



Open Report on behalf of Andy Gutherson, Executive Director - Place

Report to:	Environment & Economic Scrutiny Committee
Date:	11 July 2023
Subject:	Adult Learning Provision 2022-23 and plans for the 2023-24 academic year

Summary:

This report provides an overview of the activity delivered by the Adult Skills & Family Learning Service in 2022-23, highlighting key successes made during the academic year.

A dashboard outlining key performance indicators is provided at Appendix A for information, and a dashboard detailing planned Adult Skills & Family Learning provision for 2023/24 is provided at Appendix B for committee members to comment on.

Actions Required:

The Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee is invited to:

- (1)** Review and comment on the successes reported for the 2022/23 Academic year; and,
- (2)** Highlight additional areas for consideration to meet the needs of businesses and constituents at a District Council level to inform the 2023/24 Adult Skills & Family Learning programme planning.

1. Background

The Adult Skills & Family Learning programme is funded by the Adult Education Budget grant provided by the Education & Skills Funding Agency. This funding enables flexible tailored programmes of learning to be made available, which may or may not require a qualification, to help hard to reach learners engage in learning, build confidence, and enhance their well-being. Meeting the government's adult skills priorities, the funding's principal purpose is to engage adults and provide the skills and learning they need to equip them for work, an apprenticeship or further learning.

Lincolnshire County Council's Adult Skills & Family Learning Service raises achievements and aspirations by providing high quality learning opportunities in a safe environment that

enables learners to progress according to their ability, needs and interests. Through skilful partnership working with other Adult Education providers the provision is designed to add value and provide inbuilt progression routes to other provision.

This unique provision fills the gaps and meets the needs of Lincolnshire communities that are not able to be met by other funded provision. This important programme increases the confidence and skill levels of residents of Lincolnshire, giving them new career opportunities whilst helping local businesses to recruit the talented employees they need to develop.

Adult Learning programmes are planned and delivered via a range of commissioned and directly delivered arrangements, to support the delivery of key strategic priorities of Lincolnshire County Council, as well as alignment to the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership's (LEP) priority of increasing skills in Lincolnshire and driving economic growth. The subsequent programme is designed to meet the specific needs of residents and Employers in Lincolnshire. The Greater Lincolnshire LEP has identified six priority sectors of agri-food, engineering, manufacturing, the visitor economy, health and social care, and ports and logistics. Funding is concentrated in areas of market failure.

1.1 - Programme delivery

To provide a wide spread of provision across the county the Adult Learning programme is delivered by a range of sub-contracted partners, as shown in the table below, as well as via in house Tutors. Between August 2022 and June 2023, a total of 5,576 unique learners have been engaged on Adult Learning Programmes, delivering over 1,500 qualifications in the 2022/23 financial year.

Provider Type	Names
Third Sector and Community Interest Companies	Abbey Access Training Centre; Children’s Links, Community Learning in Partnership (CLIP); Taylorltx; Gainsborough Trinity Foundation; Riverside Access and Training Centre Gainsborough
Trusts	Lincoln Pelican Trust; Seagull Recycling Ltd; Lincolnshire Action Trust
Training Organisations	Soteria Solutions; ESH Consultancy; Three Counties Accounts Training Services (3CATs); East Lindsey Information Technology Centre (First College); Train4; LAGAT Ltd; Skills 365
FE Colleges	Boston College; Grantham College; Lincoln College

A wide range of Adult Learning courses are offered, via the two strands of Adult Skills and Wellbeing provision. This wide-ranging provision encourages engagement with adult learning for personal development, as well as developing skills and supporting improved employability. Courses include GCSE and Functional Skills maths and English, computerised accounts, Makaton, CV writing and Interview Skills, Customer Service Skills, nursing and social care, health & safety, Paediatric First Aid, construction skills, Pilates, modern foreign

languages, mental health and wellbeing, digital employability skills and computing, and where appropriate include a qualification.

In addition to the Adult Skills and Wellbeing programmes, Family Programmes are delivered in partnership with schools, children's centres and in community venues across Lincolnshire ranging from 1-week short, engagement workshops of 3-hours duration, to 18-week long courses of 66 hours. Courses include the traditional Keeping up with the Children in literacy, numeracy, and Information and Communication Technology (ICT), as well as play-based provision such as Learning through Play, Fun with Numbers, etc.

A small number of Traineeship programmes are delivered which include Functional Skills maths and English, and work experience.

Learning programmes are delivered in schools, colleges, military bases, and community venues.

1.2 - Key data

Target groups

Target category	Annual target	Actual (31.5.23)
Unemployed learners	50%	58%
Male learners	36%	32%
Learners from ethnic minority groups	9%	20%
Learners with Learning difficulties or disabilities	20%	30%
Learners with no/low qualifications (under level 2)	40%	36%
Learners from areas of deprivation	25%	30%

Outcomes data

Target category	Annual target	Actual (31.5.23)
Attendance	92%	93%
Retention	95%	98%
Qualification pass rate	80%	91%
Progression into work or further learning	75%	73%
Satisfaction	96%	99%

1.3 - Things we are proud of, academic year 22/23

- Good recruitment of our target, hardest to reach, groups as outlined in 1.2 above.
- High levels of attendance, retention, qualification achievement and progression into work or further learning, as provided in 1.2 above.

- Strong partnership working with our sub-contracted providers to enable a county wide programme to be delivered that achieves a high learner satisfaction rate and very good outcomes for those involved. This includes a learner from Gainsborough who began his learning journey in 2021 looking for support to build his confidence and gain skills and qualifications to help him find work. He has since completed English and maths qualifications as well as taking part in customer services and employability skills courses. All his hard work has paid off and in January he gained a role with a prestigious employer. Other success stories include a learner working at The Priory Hotel in Louth who has been promoted to General Manager as a result of undertaking his Level 3 Diploma in Hospitality, Supervision and Leadership with ourselves.
- Good partnership working with the county library service to widen participation.
- Over 1,000 learners on our Family Learning programmes achieving good outcomes for those involved. This includes one learner, who because of the Family Learning intervention now has a job, has lost a lot of weight, has a much more appropriate relationship with herself and her children and has also given up energy drinks – the transformation in her is staggering.
- Strong partnership work with local community groups and family hosts to provide learning opportunities for Ukrainian families. This includes provision provided in South Kesteven, Stamford, Grantham, Bourne, Boston, Market Deeping, and Lincoln. Additional ESOL provision has been organised to meet this extra demand in year reflected in the recruitment of high numbers of learners from ethnic minority groups.
- Good progression into employment through our construction and security sector routeway provision supporting employers including Security4, Beal Homes and Lincolnshire Co-op.

2. Conclusion

Members of the Committee are invited to note the successes made by the Adult Skills & Family Learning Service in 2022/23, and comment on the planned 2023/24 programme highlighting any additional areas for consideration to meet the needs of businesses and constituents at a District Council level to inform future curriculum planning.

3. Consultation

a) Risk and Impact Analysis

N/A

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Adult Skills & Family Learning 22-23 key performance indicators
Appendix B	Adult Skills & Family Learning planned programme 2023-24

5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Thea Croxall, Adult Learning & Skills Manager- Economic Development who can be contacted on 07789 982248 or via email at thea.croxall@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

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