

<b>TITLE</b>	: ADULT AND COMMUNITY LEARNING PLAN		
<b>TO/ON</b>	: EXECUTIVE		9 JULY 2003
<b>FROM</b>	: EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR LIFELONG LEARNING		
<b>STATUS</b>	: PUBLICATION		

**1.0 TYPE OF DECISION**

1.1 What type of decision is to be taken:-

EXECUTIVE DECISION		COUNCIL DECISION	
Key		Non Key	

1.2 If a key decision, has it been included in the Forward Plan

Inclusion in Forward Plan	Yes	Date of Plan	
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**2.0 SUMMARY**

- 2.1 The Lifelong Learning Service is required to submit an annual Adult and Community Learning (ACL) Plan to the Learning and Skills Council. The 2003-2004 Plan relates only to ACL provision. The Learning and Skills Council funds the Plan and is currently in negotiation with the Lifelong Learning Service.
- 2.2 The Service is planning significant increases in provision in Computing, Language and Communications, and Foundation Programmes (includes Basic Skills, Family Learning and Community Outreach Work).
- 2.3 Approval to fund the Plan is expected by the end of July 2003.

**3.0 OPTIONS AND RECOMMENDED OPTIONS (with reasons)**

- 3.1 The Service is currently re-aligning provision to support Borough Council Social Inclusion Strategies. The preferred option is to support this Strategy.
- 3.2 A second option would be to continue with current provision that meets the needs of existing learners. This may lead to withdrawal of LSC funds.

**4.0 THIS REPORT HAS THE FOLLOWING IMPLICATIONS**

<b>Corporate Aims</b>	<p>The plan contributes to all corporate aims particularly the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creating a better future for all generations;</li> <li>Developing a stronger community spirit;</li> <li>Achieving social inclusion.</li> </ul>			
<b>Policy Framework</b>	Community Plan, Corporate Plan, SDDP, Best Value Improvement Plan			
<b>Statement by Monitoring Officer</b>	The recommendations in this Report are in accordance with the Policy Framework and consistent with anti-discrimination legislation.			
<b>Statement by Director of Finance and E-Government</b>	As stated in the report, the Adult Education Service is entirely funded by LSC grant. The Plan aims to ensure that the grant receivable is maximised, in accordance with Council policy.			
<b>Human Resource IT/ Land and Property Implications</b>	All expenditure is within the limit of the Adult and Community Learning Grant 2003-2004.			
<b>Wards/Area Boards affected</b>	All wards.			
<b>Scrutiny Panel's Interest</b>	Learning Communities Scrutiny Commission			
<b>Consultations</b>	Bury Learning Partnership ECMT Management Board Greater Manchester Learning and Skills Council			
<b>Call-in</b>				
<b>Briefings</b>	Executive Members/Chair		Chief Executive	

**5.0 INTRODUCTION**

5.1 The Lifelong Learning Service is required to submit an annual ACL Plan to the Learning and Skills Council. The Plan relates only to ACL provision which is often referred to as 'non-qualification' or 'non-accredited' or 'non-vocational' provision and covers the period of August 2003 to July 2004.

## **6.0 BACKGROUND**

- 6.1 The Plan is meant to be a 'live' document for further discussion with partners. It is intended to represent a starting point rather than a finishing point. Consequently, it is proposed that detailed discussions should continue with partners to ensure coherence and progression with provision across the Borough.
- 6.2 The ACL Plan covers 28 sections and runs to over 68 pages. The sections include details of staffing, accommodation, health and safety, and other issues which may not be of interest to members of the Executive. However, the strategic objectives, and planned activities underpinning the objectives, are listed on the following pages.
- 6.3 In the forward to the guidance for writing the ACL Plan, the Chief Executive of the LSC wrote:
- "We recognise that ACL forms an important part of the drive to widen participation in learning, to build a community's self-confidence and capacity, and to promote good citizenship and regeneration. Equally important is the more traditional role that ACL plays as the provider of learning opportunities for their own sake."*

## **7.0 ISSUES**

- 7.1 The Service has invested in a Widening Participation Unit. This Unit works with Departments of the Council, Area Boards, and Voluntary and Community Organisations to raise the level of participation in learning. Target groups include those on low incomes, unemployed, homeless and other groups who do not usually participate in formal learning. The Adult Education Service intends to allocate more resources to this Unit during 2003/2004.
- 7.2 The Adult Education Service is attempting to balance the needs of those who do not currently participate in learning with the needs of continuing learners. Research within the Service has identified IT and Modern Languages as useful vehicles in recruiting new learners. Consequently, the Service intends to expand these areas within its ACL provision.
- 7.3 The Strategic Objectives of the Service are to:
- Prioritise resources towards tackling low participation and increasing the number of learners involved in basic skills, family learning and other first rung learning;
  - Improve the quality of Adult and Community Learning provision;
  - Actively participate with Departments of the Borough Council, the Area Boards, members of the community, and members of the Bury Learning Partnership, in the planning and delivery of ACL provision to ensure responsiveness of provision and effective progression opportunities for the learners of Bury.
- 7.4 The following activities are planned during 2003/2004 to realise the above objectives:
- Develop work with Area Boards;
  - Provide IT and Basic Skills courses in libraries;
  - Increase the number of short courses;
  - Provide 80 additional courses mainly in IT and languages;
  - Increase the number of learners with disabilities and/or learning difficulties;
  - Increase participation of socially disadvantaged families through 'positive parenting' courses;

Increase participation in Family Learning particularly families from ethnic minorities;

Partners, learners, and their communities, to be more involved in curriculum planning;

Learners have access to the best quality provision within the Borough of Bury;

Learners are aware of the possible progression routes between all Post-16 providers of education and training.

## **8.0 CONCLUSIONS**

- 8.1 The Adult Education Service is funded by the Learning Skills Council. Consequently, it is in the interests of the Borough Council to ensure such funds support the work of Departments of the Council. There is a clear symmetry between the social inclusion agenda of the Government, the Learning Skills Council and the Borough Council. Consequently, there are opportunities for the Adult Education Service to work in partnership with Departments of the Council. The Adult Education Service is working successfully with several departments and the Area Boards. The Adult Education Service intends to develop this work within, and beyond, the period of the ACL Plan.

**COUNCILLOR S R PERKINS  
EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR LIFELONG LEARNING**

### ***Background documents:***

LSC Adult and Community Learning Planning Guidance 2003/2004  
The National Strategy for Improving Adult Literacy and Numeracy Skills  
LSC Strategic Plan 2002/2005  
Adult and Community Learning Plan 2003/2004.

### ***For further information on the details of this report, please contact:***

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