

SCRUTINY REPORT



MEETING: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

DATE: January 21st 2019

SUBJECT: Adult Learning Service Governance Arrangements (Item 9)

REPORT FROM: Cabinet Member Communities and Safer Neighbourhoods

CONTACT OFFICER: Julie Kenrick, Adult Learning Service

1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 Following a short inspection by Ofsted in November 2015, Bury Adult Learning Service was judged to continue to be a good provider. Ofsted commented that reporting to elected members was frequent. However, although sharply focused on participation of target groups and learner outcomes, it was judged that there was not sufficient focus on teaching and learning. As part of the next steps identified by Ofsted, leaders and governors should ensure that *'there is support and challenge by elected members including consideration of the quality of teaching and learning'*.

1.2 In order to address Ofsted's recommendation, the Service successfully applied for 2 days free consultancy in 2017 and an additional day in 2018 as part of the National Leaders in Governance Project funded by the Association of Colleges. The consultant explored ideas with both the Adult Learning Senior Leadership Team and the Chair and Deputy Chair for Communities and Safer Neighbourhoods on how elected member involvement could be developed to support performance and quality improvement.

1.3 After input from the Leader of the Council, it was agreed that 1 elected member from each Township would be nominated to take on the role of Learning Champion. This would involve taking part in learning walks, talking to learners to gather their views about their learning experience, attending celebration events and promoting the work of the adult learning service.

2.0 PROGRESS TO DATE:

2.1 Learning Champions took part in one of the consultancy days in April and expressed an interest in taking on a larger brief to include monitoring of performance and exploring key themes in adult learning to enable a more in depth exploration of

topics e.g curriculum offer and planning, learner voice, self assessment, teaching and learning and measuring the impact of learning for local people

2.2 An Adult Learning Advisory Group made up of the Adult Learning SLT and Learning Champions was formed to feed into Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Advisory Group held its first meeting in October. A Terms of Reference has been developed for the group to reflect its broader role .

2.2 Data dashboards have been developed to provide top level performance data to be reviewed at Advisory Group meetings

2.3 Learning Champions have taken part in at least one learning walk providing feedback on their observations. They have also attended celebration events including Adult Learner of the Year

3.0 CONCLUSION

3.1 In order to strengthen the monitoring of performance and quality improvement, the proposed recommendation is that (a) overview and scrutiny receive regular updates in respect of the work of the Adult Learning Advisory group or (b) set up a lifelong learning sub group to review key items in depth

List of Background Papers:-

1. Advisory Group Terms of Reference
2. Data Dashboard; Performance Data Updated December 18
3. Example of Participation Data Dashboard

Contact Details:- Julie Kenrick Head of Service 0161 253 7457