



SURREY
COUNTY COUNCIL

**ADULT & COMMUNITY LEARNING
IN WAVERLEY**

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL
LOCAL COMMITTEE IN WAVERLEY
30 JANUARY 2004**

KEY ISSUE:

To present to the Local Committee in Waverley an annual report on Adult and Community Learning in the area for 2002/03 and to offer the Committee an opportunity to influence the Three Year Development Plan for Adult Learning (2004/5 to 2006/7) and the review of the “mission” for Adult and Community Learning.

SUMMARY:

This report sets out the current context for adult and community learning together with a summary of current provision in the Waverley area. It seeks the input of the Local Committee on the future direction of the service.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Local Committee in Waverley should

- (i) Consider and comment on the annual report for 2002/3.
- (ii) Comment on the overall objectives for the service, and on priorities for adult and community learning in Waverley for the next three years, and how they could be addressed.

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BACKGROUND PAPER: Adult & Community Learning Plan 2003/4

1. BACKGROUND TO THE SERVICE IN WAVERLEY

- 1.1 Adult and Community Learning (ACL) attracts 33,000 learners and 68,000 enrolments annually to a programme of recreational learning which is delivered through a network of 16 centres and over 200 community locations across 9 of the 11 Boroughs/Districts in Surrey. A programme is provided in Tandridge and Reigate & Banstead by East Surrey College under a contract with Surrey County Council.
- 1.2 In April 2001, the Learning & Skills Council (LSC) assumed responsibility for all post-16 further education. This includes all sixth form provision, Further Education Colleges and work-based learning as well as adult and community learning. Local education authorities (LEAs) lost the **duty** to provide adult learning to the LSC but retain the **power to secure provision**.
- 1.3 The transfer of the legal duty for ACL from LEAs included the financial resources that were allocated by the County Council for Adult and Community Learning. Since April 2001, the service has been funded by grants based on the annual Adult Learning Plan submitted to the LSC or for specific projects and activities to meet LSC requirements. The County Council no longer provides any funding for adult and community learning.
- 1.4 As further background, **Annex A** gives more detail on the current funding situation as well as the scope of the service's provision countywide.

2. ADULT & COMMUNITY LEARNING IN WAVERLEY

- 2.1 Waverley has three ACL centres from which the course programme is planned for the surrounding area:
 - Farnham has its own dedicated building in West Street, but courses are also provided at locations at Bourne Hall, Tilford Institute and at Victoria Hall, Ash and St. Mary's Youth Hall, Ash Vale (both in the borough of Guildford).
 - Godalming has an enrolment centre/administrative office in Godalming Library. Courses are provided at Broadwater and Rodborough Schools and eight other locations in the area.
 - Haslemere has an enrolment centre/administrative office in Haslemere Library. The majority of courses are provided at Wispers School, where unusually classrooms are available during daytime. Courses are also organised at 3 locations in Cranleigh from Haslemere and four other locations in this area.

2.2 Learner enrolments for the academic year 2002/3 compared to 2001/2 were:

Centre	Learners	Learners	%	Enrolments	Enrolments	%
	2001/2	2002/3	change	2001/2	2002/3	change
Farnham	1704	1931	+13.3%	3382	3964	+17.2%
Godalming	1009	951	-9.4%	1795	1770	-1.1%
Haslemere	455	560	+23.1%	937	1154	+23.2%
Surrey	31854	32877	+3.1%	63897	67611	+5.5%

These figures show that there was a significant increase in participation countywide in 2002/3 with two of the three Waverley Centres recording a higher level of increase than the County average. Regrettably, this performance has not been sustained into Autumn 2003 with a decline of 13.7% on average, although the Waverley Centres have again had a more favourable performance. The decline at Farnham has been 11.3%, Godalming 7.3% and Haslemere 3.6%.

