

Committee(s)	Dated:
Community and Children's Services	8 th July 2016
Subject: Adult Skills & Education Service, Inspection Outcome	Public
Report of: Director of Community & Children's Services	For Information
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Summary

The last inspection of the adult skills and education service took place in 2010. Since that date the Ofsted Inspection framework has changed and stronger evidence of quality, performance and outcomes for learners is now required.

The 2016 Ofsted Inspection focused on, amongst other things, the levels of qualifications achieved by learners and apprentices, the numbers and types of employment secured and the quality of teaching and learning.

During 23 – 26 May 2016 the Adult Skills and Education Service (ASES), including the Apprenticeship programme, was inspected by HMI Ofsted. The Inspection focused on the following areas:

- Effectiveness of Leadership and Management
- Quality of Teaching Learning and Assessment
- Personal Development, behaviour and Welfare
- Outcomes for Learners
- Adult Learning Programmes
- Apprenticeships
- Overall effectiveness at previous inspection.

All areas of the service were graded as Good (Grade 2). Therefore the overall effectiveness of the service was graded as Good (Grade2). A copy of the full inspection report is available to Members on request.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee note the report.

Main Report

Self-Assessment

1. Prior to the inspection the ASES team completed a self-assessment (SAR). The Inspectors fully supported the recommendations that were made in the self-assessment report. The service had graded itself a level 2. This grade was fully supported by the Inspectors. Overall, the SAR confirmed that learner termly evaluation and feedback closely mirror the range and types of courses available. In other words, the curriculum had a strong educational purpose and the outcome for learners was good.

Apprenticeships

2. The service currently supports 6 main apprenticeship frameworks. The future aim is to increase the number of frameworks over the next twelve months. These new areas will include working with the Institute of Credit Management and with Universities to deliver a wider range of higher level and degree level apprenticeships in areas such as Financial Services.
3. The Inspectors were impressed with the apprenticeship service. It is 100% determined by the needs of employers and their apprentices. Employers engage with the COL apprenticeship programme to meet the skills needs of their business/ service areas. An example of this is the Butchery apprenticeships which is located at Smithfield Market. Inspectors were impressed with the effective employer support that the team was able to offer.
4. The service provides an apprenticeship programme for internal City of London Corporation departments. The latest data shows that 83% of our apprentices progress onto a higher level apprenticeship. 77% percent are employed in the City of London Corporation. A small percentage of apprentices, 2%, complete the framework without remaining in employment. The coordination, management, quality and delivery of the City of London Corporation's apprenticeship scheme were graded as good by the Inspectors.

Community Learning

5. The service delivers approximately 180 classes to 2,000 adult learner enrolments. A large proportion of the ASES community learning provision is targeted at improving the English Language and Mathematics of those who are educationally or socially disadvantaged. The aim is to provide learners with a range of skills to support them entering the labour market and to continue to raise participation of under representative groups. Current data evidence shows that there is already an increase in the levels of GSCE Maths and English achievements The Ofsted Inspectors were impressed with the achievements made in this area of work but asked for evidence of other actions being taken to address participation.

6. Key actions taken so far to raise participation of under representative groups include the following:
 - Developing linked local projects such as the Spec – Speaking English with confidence - building on the London wide project that engaged with over 7,500 ESOL hard to reach learners.
 - Securing City and Guilds accredited qualifications for more than 500 learners from Black and Ethnic minority groups – for more 95% of these this is their first qualification to be achieved.
 - Working with male focused sections of the workforce including Building Construction – developing a project to improve the English language of construction workers in the City.
 - Developed accredited employability projects with Homeless groups located in the City and its fringe areas.
 - Working with the Memory project to support the learning needs of elderly learners
 - Continue to develop the ESOL activity project with Bengali and other Women's group
7. A post Inspection action plan will be put in place to address the following:
 - Improve learner initial assessment on non-accredited account
 - Further improve employer information
 - Continue to improve ongoing training and support for all teachers
 - Improve the use of electronically generated performance data
8. A copy of the full inspection report from Ofsted is available to Members on request

Conclusion

9. The City of London Corporation's ASES continues to provide training and learning that directly responds to the skills needs of learners and their employers. The range of community based learning is changing; many of these changes will be reflected in the new 2016/17 course file.

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