

**CWOP/21/11****Policy & Scrutiny Committee**

Community and Older People

**Date**

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**Addendum on Review of the Learning Revolution White Paper by the Task and Finish Group CWOP Policy and Scrutiny Committee**

The Committee received and discussed the report from the Task and Finish Group on 11 March 2010 (Minute 24). Review of the implementation of the recommendations in the full report was included in the agenda for the last meeting of the Committee (on 14 April 2011) but consideration was deferred until this meeting pending the availability of the Cabinet Member. Members may wish to bring their copy of the full report with them from the 14 April 2011 agenda pack. A limited number of copies of the report will be available at the meeting.

**Hiring of Venues****Recommendations 1,2 & 3**

Adult Community Learning and Libraries have worked together with EPF to reduce the costs of hiring premises by developing a system of appointed keyholder training to enable access to ACL and Library managed premises during closure times. In addition ACL and Libraries are applying common rates for the hire of premises that make provision of a differentiated fee for voluntary groups.

**Support for Informal Learning Organisations****Recommendation 4**

Some ACL and Library managed accommodation is available to informal learning organisations, subject to service needs. The announcement of ECC's recent Good for Essex funding grants has been widely circulated through the press and voluntary sector networks.

ACL and Libraries provide information on informal learning opportunities available in localities by means of Library Information Points, and ACL progression pathways from formal learning to groups and clubs.

**Recommendation 5**

Library policy is for our information provision to be up to date, of relevance to the local community and supporting Essex County Council in achieving its key corporate objectives.

Our largest libraries, which operate as hubs, will display:

- a range of leaflets displayed in zones to enable our customers to easily locate relevant information, for example: youth, health;
- leaflets which support and tie in with our core businesses, and which support other Essex County Council service areas – for example – items which give information on ECC services, family learning and parenting skills, employment, education and training for young people, local cultural and sporting activity;
- leaflets when there is no other source of the information –for example, the majority of central government information is available via the internet;
  - leaflets where the provision is part of a wider partnership initiative, for example, NHS, Children's Centres, leaflets on benefits, pensions and advice for disabled people which are targeted at low income groups, older people and disabled people;
  - prospectuses from a range of Essex-based colleges;
  - leaflets on places to visit in Essex.
  - For tourist information for places outside Essex and for colleges outside Essex, we will use the internet and other sources.

Our other libraries will display:-

- a small range of leaflets of local interest only;
- leaflets on places to visit which are within the vicinity of the library;
- prospectuses of the nearest Essex colleges which local peoples are likely to use;
- leaflets for which there is a proven local demand.

Libraries in areas of 10% social deprivation will also carry leaflets on benefits, pensions and advice for disabled people which are targeted at low income groups, older people and disabled people.

All libraries will carry library service leaflets, which are displayed separately from other leaflets.

Leaflets will be displayed in racks and not on tables or the tops of shelves. They will be checked regularly for currency and will be in good repair; out of date, tatty and floppy leaflets will be discarded.

## **Directories and Websites**

### **Recommendations 6 – 9**

No progress to report as recommendations relate to technicalities surrounding internet and web developments

## **Lead Accountable Bodies**

### **Recommendation 10 and 11**

The Business, Innovation and Skills Department is currently undertaking a review of the Adult Safeguarded Learning budget. Recommendations for future allocations and priorities will be announced later in 2011. This review, together with the Government's commitment to the Big Society and ECC's role as one of the 12 Local Authorities piloting community budgets will shape the future for non accredited learning in Essex.

## **Promoting Informal Adult Learning**

### **Recommendation 12 and 13**

Adult Community Learning undertook a detailed mapping exercise to scope the provision of informal adult learning in Essex. This was completed in Autumn 2010. Cllr Whitehouse and the Principal Officer ACL have planned an event to be held in Ongar on 28 June 2011 that will invite Epping and Ongar participants in the mapping exercise to pilot a learning forum. The forum will look at ways of promoting closer partnership working to support the informal adult learning agenda.