2.3 With limited management capacity, it has not been possible to undertake specific research into this decline locally in the short time available. It would also be wrong to change direction significantly on the strength of one term's figures. Discussion amongst managers and staff in Waverley has identified possible reasons for the decline such as:

- Increased administration required by LSC reducing staff time available for promotion
- Autumn 2002 was a high point that could not be sustained
- Due to computer problems, the enrolment start date did not occur until after term had finished in July 2003.
- Increase in hourly rate fee from £2.65 to £2.80

2.4 The increase in fees was above inflation to address budget pressures caused by increase in National Insurance contributions and other costs that have been incurred and are not being reflected in the LSC grant. This is also in line with the Government's "Skills Strategy", which is making clear that learners on recreational courses will be expected to pay more over the next few years to provide extra resources to address learning for those with special needs. Whilst the enrolments have gone down in Autumn 2003, the income has increased by 3%.

2.5 Particular subjects that are attracting interest are languages, especially Spanish, physical exercise (Pilates in particular) and the wide range of art and craft courses. Despite much attention being drawn to the need for improving IT skills, there has been a decline in interest both locally and nationally, reflecting perhaps the increased skills in the community and over-provision.

2.6 Learners often travel some distance to join a course. The figures above do not represent the number of Waverley residents undertaking ACL courses. An analysis of postcodes as shown below gives the number of Waverley

residents and their enrolments, who undertook courses at an ACL centre in Surrey. In many cases, the postcode covers more than the Waverley area.

Postcode	Residents	Residents	%	Enrolments	Enrolments	%
	2001/2	2002/3	change	2001/2	2002/3	change
GU5 Bramley Shamley Green	267	309	15.7%	591	649	9.8%
GU6 Cranleigh	243	275	13.2%	533	551	3.4%
GU7 Godalming	619	703	13.6%	1124	1326	18.0%
GU8 Milford Chiddingfold	376	407	8.2%	707	751	6.2%
GU9 Farnham	704	739	5.0%	1427	1593	11.6%
GU10 Tilford, Frensham, Churt	466	527	13.1%	965	1136	17.7%
GU26 Hindhead	126	132	4.8%	252	281	11.5%
GU27 Haslemere	257	377	46.7%	499	710	42.3%
RH12 Ellens Green	27	31	14.8%	58	69	19.0%
Total	3091	3500	13.2%	6166	7066	14.6%

5.9% of Waverley's adult residents undertook an ACL course in 2002/3.

2.7 The number of men and younger people undertaking courses is cause for concern. The tables below show the gender and age profiles at the Waverley centres.

	Male learners	Female learners	% female learners	Male learners	Female learners	% female learners	% increase in male learners compared to female
	2001/2	2001/2	2001/2	2002/3	2002/3	2002/3	01/02 to 02/03
Farnham	485	1230	72.2	539	1392	72.1	+0.17
Godalming	265	752	74.5	253	698	73.4	+1.54
Haslemere	59	394	87.1	91	469	83.8	+3.93
Surrey	6533	20136	75.5	7007	20483	74.5	+1.34

Age	Farnham	Farnham	Godalming	Godalming	Haslemere	Haslemere
	2001/2	2002/3	2001/2	2002/3	2001/2	2002/3
0-18	19	23	12	4	2	6
19-24	62	54	21	14	4	11
25-29	64	69	47	28	21	8
30-34	119	134	53	58	13	18
35-39	117	135	67	64	26	29
40-44	144	159	81	55	46	51
45-49	114	153	55	63	39	48
50-54	173	195	85	87	27	35
55-59	161	224	97	76	45	56
60-64	166	187	94	93	39	42
65-69	133	152	53	50	36	37
70+	174	198	47	56	58	62
Not given	258	248	297	303	99	157
Grand total	1704	1931	1009	951	455	560

2.8 Some attempts have been made to attract more younger people and men by offering courses that are aimed at the perceived interests of these groups .e.g. *Wines of the World* at Farnham and Haslemere, *Complementary Therapies* at Farnham, *Get Going in Your Garden* at Rodborough School, *Modern Jive* at Wispers School, *Yoga* at St. Nicholas School, Cranleigh, *Evenings at the Movies* at Farnham. The traditional image of adult learning does not encourage involvement by these groups. From the figures above, it is clear that there is more to achieve in this area.

2.9 More support is being provided for learners with disabilities to enable them to access our programmes. There is also an extensive programme of learning for adults with learning disabilities and difficulties. 54 courses with 422 learners were provided in Waverley in 2002/3.

