

Report

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Report to:	Education Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	13 September 2011
Report by:	Executive Director (Education Resources)

Subject:	Adult Literacy and Numeracy Strategy 2011 to 2014
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ advise on the outcome of the consultation on the draft Adult Literacy and Numeracy Strategy 2011 to 2014; and
- ◆ request agreement for the publication and dissemination of the Adult Literacy and Numeracy Strategy 2011 to 2014.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the outcome of the consultation on the draft Adult Literacy and Numeracy Strategy 2011 to 2014 be noted; and
- (2) that the Adult and Literacy Numeracy Strategy 2011 to 2014, as detailed in Appendix 1, be approved and disseminated widely.

3. Background

3.1. At its meeting on 6 May 2008, the Education Resources Committee approved the 2008 to 2011 Adult Literacy and Numeracy Strategy. In that Strategy the Council and its partners set out their ambitions to achieve a number of objectives and outcomes. The objectives were to:-

- provide adult literacy and numeracy support to groups and individuals in local communities to increase the capacity of individuals and community groups to access guidance, employment and learning
- establish integrated and dedicated literacy and numeracy provision to promote inter-generational learning
- promote and extend the range of family learning opportunities through partnership working with organisations and other agencies

The intended outcomes were that:-

- adult literacy and numeracy programmes would be embedded in the Community Planning process
- adult literacy and numeracy provision would be integrated within the Community Learning Service
- Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework would be embedded within learners' initial assessment and progression routes

3.2. Some highlights of key achievements during 2008 to 2011 are noted below:

- use of upskilling monies to enable employees to deliver and verify SQA certificated learning for literacy learners
- positive feedback from HMIE on integrated literacy in family learning programmes
- adult learner numbers increased from 10,204 in 2009 to 11,041 in 2011
- these learners achieved a total of 13,046 outcomes
- comprehensive review of monitoring and evaluation forms to better reflect impacts and outcomes for learners

4. Consultation

4.1. The draft Adult Literacy and Numeracy Strategy 2011 to 2014 was widely circulated through the 4 locality partnership groups, in East Kilbride/Strathaven, Cambuslang/Rutherglen, Hamilton/Blantyre and Clydesdale/Larkhall. Local learners' forums and employees were also given the draft and comments were fed back to the Strategy working group. Consultation included distribution of the draft through the Education Newsletter to all elected members and educational establishments and throughout partners' own organisations and networks. The draft was also posted onto South Lanarkshire Council's website and a comments sheet attached to enable the wider community to add their views. The response date was Monday, 22 August and to date 16 responses have been received.

4.2. The Community Learning and Development Partnership has consulted with the following:-

- Learners, parents, and young people
- Parent Councils
- Schools
- Psychological Services
- Community Learning Service Staff
- Youth Learning Service staff
- Home School Partnership staff
- Enterprise Resources
- NHS Lanarkshire
- Voluntary Organisations
- Skills Development Scotland
- FE Colleges

A number of helpful comments were made regarding the draft Strategy and these have been included where appropriate.

4.3. Some comments made by respondents were:-

"The actions appear to be very detailed and structured to ensure that the aims are met."

"The plan appears very thorough."

"I am not sure how learners from the service are being consulted or if there is going to be a learner/community guide to the plan but it is quite wordy from a learner's perspective but do understand this from a service perspective."

"The plan looks excellent and there is a real emphasis on inclusiveness and trying to target difficult to engage learners."

"The strategy has covered all the appropriate and subsequent proposed actions."

“What an achievement for the ALN Service, is the attainment of accreditation for our learners. This will give each learner a second chance to obtain a qualification in bite size and core skills learning opportunities and will improve standards of learning provision across the service.”

