

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES AND TACKLING INEQUALITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 7
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Report of the Executive Director of Children's Services

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REPORT ON CITY COLLEGE

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To give an overview of what Peterborough City Councils Adult and Community Learning Provision, City College Peterborough (CCP) does, the impact the service has on local residents and businesses and to report on our recent, successful, Ofsted Inspection.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The committee is asked to consider further areas it may wish to be briefed on in relation to the work around City College.

3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 3.1 The work delivered by CCP cuts across all four priorities of the sustainable community strategy and all the strands of the Single Delivery Plan, by helping to develop individuals, improve their skill set, raising potential and aspirations, and having a direct impact on individuals social and economic wellbeing.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 CCP is the Adult and Community Learning arm of Peterborough City Council. This year we are on target to engage with over 6000 people in learning opportunities – our youngest learner is 4 and our oldest is 84 years old.

We operate as a self financing organisation and are under contract to the Skills Funding Agency, the Young People Learning Agency, the National Apprenticeship Service, UFI, European Social Funding and the Lottery, as well as delivering programmes at full cost recovery where no direct funding is available.

The College has its own Governing Board, is responsible for its own finances and the Principal reports into the Assistant Director for Education and Resources. It employs 112 permanent members of staff and has 183 sessional tutors.

As a college we operate 50 weeks of the year and are there to meet local needs, both planned and also to be reactive to any given situation. Our breadth of provision is vast, yet very specialised – often working in niche markets.

5. KEY ISSUES

- 5.1 The following are the key areas of delivery –

Family Learning – Family learning supports parents, grandparents, carers and other family members to be an active part of their children's learning, as well as becoming learners themselves. It includes many different types of activities and takes place in locations as varied as schools, children's centres, community venues and museums. A current initiative we are running in conjunction with Children's Services, is Family ESOL working with parents in the low

sat performing schools. We have also run a programme in conjunction with age concern that is “cooking with Granddad” – where the granddad is the main carer for a child after school.

14-16 year olds – Providing vocational opportunity (a carousel of learning) for some young people without a school place, or those better suited to vocation training and/or at working in small groups. This programme includes supporting the young person to ensure progression post 16.

16-18 year olds Foundation Learning – Recently Graded as Outstanding by Ofsted (October 2011). This provision provides level 1 and below training in a tailored package for each individual. Normally around 27% of the learners on programme are from minority ethnic groups, around 27% have learning difficulties and or disabilities or serious health problems and it is a mix of male and female learners. Programmes studied can include a vocational subject (i.e. Motor Vehicle, business administration), functional maths, English, ICT, personal and social development. Ofsted said that in this area, outcomes for learners are outstanding, that the progress of most learners is outstanding, safeguarding arrangements and pastoral support is outstanding.

Apprenticeships – Delivering work based learning for 16 -18 year olds and 19+ across a variety of subject areas that include, for example: Dental Nursing, Childcare, Business Administration, Team Leading and Business Improvements Techniques.

Adult Qualifications – This mainly covers Literacy, Numeracy and ESOL, all graded Good at our recent Ofsted Inspection. Ofsted said that partnership working is well established with a wide range of local organisations such as housing associations, primary schools, employers and the City Council. We also deliver qualifications in Counselling (level 2 to level 5), Teacher Training (post 16) and working with the unemployed. Our work with the unemployed is delivered by Learn Direct or in a classroom environment and is often driven by employer need for example we are leading on recruitment for a large local distribution company, engaging with unemployed people who are interested in working for them, up-skilling them as required and then the employer is interviewing them for the positions at the end of their training. We also have a very strong and successful provision in this area working with adults with learning difficulties and/or disabilities – these qualifications are around independent living skills and preparation for work.

Non Qualification Adult Learning – This falls into two main areas:

1. Personal and Community Development Learning – to help local residents and other learners develop their skills. This covers a vast array of subjects and includes things like; cooking on a budget, inspired by, learning to speak with confidence, make do and mend and communication for the hard of hearing. Our Arts and Craft provision in this area was graded Outstanding by Ofsted saying things like “learners make an excellent contribution to their communities” and “Equality and Diversity issues are well embedded in the classes”. In fact in this area, CCP have for the past three years had learners exhibiting work at the V&A museum in London. Many of our adult classes are seen by the students as a life line, particularly with some of our elderly learners and have benefits to both their health and wellbeing. A new initiative in this area is in ESOL and we are training some local residents how to teach “ESOL for survival” and we will then (on successful completion of the training) employ them to deliver courses in their local communities to help address some of the waiting list for those wishing to learn English.
2. Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities – This is a pot of funding we set aside each year for the voluntary sector to bid for money to deliver innovative learning opportunities in their local communities or for their client groups. Examples of this include “men and sheds” – CP Learning Trust, a project to engage more men into learning and “Skills for sharing” - Beat this CIC, using music as a vehicle to engage and train the unemployed, developing skills and confidence and creating trainers for future sustainability

Employer Training – In addition to this, we also offer training for employers both bespoke and non funded qualification for example, we have delivered Level 4 Information, Advice and Guidance qualification to the Army Careers Service and ILM (Institute of Leadership and Management) Training to variety of employers across the City.

Overall as a college, Ofsted graded us as **Good with Outstanding features**. Its main finding concluded that – outcomes are good, learners improve their economic and social wellbeing to a good level, closely targeted provision engages disadvantaged groups and has a substantial impact on their health, social life and employment prospects. That the teaching and learning is good with much outstanding, the range of provision is excellent at meeting the needs and interests of learners and users, that the college works very productively with an extensive range of partners and that the senior leadership team has set ambitious targets and has provided effective leadership to create a culture of excellence, inclusion and high standards

CCP is a unique provision, offering a wide and varied service to local residents that is not available elsewhere. It is a self funding service that is there to provide a service for the City of Peterborough, its residents, businesses and communities.

6. IMPLICATIONS

6.1 None

7. CONSULTATION

7.1 Not applicable

8. NEXT STEPS

8.1 None

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

9.1 None

10. APPENDICES

10.1 None

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