3. ADULT & COMMUNITY LEARNING ISSUES IN WAVERLEY

Self reliance

3.1 Learning is a significant factor in promoting self-reliance in individuals and communities. Projects are targeted at the areas of highest deprivation and the needs of specific communities. Learning to support self-reliance responds directly to the needs of communities and individuals within those communities by offering free learning outside main ACL centres and also by offering types of learning that the community has specifically requested. A Widening Participation Co-ordinator has been appointed for South West Surrey, specifically to establish community learning projects targeting the areas of Surrey most in need.

3.2 In Waverley, activity has continued at the Bungalow, Sandy Hill in partnership with the Pavilion Housing Association. ACL has led on two programmes that have had external funding:

- Skills for Living – a project to enable a greater sense of self-reliance by encouraging a culture of learning for people aged 16 to 30 who would not ordinarily undertake further education. In the last year, 26 people have benefited at Sandy Hill from this programme. Many of these young people have either gained work or gone on to Farnborough College.
- Switch into Learning – a project to provide small group IT training and basic skills for young people, lone parents, unemployed people, returners to work and those attending normal classes. This project has also covered rural areas in Waverley. Over 550 people have benefited.

The current funding of these 2 programmes will end by 31 March 2004. However, ACL will continue to support a programme that addresses the learning needs that are identified at Sandy Hill.

Waverley Community Learning Partnership

3.3 With membership drawn from Guildford, Godalming and Farnham Colleges, Adult and Community Learning, Waverley BC, University of Surrey, local schools, In Touch, LSC, Surrey Police and the voluntary sector, the Waverley Community Learning Partnership (WCLP) had three meetings in 2003. Funding has been made available from the LSC for a half-time Community Learning Advisor and a further £2000 in 2002/3 and £1500 in 2003/4 for specific activities.

3.4 The WCLP decided that Aarons Hill/Ockford Ridge was its first priority in addressing the role of learning in regeneration. A residents' needs survey in the area was undertaken by Rodborough School students. The information gained is being studied by the WCLP and discussed with the area's representative groups before an action plan is drawn up. The WCLP is adamant that the learning activities that will be undertaken must arise by the community identifying its own needs and should not be ideas imposed by learning agencies from outside.

3.5 In other boroughs within Surrey, the Community Learning Partnership has been recognised as the advisory group to the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) or potentially as a sub-committee of the LSP. The WCLP has links to the LSP by having the SCC Local Director and Waverley BC's Assistant Chief Executive as members of both Partnerships.

Family Learning

3.6 Using the additional funding provided by the Learning and Skills Council, significant development is taking place to enhance the delivery of family learning opportunities which contribute to the raising of achievement by

children and widening participation by adults in learning, particularly literacy and numeracy. The programme of activity includes:

- Publishing a strategy for family learning, linked to other key strategies including the Education Development Plan, Early Years, Parenting strategy
- Innovative family learning delivery programmes based in the community and using resources such as museums, Youth Development Outdoor Centres, and the Surrey History Service
- Expanding the number of schools offering family learning opportunities. 10 schools in Waverley will be offering these programmes by July 2004.
- Developing a new curriculum, resources, evaluation and accreditation.

In the last year, 97 adults have benefited in Waverley from this programme.

Access to learning

- 3.7 The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 now applies to education establishments and services; by September 2005, we need to ensure that buildings offer no barriers to participation in our programme. Many of ACL's dedicated buildings have significant access deficiencies, which, despite additional funding from the Learning and Skills Council and the County Council, may not be overcome by September 2005.
- 3.8 In Waverley, planning permission is awaited on improvements for disabled learners to the teaching block and pottery store in the garden at Farnham Adult Learning Centre. This work should be completed by June 2004 if there are no planning difficulties at this listed site. Funding is also likely to be available from LSC in 2004/5 for a lift within the main building. This will be subject to a feasibility study and again planning permission.
- 3.9 At the 23 non-SCC sites that are used for courses in Waverley, a new assessment process is being introduced that will ensure that each site is compliant with Disability Access and Health and Safety requirements.
- 3.10 Improving access is a significant issue for ACL, and emphasises the importance of the discussions with secondary schools and other possible partners about alternative locations, although it is challenging in most communities to secure space for daytime classes, and specialist facilities needed for subjects like art.

