

This report may be of interest to: Community Learning Committee

LIFELONG LEARNING DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2000/02

Accountable Officer: Deborah Cooper (Economy and Learning Manager)

Author: Ben Charles (Lifelong Learning Manager) - MK253360

1. Purpose

1.1 To present the Council's Lifelong Learning Development Plan for 2000-2002.

2. Summary

2.1 The Council is required to produce an annual development plan for its lifelong learning activities to be eligible for Standards Fund grant to support this area of work.

2.2 This is the second annual plan. It takes into account lifelong learning activities supported by the Council, especially those for adults supported within the Economy and Learning Division's remit.

3. Recommendations

3.1 The Committee is recommended to:

- (a) note the achievements during 1999/2000;
- (b) note the proposed programme of activities to support lifelong learning for adults for 2000-2002; and
- (c) endorse the development plan annexed to this report, subject to any final amendments resulting from further DfEE guidance.

4. **Background**

- 4.1 This is the second year in which the Council has been asked by DfEE to produce annual Lifelong Learning Development Plan produced by the Council, covering Lifelong Learning activities for the period 2000-/02.
- 4.2 The first Lifelong Learning Development Plan: *Making a Difference: A Plan to Develop Lifelong Learning for Adults in Milton Keynes (1999-2002)* was produced last year. It was agreed by the Economy and Lifelong Learning Committee at its meeting on 22 June 1999 (Minute EL8/00 refers), endorsed by the Community Learning Committee at its meeting on 6 July 1999 (Minute CO10/00 refers) and approved by the DfEE.
- 4.3 Within the Council's current structures, lifelong learning services for adults include the Adult Continuing Education (ACE) service; the Student Awards service; and support for other organisations promoting lifelong including: the Women and Work, Asian Women's Project and the Special Needs Advisory Project. The Council is a major contributor to the work of the Milton Keynes Lifelong Learning Partnership.
- 4.4 Other Council-supported lifelong learning activities for those over 16 include Schools; the Music Service; Arts and Museums, Libraries, (which offer learning facilities and serve as a source of learning materials) the Leisure Youth and Community and Youth Service (providing wide ranging learning opportunities for young people and adults). An officer group (The Lifelong Learning Forum) operates to ensure communication between services.

5. **Issues and Choices**

Key Features of the Document

- 5.1 A draft development plan has been circulated separately to Members of the Committee.
- 5.2 The plan reviews and builds on the Lifelong Learning Development Plan *Making a Difference: A Plan to Develop Lifelong Learning for Adults in Milton Keynes (2000-2002)*. It also includes plans for the Student Awards Service, Support to post-16 pupils in schools and students in colleges, other funded bodies, links to services within the Council and strategic work across the Borough.
- 5.3 The plan follows DfEE guidance and includes an analysis of the national and local contexts, review of previous year's achievements, an analysis of learning needs, and sets out a programme of activities with outcomes, targets, milestones and their resource resources implications. It also makes direct reference to the Council's strategic aims, the Learning and Development Directorate's Strategic Plan and to other Council and partners' strategic plans.
- 5.4 DfEE guidance requires that the development plan includes activities related to three specific aspects of provision:

- (a) widening participation to fill known gaps;

- (b) monitoring and developing quality provision; and
- (c) working in partnership with other agencies.

Intelligence gathering/research has been added as another important area of activity.

Consultation and Process for Agreement

- 5.5 The draft plan was consulted upon both internally and externally. Copies were sent to officers and community partners and organisations and discussed at consultation meetings on 8 and 16 March 2000 with internal and external partners respectively. A list of external partners consulted is **Annexed**.

6. Implications

6.1 Environmental

None.

6.2 Equalities

Many of the proposals in the papers address inequalities and are designed to make educational opportunities more equitable.

6.3 Financial

The plan proposes activities that are designed to be contained within the known budget of the Council. The Standards Fund support for this activity is £47,435 in 2000/2001, which will be matched by the Council's Lifelong Learning Fund.

6.4 Legal

There are no known legal implications since the plan recommends continuing to operate within the legal structure that exists now.

6.5 Staff and Accommodation

The plan recommends operating within affordable staffing and accommodation resources.

6.6 Other

None.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1 The proposed plan addresses local learning needs and will make a difference in widening participation in adult participation in learning in Milton Keynes.
- 7.2 It was developed in accordance with Government guidance including a review of the current plan, and DfEE approval is required.
- 7.3 It is recommended that the draft plan be endorsed.

Background Papers:

The Learning Age - a renaissance for a new Britain, published by The Stationery Office Ltd., 1998

Local Authority Lifelong Learning Development Plans, Guidance 1999/2000, DfEE, November 1998

Making a Difference: A Plan to Develop Lifelong Learning in Milton Keynes (1999-2000)

DfEE Circular 16/99, the Standards Fund 2000-2001, DfEE, September 1999.

Letter from DfEE to Chief Education Officers in England and Wales re: The Standards Fund 2000-2001 Grant 28 Local Authority support for Lifelong Learning dated 5th November 1999