



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

Report to:	Environment & Economy Scrutiny Committee
Date:	12 July 2022
Subject:	Adult Skills & Family Learning Programme 2021/22 (inc. plans for academic year 2022/23)

Summary:

This report provides an overview of the activity delivered by the Adult Skills & Family Learning Service in 2021/22, highlighting key successes made during the academic year.

A dashboard outlining planned Adult Skills & Family Learning provision for 2022/23 is provided at Appendix A for committee members to comment on.

Actions Required:

Members of the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee are invited to:

- (1) Review and comment on the successes made in the 2021/22 Academic year.
- (2) Highlight additional areas for consideration to meet the needs of businesses and constituents at a District Council level to inform the 2022/23 Adult Skills & Family Learning programme planning.

1. Background

1.1 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 wellbeing. 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.

1.2 Lincolnshire County Council's (LCC) 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.

1.3 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.

1.4 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.

2. Programme delivery

2.1 Adult Learning provision is provided through 22 sub-contracted partners as shown in the table below. Between August 2021 and June 2022, a total of 5,535 unique learners have been engaged on Adult Learning Programmes, delivering over 800 qualifications to date.

Provider Type	Names
Third Sector and Community Interest Companies	Abbey Access Training Centre; Community Learning in Partnership (CLIP); TaylorItex; RHG Consult; Gainsborough Trinity Foundation; Riverside Access and Training Centre Gainsborough; Workers' Educational Association
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.
FE Colleges / Secondary Schools	Boston College; Grantham College; Lincoln College; Stamford College; Grimsby Institute of Further & Higher Education;

2.2 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.

2.3 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 ICT, as well as play-based provision such as Learning through Play, Fun with Numbers, etc.

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

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

2.6 High levels of satisfaction, retention, attendance and achievement.

3. Key data

Target category	Annual target	Actual (31.5.22)
Unemployed learners	50%	50%
Male learners	36%	35%
Learners from ethnic minority groups	9%	15%
Learners with Learning difficulties or disabilities	20%	27%
Learners with no/low qualifications (under level 2)	40%	28%
Learners from areas of deprivation	25%	27%

4. Things we are proud of, academic year 2021/22

4.1 Covid continues to impact on recruitment to the Adult Learning programme. However, we are delighted that through the continued hard work of our Learning Providers, with support from the Adult Skills & Family Learning Service, our learner numbers for the current year are healthy.

4.2 Working in partnership 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. Very positive feedback has been received from our responsive approach:

“Thanks again for hearing our request for classes and acting on it!” Yvette Díaz-Muñoz
the Chair of Stamford Diversity Group CIC

4.3 Working in partnership with Lincoln College, providing pre-employment training and Sector Based Work Academy Provision for Anglian Water and Stokes, helping unemployed learners into employment.

4.4 Sensitive support for our more vulnerable learners, observed at an Eco Wellness session delivered by Seagull Recycling Centre at their Skegness Eco Centre in May 2022. There were 14 attendees, including one lady with dementia with her husband. Key aspects that stood out and what made it a highly positive session was the effort put in to make the session suitable for all those present. It produced such positive energy that everyone was enjoying the experience, supporting each other, wanting to share their enthusiasm by giving specific feedback to the observers present. The genuine care taken in achieving this was down to the excellent skills of the tutor who seamlessly put the learner at the centre of the experience. Sensitive encouraging and motivating all present with the right level of support when required, particularly for the lady with dementia

4.5 Learner feedback, particularly from those struggling with social anxiety:

“Today I have attended a First Aid Course lead by Martin, and I felt I needed to email how brilliant I thought he was. I struggle with social anxiety, and from the moment I met him I felt at ease. The way he spoke, the way he tailored the course to all of our needs was just fantastic. Martin was very clear with the way he spoke and I felt like I understood everything he said. I felt very comfortable at asking questions and did not feel silly to ask. Please could you ensure this gets passed on and he is recognised for this. “

4.6 Reintroduction of Learner of the Year Awards at the Lincolnshire Show, following Covid, where we are able to recognise the hard work and commitment of our learners. 27 strong nominations were received across the service and the three winners from Abbey Access Centre in Lincoln, Community Learning in Partnership based in Market Rasen, and Riverside Access and Training Centre based in Gainsborough were presented with their awards by Councillor Martin Hill on 22nd June at the Lincolnshire Show.

5. Conclusion

Members of the Committee are invited to note the successes made by the Adult Skills & Family Learning Service in 2021/22, and comment on the planned 2022/23 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.

6. Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

N/A

7. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Adult Skills & Family Learning 2022/23 planned programme Dashboard

8. 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, who can be contacted on 07789 982248 or at Thea.croxall@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

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