5. Proposal

5.1. The new Strategy addresses the Scottish Government’s Literacy Action Plan which has established Scotland’s overarching vision for all learners - to raise standards of literacy for all from the early years through to adulthood. Education Resources is currently considering the establishment of its own Literacy Strategy across all age ranges. In due course, this will be taken into account in the further development of South Lanarkshire’s Adult Literacy and Numeracy Strategy 2011 to 2014. For adults, the Scottish Government’s vision is: By 2020 Scotland’s society and economy will be stronger because more adults are able to read, write and use numbers effectively in order to handle information, communicate with others, express ideas and opinions, make decisions and solve problems as family members, workers, citizens and lifelong learners.

5.2. To achieve this vision for adults, South Lanarkshire Council and its partners will focus on four overarching outcomes:-

- improved access to literacies learning opportunities
- high quality learning and teaching
- improved infrastructure, and
- evidence of impact.

5.3. The South Lanarkshire Adult Literacy and Numeracy (ALN) Strategy will:-

- raise awareness of ALN provision and ensure the best possible match between learner needs and high quality provision, supporting learning and progression
- improve collaboration and co-ordination by identifying and developing opportunities for local partnerships and initiatives supporting the goal of increased inter and intra sector working
- raise awareness of local developments which can be used as national models of good practice.
- continue to develop a shared approach by partners to recording, monitoring and evaluating impact and outcomes.

6. Employee Implications

6.1. Reductions in staffing will impact on the ability to sustain the level of ALN provision.

7. Financial Implications

7.1. Cost pressures affecting staffing within the Council, as well as a reduction in partnership funding, will impact on the ability to sustain the level of ALN provision delivered in previous years.

8. Other Implications

8.1. The risk implications associated with this report relate to reduction in funding and staffing levels to sustain the level of ALN provision.

8.2. There are no implications for sustainability in terms of the information contained within this report.

9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 9.1. An equality impact assessment has been carried out on the recommendations contained in this report and, where issues were identified, remedial action has been taken. The assessment is that the proposals do not have any adverse impact on any part of the community covered by equalities legislation, or on community relations, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council website.
- 9.2. Consultation with a wide range of stakeholders has taken place and is detailed at paragraph 4.

Larry Forde
Executive Director (Education Resources)

22 August 2011

Link(s) to Council Objectives/Improvement Themes/Values

- Raise educational attainment for all
- Improve the lives of vulnerable children, young people and adults

Previous References

- Education Resources Committee – 6 May 2008

List of Background Papers

- Adult Literacies in Scotland 2020
- South Lanarkshire Adult Literacy Strategy

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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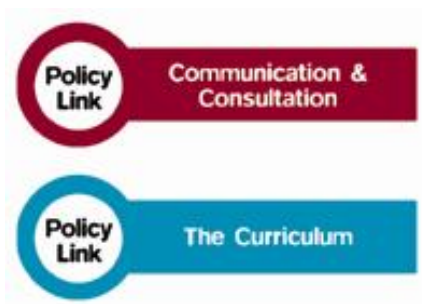
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Education Resources

South Lanarkshire Adult Literacy and Numeracy Strategy 2011/14



South Lanarkshire Adult Literacy and Numeracy Strategy 2011/14

Draft for Consultation June 2011

1. Background

1.1 In 2001 the Scottish Executive's *Adult Literacy and Numeracy in Scotland* (ALNIS) report made 21 recommendations for building a world-class adult literacy and numeracy service for Scotland. This strategy has been internationally celebrated for its learner-centred, social practice approach.

Indeed, there has been considerable success in the implementation of ALNIS, particularly in the collaborative working between local and national organisations and across sectors to provide a diverse delivery landscape in which learners can achieve their personal goals, make positive changes in their lives and progress into new opportunities. The national 'development engine' (formerly Learning Connections, now part of the Communities Team of Education Scotland) continues to work with service providers/deliverers, to improve practice, share knowledge, embed a curriculum framework for adult literacies and raise awareness of literacies and reduce stigma. Since 2001 over 200,000 adults have accessed literacies learning opportunities across Scotland and across a range of settings – local authority, voluntary, college, prison and workplace.

