



Portsmouth CITY COUNCIL

ADULT AND FAMILY LEARNING CURRICULUM STRATEGY 2008-2009

1. MISSION AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Portsmouth Adult and Family Learning team's mission is to secure the delivery of a coherent, locally available, high quality curriculum offer to adults and families. The focus of the AFL curriculum is on community learning, which will increase and widen participation in learning, develop knowledge, skills and confidence, encourage progression to further learning, improve employability, develop community leadership skills, and support children's achievement through the involvement of parents.

Strategic objectives:

The Adult and Family Learning service aims **to widen participation in learning** through the following strategic objectives:

- Encourage and promote partnerships in order to develop a locally available, coherent and needs-led curriculum for adults and families.
- Assure and improve the quality of teaching and learning.
- Promote and secure equality and diversity in learning.
- Contribute further to the development of the City Council as a Learning Organisation.

2. LINKS TO OTHER STRATEGIES

The Adult and Family Learning (AFL) curriculum will contribute to a wide range of local, regional and national strategies and priorities.

Improving opportunity and achievement in education, skills and lifelong learning is a key priority for the City Council and the LSP. Adult and Family Learning activity in Portsmouth contributes to this priority through the courses it funds and delivers. Family Learning programmes contribute directly to raising achievement levels of both children and parents and to the delivery of the Family Learning strategy. The AFL service contributes to the delivery of the extended services in and around schools and to the learning activities for adults and families available via the Community Improvement Partnerships. AFL activities support a wide range of local authority priorities e.g. health, community safety, celebrating diversity and the service is working with a variety of Directorates within the council to identify the role of learning and skills in achieving specific objectives and on the development of a collaborative approach to the delivery of learning and skills across the council through the process of Developing a Learning Organisation.

Lifelong Learning is not only a cross-cutting theme of the current Local Area Agreements, but AFL activities contribute to Portsmouth's Adult Learning and Skills Strategy, the designation of Portsmouth as a Learning City, the city's response to the SE Skills Vision for the 2012 Olympics and the work of the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH).

Locally, regionally and nationally, there is recognition that deprived neighbourhoods need specific help; the AFL service uses its funding to target those over the age of 19 and families, who live in deprived areas of the city, those who do not have qualifications above a Level 2 and those who are under-represented in education and training. The service uses the Ward Learning Profiles, consultation with users and non-users and with stakeholders within the city to identify needs.

3. THE ADULT AND FAMILY LEARNING CURRICULUM

The Adult and Family Learning curriculum draws funding from the following LSC funding streams, all of which come via the national Adult Safeguarded Learning allocation.

3.1. Personal and Community Development Learning (PCDL)

PCDL is learning for personal development, cultural enrichment, intellectual or creative stimulation and enjoyment. It is also learning developed with local residents and other learners to build the skills, knowledge and understanding for social and community action. There is no requirement that learners must necessarily progress to other learning or achieve accreditation.

The AFL service will use this funding to provide an easily accessible curriculum, which engages adults in learning, with a particular focus on those adults who have benefited least from the education system and those who are in greatest financial need. Those learners who can afford to contribute financially to their learning will be expected to do so.

The curriculum will offer a wide range of engagement activities designed to engage adults in learning and to enable them to enhance their quality of life, to play their full part in the development of their local economy and community and to progress to other learning and training opportunities.

3.2. Family Programmes.

Family Programmes will be directly delivered by the Adult & Family Learning team and comprises:

A **Wider Family Learning** (WFL) curriculum will be delivered in partnership with families, schools and other agencies to provide activities which support and encourage parents¹ and families to enjoy lifelong learning and which promote aspirations. The **Family, Literacy, Language and Numeracy** (FLLN) curriculum will target families with specific needs and will work with parents/carers and children to break the cycle of educational deprivation. Provision will be offered which complements the PCDL curriculum.

¹ 'Parent' is taken to mean anyone who has responsibility for the care of a child.

3.3. Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities (NLDC)

The NLDC curriculum seeks to engage those in disadvantaged communities, and enable them to progress, through a wide variety of arts based provision. NLDC work in the city is labelled “Art in the Community” and supported by an NLDC action plan and strategy. Up to 75% of provision will target the Skills for Jobs agenda through improving confidence in learners and improving readiness for employment.

3.4. The AFL curriculum offer as a whole, will:

- Take into account locally identified needs
- Widen adult participation in learning through a targeted approach
- Increase the recognition and recording of learners’ achievements
- Promote the use of E-learning to engage learners, enhance learning and support the assessment process where appropriate
- Embed essential skills where possible into the curriculum offer
- Promote and secure equality and diversity in access to learning
- Take account, where appropriate, of national and local skill needs, as outlined in the Skills Strategy, the local Area Investment Framework
- Develop a coherent curriculum for adults and families that contributes to the realisation of the objectives of other key national and local strategies e.g. Every Child Matters, South East Skills Vision for the 2012 Olympics, the City’s Community Strategy, the Extended Schools Strategy, Developing a Learning Organisation and the Local Area Agreements.
- Ensure that as part of the curriculum planning process, progression opportunities are identified with local colleges and other relevant providers of learning and training

4. PRIORITY GROUPS

The following will be the priority groups for the AFL curriculum:

- Males
- Elders (aged 60+)
- New learners (no formal, structured learning in the past 2 or more years)
- Black, ethnic and other minority residents
- Residents with low ICT skills
- Residents from the most deprived communities in the city
- Unemployed/economically inactive residents
- Learners with physical, learning or mental health difficulties and disabilities
- Those without a level 2 qualification and/or literacy/numeracy/ESOL needs
- Families with children who are underachieving

5. DELIVERY OF THE CURRICULUM

Learning will be delivered through a network of quality-assured providers, contracted to deliver provision and directly by the AFL team itself. Colleges, schools, voluntary and community organisations, private training providers and City Council Directorates will collaborate to meet the diverse need of local residents. A broad range of opportunities from workshops to long courses, from introductory level to more advanced levels, in both accredited and non-accredited programmes will be secured.

Adult and Family Learning will seek to ensure that a range of learning opportunities are locally available across the city. The intention will be to make the best use of familiar, accessible, risk assessed, local venues and to encourage and to widen participation. Priority wards will remain a focus for delivery in the city.

The AFL team will work with providers to ensure that learning opportunities are offered at a range of appropriate times of the day and evening, through the week and the year, depending on the location, and the needs of the learners.

The curriculum will be planned in partnership with voluntary and statutory providers and with Portsmouth City Council Directorates to ensure that there is progression from the AFL curriculum offer.

6. THE CONSULTATION AND PLANNING PROCESS FOR THE AFL CURRICULUM

Curriculum planning within the AFL service is developed within an annual planning cycle which includes needs analysis, curriculum reviews, learner feedback, identification of internal and external strategic priorities, consultation with key stakeholders, target setting and partnership working across the city to ensure a coherent and appropriate curriculum offer. The current Action for Communities project and the PCDL Partnership support the consultation and planning process.

7. PROGRESS, ACHIEVEMENT AND PROGRESSION

The Adult and Family Learning team intend to further embed the principles and practice of Recognising and Recording Progress and Achievement (RARPA) throughout the provider network. Providers will be expected to further enhance the information and advice services made available to learners to support progress and progression.