

Report sponsor: Andy Smith, Strategic Director,
People Service

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Service, Employment, Skills & Adult Education

Derby Adult Learning Strategic Plan

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the Derby Adult Learning Service (DALs) Strategic Plan to cabinet for approval. The DALs Strategic Plan focuses on a more integrated and partnership-based approach to delivering employment, skills and adult learning opportunities that have the most social impact and value for the citizens of Derby.
- 1.2 DALs is a main training provider, majority funded by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). DALs learning delivery is regulated by OFSTED; and therefore, DALs strategic planning is required to have governance from the most senior levels of Derby City Council (DCC).
- 1.3 The proposed Strategic plan for Derby Adult Learning prioritises a learning offer that focusses on health, wellness, skills and employment. The proposed DALs Strategic Plan also describes our intention to integrate and collaborate across DCC Services to maximise our contribution to the DCC recovery plan. Practical examples of this are included in the Strategic Plan.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 To approve the Derby Adult Learning Service Strategic Plan

3. Reasons

- 3.1 Derby Adult Learning Service is funded for adult education through the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) Adult Education Budget (AEB). The main purpose of this funding is to provide access to learning that will have the most social value and impact, by developing the skills, confidence, motivation and resilience of adults of different ages and backgrounds in order to:
 - progress towards formal learning or employment and/or
 - improve their health and well-being, including mental health and/or
 - develop stronger communities.
- 3.2 The OFSTED Further Education Inspection Framework requires that DCC leaders and managers have a clear and ambitious vision for provision for providing high-quality inclusive education and training. Those with responsibility for governance must ensure that Derby Adult Learning Service fulfils its statutory duties.

The proposed Derby Adult Learning Service Strategic plan has stronger links to the DCC Covid-19 recovery plan and is a catalyst for collaborative working with business and community.

- 3.3 As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic our Derby citizens are facing unprecedented challenges; including a high level of unemployment and increased isolation. In order to have the most social impact, DALs Strategic Plan is designed to engage with and support Derby citizens at a time of significant challenge, to provide learning that promotes positive health and wellbeing; employability and an opportunity to learn new skills and develop stronger communities.

4. Supporting information

4.1 *DALS Vision*

To deliver outstanding learning and skills provision that improves the economic, social mobility and wellbeing of Derby's citizens.

This strategy outlines how Derby Adult Learning Service will prioritise the development of curriculum and integration of services for optimising social mobility into Derby City Council services and strategic objectives.

4.2 *Where are we now?*

DALS deliver high-quality teaching and learning funded by the ESFA and a small number of other discretionary income streams, for which DALs successfully bid.

Scrutiny is provided by the comprehensive annual Self-Assessment Report (SAR) Scrutiny Panel chaired by the Service Director for Learning, Inclusion and Skills, and attended by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People before the SAR is approved and submitted to OFSTED.

Our curriculum is relatively broad with 3 specific areas:

- Skills – qualification based
- Community and Family Learning
- Apprenticeships

DALS has always had excellent relationships with the local community, and we design our delivery to meet the local need.

4.3 *Where do we want to be?*

We want to be at the forefront of leading innovative community development initiatives that use the ESFA and other funding to reach the most at need in our communities. We imagine a future for DALs where the training that we offer is integrated into the recovery of the city. The DALs Strategic Plan builds on established community development strengths ensuring that the facilitation and delivery of learning and skills, targets the hardest to reach and most likely to benefit from our services.

4.4 *Next Steps*

DALS is working across DCC Services to identify where facilitation of learning and skills can be developed to engage adults in our communities who need additional support. It is our intention to increase our collaborative working with internal and external stakeholders, to ensure that DALS, adds value and is a catalyst for improved and responsive support. We believe that with joined up working we can reduce the pressure on front line services by encouraging our citizens to engage with learning that supports their sustained resilience and independence.

4.5 *COVID Responsiveness*

DALS Strategic Plan enables us to continue to be responsive to the priorities faced as a result of new Covid-19 pressures and economic challenges.

5. **Public/stakeholder engagement**

5.1 Community and voluntary sector engagement - community organisations suggested that DALS could be even more responsive to the needs of their communities. Partners consultation include:

- Quad
- Baby people
- Derby Theatre
- Derby Museums
- Artcore
- WEA
- VCS
- Derby College

DALS Strategic Plan proposed to further build on these partnerships by:

- Consulting with schools and new emerging communities to design training that supports the Prevent agenda and promotes community cohesion.
- Through stakeholder relationships – DALS Head of Service is the representative for Derby City Council and The Local Education Authorities' Forum for the Education of Adults.
- Participating on the D2N2 People and Skills Advisory Board Subgroup for Employment.

5.2 Multi-departmental consultation across DCC including; SEND, New and Emerging Communities, Health and Social Care, Economic Growth and Communities and Place resulted in an enthusiastic response from services who would instantly gain from the added value proposed by the projects and activities in DALS' Strategic Plan.

6. **Other options**

6.1 Continue as we are – good quality training that doesn't optimise social impact.

7. **Financial and value for money issues**

7.1 There are no additional costs associated with DALS Strategic Plan, as the funds are granted externally from the ESFA and other funding bodies. This approach meets the funding requirements and the spirit of Community Learning objectives, whilst adding resource to DCC and voluntary and community services.

8. Legal implications

- 8.1 The DALS Strategic Development Plan represents complete adherence to the ESFA funded adult education budget (AEB): funding and performance management rules 2020 to 2021 (October 2020 Version 4) and complies with the Further Education and Skills Inspection Handbook (Ofsted).
- 8.2 Equality Act 2010 - The curriculum design, values and direction described in the DALS Strategic Development Plan, ensures fair access to learning, particularly for those learner groups that may be underrepresented, or least likely to engage in learning. It will ensure barriers to learning are reduced and that they are supported to become more resilient and improve their economic prosperity.

9. Climate implications

- 9.1 The DALS Strategic Development Plan promotes the following objectives that aim to reduce the environmental impact of our activities:
- An increase in delivering accessible online learning will reduce overall individual travel to centres (learners and tutors)
 - Improved online processes, utilising a new website and greater functionality within our MI systems will make better use of technology and reduce paperwork
 - Focussed curriculum planning could reduce the building requirements/reduce operating times. This in turn will reduce energy requirements when buildings are not in use (electricity/gas).

10 Other significant implications

10.1 Personnel implications

The curriculum will be planned to better meet the needs of our communities; utilising the existing staff and operational resource.

10.2 Health & Safety implications

DALS Strategic Development Plan activities would be fully compliant with all necessary health and safety regulations, legislation and DCC policy.

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal	Olu Idowu	20/10/2020
Finance	Alison Parkin	20/10/2020
Service Director	Pauline Anderson OBE	
Report	Andy Smith	
Other(s)		

Background papers:

List of appendices:

Appendix 1: The Derby Adult Learning Service Strategic Plan