1.2 Ten years after the publication of ALNIS, we live in a different world. Public services are adapting to reduced funding. The world is technologically different, and we have improved knowledge about literacies levels among Scotland's working age adults. A clearer picture is available of the literacies work and interventions which need to happen across the lifewide and lifelong stages of learning. We are being asked to reflect and build on the achievements of ALNIS, to re-affirm the core elements that have contributed to progress so far, and to challenge ourselves to achieve more, often with fewer resources.

1.3 The findings in the *Scottish Survey of Adult Literacies 2009* (SSAL 2009) have updated and enhanced our knowledge of the literacies levels of our working age population. These findings underline the importance of adult literacies to a range of National Outcomes in the National Performance Framework and to South Lanarkshire's Single Outcome Agreement (SOA). This is also recognised in the current National Indicator which aims to: 'Reduce the number of working age people with severe literacy and numeracy problems'.

2. The South Lanarkshire Strategy

2.1 Improving the delivery of Adult Literacy and Numeracy is a key priority for South Lanarkshire Council and its partners. Community Learning and Development (CLD) Partnerships are asked to address this issue through the continuing development of strong partnership working, and through the commitments in an Adult Literacy and Numeracy (ALN) Strategy.

2.2 The Scottish Government's *Literacy Action Plan* has established Scotland's overarching vision for all learners – **to raise standards of literacy for all from the early years through to adulthood**. Education Resources is currently considering the establishment of its own Literacy Strategy across all age ranges. In due course, this will be taken into account in the further development of South Lanarkshire's ALN Strategy.

Specifically for adults, the Scottish Government's vision is: *Adult Literacy and Numeracy in Scotland - By 2020 Scotland's society and economy will be stronger because more of its adults are able to read, write and use numbers effectively in order to handle information, communicate with others, express ideas and opinions, make decisions and solve problems, as family members, workers, citizens and lifelong learners.*

2.3 To achieve this vision for adults, South Lanarkshire Council and its partners will focus on four overarching outcomes:

- improved access to literacies learning opportunities
- high quality learning and teaching

- improved infrastructure
- evidence of impact

The South Lanarkshire Adult Literacy and Numeracy (ALN) Strategy will:

- raise awareness of ALN provision and ensure the best possible match between learner needs and high quality provision, supporting learning and progression
- improve collaboration and co-ordination by identifying and developing opportunities for local partnerships and initiatives supporting the goal of increased inter and intra sector working
- raise awareness of local developments which can be used as national models of good practice
- continue to develop a shared approach by partners to recording, monitoring and evaluating impact and outcomes

An action plan has been developed by the South Lanarkshire ALN Partnership which highlights commitments selected from a broad range of potential actions identified by the National Literacy Action Plan. This action plan for 2011-12 will provide an opportunity for monitoring the progress being made both in terms of national measures and local priorities (Appendix 1).

3. Implementation

3.1 Arrangements have been made to take forward the requirements of the Adult Literacy and Numeracy Strategy across the four CLD locality action planning groups.

4. Monitoring progress

4.1 The progress against the partners' commitments will be recorded bi-annually through the 4 locality planning groups to coincide with the collection dates for CLD management information and to contribute towards the South Lanarkshire Council's Education Resources' Improvement Plan.

4.2 The Scottish Government has asked that every local authority partnership should complete a template annually on the commitment achievements by the partnership. This will be undertaken by the South Lanarkshire ALN Partnership.

5. Consultation Arrangements

5.1 The draft strategy has been disseminated through the Education Newsletter and on the South Lanarkshire Council website for consultation and has been impact assessed prior to being considered by the Education Resources Committee.

Resources

Adult Literacies in Scotland 2020 Strategic Guidance, available from www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2011/01/25121451/1

Further Information

For further information or if you would like this information in a different format or language please phone Susan Sandilands, Senior Community Learning and Home School Worker on 01698 452395 or email susan.sandilands@southlanarkshire.gov.uk.

