range of multi-media and photography classes.

- 9.9 There has been a reduction in the use of accommodation that is not of a high standard or fully accessible for learners and significant improvement works have been made to rooms across the 3 main delivery sites.
- 9.10 There has been a significant increase in the training budget to ensure that all staff have access to priority training as identified across the service.
- 9.11 Improved tutor awareness, use and understanding of ICT including iCEL (moodle platform) to improve the learning experience.
- 9.12 Safeguarding for all learners is good.
- 9.13 CEL has continued to develop good partnerships and engage with disadvantaged sections of the community.
- 9.14 Good and effective operational Health and Safety Management processes are in place.
- 9.15 There is now a clear focus on improving the quality of teaching, learning and assessment across the curriculum areas.

10. Financial implications

- 10.1 Grant funding for CEL has already reduced and is expected to reduce further in the Adult Skills budget. Despite this, CEL has managed to contain its expenditure within the reduced budgets.
- 10.2 The service will continue to adjust spend in the light of changes in funding, whilst minimising the impact on the number of courses run.

11. Legal Implications

- 11.1 It is one of the roles of the Select Committee to review policy within its terms of reference. It can make enquiries and investigate options for future direction in policy development. Additionally the Committee can require the Executive Members or Executive Directors to attend before it to explain amongst other things the extent to which actions taken implement Council policy and provide evidence of the same.
- 11.2 The power for local authorities to provide community education facilities for adults is a discretionary one. This discretion should be exercised reasonably in the sense that only relevant matters should be taken into account and irrelevant considerations ignored.

12. Crime and Disorder Implications

- 12.1 There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

13. Equalities Implications

- 13.1 CEL is one of the providers of adult education in Lewisham. It offers accessible entry routes for new or returning learners as well as progression routes that are used by learners to further their skills and education. In addition, CEL provides a range of informal learning activities.
- 13.2 Low levels of basic skills is often a characteristic of deprived communities and can prevent people from finding employment and fulfilling their potential. 45.9% of Lewisham residents are educated to NVQ Level 4 and above, which means they have a higher national diploma or degree level qualification. 61.4% have NVQ Level 3 and above which is equivalent to at least 2 A Levels or an advanced GNVQ.
- 71.4% have NVQ Level 2 and above which is the equivalent of 5 or more GCSEs at grades A-C or an intermediate GNVQ. 79.8% have NVQ Level 1 and above, which equates to less than 5 GCSEs at grades A-C or a foundation GNVQ. 11.9% of Lewisham residents hold other qualifications such as foreign qualifications, while 8.3% have no formal qualifications at all. 15,700 people aged 16 and over in Lewisham are unemployed. This equates to 10.6% of the economically active population and compares to 9.2% across London and 7.9% for Great Britain.
- 13.3 The profile of learners accessing CEL provision is predominantly female (76%). When analysed by age categories it is clear that provision is not disproportionately weighted to any particular age group. 84% of adult learners accessing CEL are of working age (16-65) with the remaining 16% aged over 65. The latter figure is higher than the borough profile for people aged 65 and over but reflects the number of older and retired people interested and with the time and capacity to develop new interests and skills. Half of CEL users are from a white ethnic background and half from a BME background. One quarter of CEL users identify themselves as having a disability or learning difficulty which is a higher proportion than the population average. Information on the other protected characteristics (sexual orientation, religion/belief, gender reassignment, pregnancy/maternity and marriage/civil partnership) is not currently collected by the service.

14. Environmental Implications

- 15.1 There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

16. Conclusion

- 16.1 There has been a significant increase in enrolment numbers from 6127 to 7587 partly due to changes in curriculum design but also due to an increase in average class size. This is reflected by learner numbers also increasing by 308 to 3366 across the service. Despite funding cuts, CEL has maintained a wide range of learning opportunities for Lewisham residents and has increased partnership working across the borough. CEL continues to meet all SFA targets for learner numbers and funding allocation.

For further information, please contact Helen Hammond, CEL Service Manager
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