4. THREE YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND MISSION REVIEW

Introduction

- 4.1 The requirement for an annual Adult Learning Plan has been replaced by a three year development plan, for the academic years 2004/5 to 2006/7. The Plan is due for submission to the Surrey LSC by April 2003. This changed requirement is a key strategy within 'Success for All', the Department for Education & Skills' plan to improve the quality and responsiveness of the post-16 Learning sector.

Key objectives

- 4.2 The proposed key objectives for Adult and Community Learning for the next three years will be to:
- Attract new learners, especially learners aged 20 – 50, and particularly men; learners from minority ethnic backgrounds; and learners who are from “hard to reach” groups
 - Develop the curriculum to ensure that it meets learners' needs, identified through market research; achieves income targets; and contributes to local priorities
 - Expand programmes of family learning and family literacy and numeracy, working in partnership with schools and Colleges, building capacity and enhancing quality
 - Develop new learning and enhance current provision to contribute to self-reliance, targeting learners with lower level skills, and providing progression routes with our partners
 - Develop capacity and innovative provision which contributes to targets for Basic Skills and level 2 qualifications
 - Examine other models for governance and delivering provision to ensure viability and stability of the service

We are required to develop the plan through discussions with stakeholders and partners, including Local Committees. Members are therefore asked to comment on these objectives and recommend options for their application to learning in Waverley.

Service mission

- 4.3 The current mission statement for Adult and Community Learning is to:

Deliver quality recreational learning for the residents of Surrey at convenient locations and times, at reasonable cost to the learner and in subjects that reflect demand.

This statement no longer fully reflects the role of the service. Surrey LSC has asked all providers of learning to reconsider their missions, consulting with stakeholders and partners. While the core “business” of Adult and Community Learning remains the programme of recreational learning, the service's key activities now include:

- First-step learning

- Family learning
- Learning for people with disabilities
- Engaging reluctant and unconfident learners

ACL also makes a significant contribution to the planning of learning for adults across Surrey, and to self-reliance and other key County Council targets and policies.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The views of members of the Local Committee on Adult & Community Learning in Waverley, the key objectives and mission are sought.

Annex A – Adult & Community Learning – Background Information

Funding

For 2003/4, ACL expenditure countywide will be £7million. This is funded by £3.5m from learner fees and other income, and £3.5m in LSC grant. Surrey County Council provides no direct funding for ACL. As the grant is based on activity in 1998/9, providing improved quality and new programmes within the available budget is challenging.

The Secretary of State guaranteed the level of funding until August 2003. The LSC wished to move to a funding methodology based on learner numbers, but research and consultation revealed such significant disparity in costs, income and level of provision between LEAs that grant funding was extended for 2003/4, and the LSC has recently notified the County Council that these difficulties have not been overcome for 2004/5. We therefore expect to receive a grant for 2004/5 based on the current grant uprated by 2.8% for inflation. In addition, nearly £600,000 has been offered to improve the condition of, and access to, ACL buildings.

ACL has benefited since April 2001 from additional resources made available by the LSC to achieve specific objectives. In 2003/4, specific grants have been received for a new Management Information System, additional family learning (£240,000) and learning for people from minority ethnic backgrounds (£50,000).

Scope of provision

Surrey's ACL provides recreational learning, which learners choose to undertake courses for a wide range of reasons, including a step towards more formal study, a desire to develop a new skill, to meet new friends or to maintain mental or physical fitness. In the last year, family and community learning activities have been expanded, engaging more people in learning and contributing to both the self-reliance and school improvement agendas.

Learners express high levels of satisfaction with the provision. 96% of learners gave an excellent or good rating for the content of their course, a 95% rating for the overall effectiveness of their learning and 96% for quality of teaching. 99% of learners said they had gained at the two highest levels (of five) from their course. Learners express lower levels of satisfaction for the accommodation used at 66%, reflecting the age and condition of the ACL property portfolio.

ACL works closely in partnership with the Colleges of Further Education, which provide basic skills courses and accredited and vocational learning for adults in our Adult Learning Centres. Students regularly progress from ACL to college courses as they seek to improve their vocational opportunities. Similar partnership arrangements are maintained with the University of Surrey.

A rigorous quality regime has been introduced that has required the development of a Quality Assurance Framework and annual self-assessment. An inspection by the Adult Learning Inspection is expected within the next two years.