Adult Literacies in Scotland 2020 – Partners’ action plan and commitments

Action Plan 2011/12

Outcome 1		
Scotland's adults have access to literacies learning opportunities in which they can achieve their goals and progress		
Aim	Action	Our Commitment 2011/12
1.1. Learning opportunities are accessible and inclusive	Increase efforts to identify those places/services which are visited/used by those who may need literacies support and, where possible, provide the support there.	We will link in with baby and toddlers fairs to raise awareness of the service we can offer to young parents and carers
	Engage and develop good relationships with those furthest from learning through pre-learning engagement opportunities and working with intermediary/referral organisations	New groups established through intermediary organisations in at least 2 localities
	Provide targeted, flexible and collaborative support services to minimise barriers to learning	All partners providing learning opportunities will offer targeted, flexible and collaborative support to minimise barriers to learners
1.2 Learners access appropriate provision relevant to their needs	Provide learners with appropriate information about, and signposting to, the range of available literacies learning opportunities	We will attend local events and galas to promote the website and provide information about accessing services
	Build the practitioners’ skills to better identify and respond to individual learner needs	Our staff and tutors are undertaking their A1 assessor training and are "buddying" up to offer learners a wide range of core skills
	Promote and provide access to resources and tools for identifying and measuring learner skills and learning needs, including specific learning difficulties	All providers where appropriate will use tools to identify specific learning needs. Partners will signpost to other agencies as necessary
	Provide other adult educators with training to ensure they are able to identify, support and refer adults with literacies needs	Training opportunities will be developed to support Adult Literacy and Numeracy partnership providers

1.3 Learning opportunities are sufficiently flexible, regular and accessible to encourage persistence and progression	Encourage learners to undertake a minimum of 6 hours <i>learning activity</i> per week wherever possible, that reflects their needs, goals and circumstances. This is not only face-to-face tuition, but also can be a mixture of tutor led, online and self-directed learning	Through the Adult Literacy and Numeracy Partnership inconsistencies of practice will be explored and improvement priorities developed
	Encourage practitioners to support learners to plan their own learning, develop a personalised learning plan, identifying specific needs and goals	All learners have an individual learning or group learning plan which denotes the learner's needs and goals.
	Enhance the range of blended, distance and intensive learning opportunities for learners	Providers offer a range of blended, distance and intensive learning opportunities
	Follow up absent learners to encourage return and continuation of learning, where appropriate	Learners are tracked and have 6 month learning reviews. All learners are encouraged to return to learning
1.4 Learners become more autonomous and informed about how to progress into further learning, volunteering or employment	Encourage and support learners to reflect on their learning and plan effectively for progression	All providers will offer appropriate information and guidance for learners' progression
1.5 Promotion of literacies provision is positive at national and local levels	Produce and implement local promotional plans to increase learner engagement and reduce stigma	Adult Literacy and Numeracy Partners will explore a range of promotional activities to promote engagement and reduce perceived stigma e.g. through website, leaflets etc
	Broaden efforts to support learners to become literacies champions/advocates	Make full use of National events to promote literacy learning
	Work together to promote and celebrate learner achievement at both local and national level	All partners contribute to the celebration of achievement of ALN learners at local and national level
1.6 Literacies learning increases learners' chances of obtaining employment or becoming a volunteer	Increase employers' and employer organisations' awareness of the benefits of literacies learning in the workplace	Raise awareness of Adult Literacy and Numeracy with key stakeholders e.g. Routes to Work South
	Increase the awareness of voluntary organisations, both nationally and locally to the benefits of literacies within the volunteering role.	Maintain relationships with VASLAN (Volunteer Action South Lanarkshire)

Outcome 2

Adult literacies learners receive high quality learning and teaching so they can achieve their goals

