

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
Education Board	9 November 2017
<b>Subject:</b> City of London Corporation Adult Learning Service	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Director of Community and Children's Services	<b>For Information</b>
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### **Summary**

This report provides an overview and update on the City Corporation's Adult Learning Service. The Adult Learning Service provides training and learning opportunities for residents of the City of London and its fringe boroughs. Courses offered include both accredited and non-accredited courses. Two major reviews of adult learning has been conducted recently, and the Adult Learning Service is responding to the priorities set by the reviews through aiming to address skills gaps in London through increased availability of accredited courses.

### **Recommendation(s)**

Members are asked to note the report.

### **Main Report**

#### **Background**

1. The Adult Learning Service is funded through a grant from the Education and Skills Funding Agency. The grant enables the City Corporation to provide a range of training and learning opportunities to residents of the City of London and fringe boroughs who are 16 years and older. The services has also delivered a range of Health and Wellbeing courses, which are linked to a two year provision designed to support London residents with Mild Mental Health issues.
2. The profile of current learners includes local resident communities, businesses, NEETS, traineeship learners and unemployed people who live in the City and its fringe boroughs. The Adult Learning Service also works with local businesses to increase the skills of lower level employees.
3. There has been an increase in demand for the City Corporation Adult Learning Service by employers, who are approaching the Adult Learning Service seeking support to improve the skills and provide training for their existing staff.
4. Alongside an increased demand from employers, in 2016/17 the number of enrolments in Adult Learning Service courses increased from 2,300 to 3,125. The main areas of increased enrolments were GCSE Mathematics, GCSE English, Functional Skills, ESOL, Food and Safety Hygiene, and finance related courses.
5. Examples of accredited and non-accredited training courses delivered by the City Corporation Adult Learning Service are attached in **Appendix 1**.

#### **Outcomes for the 2016/17 academic year**

6. During 2016/17 academic year, 195 classes were delivered to 3,125 learners. More than 75% of courses delivered are accredited. This means that each learner who completes their training secure a qualification.

7. The completion rate for accredited courses was 90%, and 78% of learners chose employment or further education as an option when completing their courses. There is also a 90% retention rate.
8. Enrolments for 2017/18 have already increased by 10%, with an expected overall increase of 20% for the 2018/19 academic year.

### **Area and London Review of post-16 and post-19 adult learning provision**

9. There have been two recent reviews of adult education provision. The first was the National Review of Further Education Colleges (post-16). This review recommended that some further education colleges and adult education providers should merge.
10. The Greater London Authority (GLA) did a similar review of Adult Community Learning in Greater London. The aim of the review was to establish the long-term strategic direction for post-19 provision in London, to meet Londoners' needs. The priorities of the strategy based on the findings of the review are:
  - Ensuring local access to basic skills training, including literacy and numeracy
  - Ensuring access to high level accreditation and some traditional non-accredited courses for example, ESOL
  - On-going employability and confidence building courses
  - Focus on social mobility courses
11. In response to the GLA strategy, the City Corporation Adult Learning Service will deliver an increased number of accredited courses, with a particular focus on delivering an increased number of functional skills and ESOL qualifications. The Adult Learning Service will also focus on addressing identified skills gaps in the London labour market through its course offerings.
12. Discussions about how the Adult Learning Service is funded are taking place, with a possible devolution of funding in future. The revised funding methodology will be decided by the GLA.

### **Corporate and Strategic Implications**

13. The City Corporation adult learning programme supports the priorities and delivery of the Corporate Plan, Education Strategy and the Children and Young People's Plan. It is also integral to the Employability Framework.

### **Conclusion**

14. This report provides Members with an overview of the City Corporation's Adult Learning Service. It also outlines how the Adult Learning Service is responding to the GLA review of post-19 learning provision.

### **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – Tables of courses offered by the Adult Learning Service

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