Aim	Action	Our Commitment 2011/12
2.1 Learners have clear entitlements to learning	Ensure learning environments are 'fit-for-purpose' for adults, and are accessible and appropriate for learners' needs	All partners will explore the possibility of improving learning environments in consultation with learners
	Ensure learners have access to high quality resources including e-learning technology	We have made a bid to purchase digital cameras and will develop an IT digital camera course for ALN learners.
	Ensure learners with specific learning difficulties or disabilities have access to appropriate high quality assistive technology	We assess every learner at an initial meeting and work to provide the best possible learning experience
	Ensure each learner is able to engage in learning activities at a level, mode and pace appropriate to his/her needs, goals and aspirations	We discuss learners' needs and aspirations with each learner and put together an individual learning plan which is reviewed as and when the learner is ready. We also have a 6 month review system in place
	Provide opportunities for learners to gain formal recognition of their achievements in learning	We will be able to offer learners certificated learning within this year as we are currently applying to deliver a range of bite size and core skills learning opportunities

2.2 Practitioners are confident and skilled at teaching literacies to adults, and other staff are skilled at coordinating and developing literacies programmes	Support practitioners to continue to develop their professional skills in teaching adult literacies	Through staff PDR any training and development needs are assessed and appropriate learning is offered to staff
	Support practitioners to continue to develop, enhance and extend the skills required to deliver flexible, embedded, integrated and dedicated literacies learning, including distance and technology-based learning opportunities	We will continue to pilot and roll out new ways of delivering literacy learning through the partnership.
	Apply effective learning and teaching methods, using the social practice approach	All partners embed the social practice approach in their method of delivery
	Embed the principles of the <i>Adult Literacy and Numeracy Curriculum Framework</i> and <i>Curriculum for Excellence</i> within literacies learning and teaching and practitioner training programmes	Through staff development and training, the partners will embrace the principles of Adult Literacy and Numeracy Curriculum Framework and the Curriculum for Excellence
	Ensure practitioners are skilled in accrediting learning, or in supporting learners to seek accreditation, when appropriate for the learner.	All providers will commit to upskilling their workforce regarding accreditation.
	Promote and extend the sharing of practice and knowledge between practitioners, managers and sectors	Through the four locality action planning groups there will be promotion and sharing of good practice
	Promote and increase practitioner-led action research and peer evaluation processes to extend skills, broaden knowledge and improve practice across sectors	The Adult Literacy and Numeracy Partnership will explore some multi agency peer led research and evaluation

Outcome 3

Scotland has a coherent and effective adult literacies infrastructure that enables and supports continuous enhancement of provision

Aim	Action	Our Commitment 2011/12
3.1 National leadership and coordination is effective	Ensure effective two-way communication between national leadership and local action	South Lanarkshire Council Adult Literacy and Numeracy Partnership will participate in National networks as appropriate
	Encourage and enable learners to influence national strategic developments	Learners will be encouraged to influence national and strategic through learners forums, 110 Voices and the learners' website
3.2 Local partnerships are strong and productive	Increase the effectiveness of local strategic and delivery partnerships to better evaluate, plan, coordinate and improve literacies services	Through the four locality action planning groups close working relationships will develop and improve services
	Encourage partnerships to explore how they can engage with the most excluded and ensure compliance with equalities legislation	Maximise the use of management information systems to ensure compliance with equalities legislation.
	Involve learners in planning and improving local literacies services	Learners will be encouraged to use the learners' website, and local forums to improve their learning experiences
	Increase communication and collaboration between local partnerships and:	South Lanarkshire Partners will look to engage with all key stakeholders in authority wide and local networks
	a offender services	
	b schools and youth services	
	c information, advice and guidance providers	
	d the health service	
e employment and employability agencies		
f intermediary/referral organisations		
g individuals who are already in contact with adults who may benefit from literacies support		

Outcome 4

There is evidence of the impacts and the value of literacies learning for individuals and Society

Aim	Action	Our Commitment 2011/12
4.1. The impact and value of local literacies learning is demonstrated at local and national level	Establish systems, involving practitioners and learners, for capturing and measuring learner achievement and progression, for both local and national purposes	All partners will be encouraged to participate in a range of quality Improvements activities for example, HGIOCLD 2, LIC.
4.2 Evaluation of provision contributes to continuous enhancement of adult literacies services	Use appropriate systems to evaluate the quality of adult literacies services	All partners use self evaluation tools.