



## **Adult Learning Service Course Fees 2012/13**

### **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 Learners on Derby City Council adult learning courses are required to pay course fees. The course fee structure is based on learners' ability to pay according to their income and the level of subsidy received from the Skills Funding Agency.
- 1.2 The indicative allocation of funding for community learning known as the Adult Safeguarded Learning funding has been set at £1,579,229 for 2012/13 which is the same as the current year's allocation

### **RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 To approve the continuation of the current fee structure in the 2012/13 academic year from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2012 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2013
- 2.2 To authorise the Director of Children & Young People, in consultation with the cabinet member for Adult Social Care and Health, to approve any minor changes to the fee structure as a result any in year changes to the Skills Funding Agency funding regulations that are implemented after 1<sup>st</sup> August 2012

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 The allocation of Adult Safeguarded Funding has not been changed. The learner fee contribution to Adult Skills Budget courses is set by the Skills Funding Agency.
- 3.2 As the New Challenges, New Chances government policy document sets out the government's intentions to simplify the skills funding system it is anticipated that there may be some minor changes to policy during the 2012/13 academic year

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

4.1 The Adult Learning Service delivers a wide range of adult learning opportunities in adult learning centres, schools, community venues and workplaces across the city. In 2010/11 there were 3903 adults enrolled. The largest number of enrolments is on Skills for Life courses - Literacy, Numeracy and English for Speakers of Other Languages. Other popular areas of learning include Information Technology, Modern Foreign Languages and Visual Arts. The service provides a range of courses that are open to all and also targets some provision in neighbourhoods with the highest levels of socio-economic deprivation, adults with learning difficulties and disabilities and adults with low levels of skills who have not previously engaged in adult learning.

4.2 The Adult Learning Service has received an indicative allocation of funding for the 2012/13 academic year of £2,892,399 across all funding streams. This includes an indicative allocation of funding for Adult Safeguarded Learning which remains at the same level as 2011/12 at £1,579,229

### 4.3 **Current Fees Policy**

These fall into 3 categories

- Adult Skills Funded Courses
- First Steps Funded Courses
- Adult Safeguarding Learning

Full fee remission will be given to the following learners;

- hearing impaired learners on lip-reading courses
- those on any British Sign Language (BSL), Lip-Reading or Makaton course who are deaf or hard of hearing or who live in the same household as a BSL or Makaton user.

### 4.4 **Adult Skills Funded courses**

The course fee will remain at £3.50 per hour with the exception of the following categories of learners who are entitled to Skills Funding Agency full fee remission:

- Learners studying for their first full level 2 qualification
- Learners aged 19-24 year olds studying for their first full level 3 qualification
- Learners aged 16-18 years
- Those taking learning aims that are funded as Adult Skills for Life and Functional Skills in Literacy and Numeracy
- Those people who are on Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) or Employment Support Allowance (ESA)
- Learners aged between 19 and 25 years who are on a GCSE maths or GCSE English course
- Those who are on income based benefits and are actively seeking employment

The course fee for English for Speakers of other Languages courses for those who are not entitled to full fee remission will be £2 per hour.

- 4.5 **First Steps Funded Courses**  
£1 per hour for concessions or remissions
- 4.6 **Adult Safeguarded Learning**
- general programme – £4.50 per hour
  - specialist programme - £5.00 per hour
  - first steps and short taster programme – £1.00 per hour
- 4.7 50% fee concession will be given to the following learners;
- unemployed people in receipt of Job Seekers' Allowance or Employment Support Allowance
  - those in receipt of income-based benefits, e.g. Council Tax Benefit, Housing Benefit and Income Support
  - those in receipt of Working Tax Credit with a household income of less than £16,190
  - those in receipt of Pension Credits–Guarantee
  - the unwaged dependants of those listed above
  - asylum seekers eligible for SFA funding and in receipt of the equivalent of income-based benefit (assistance under the terms of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999).
- 4.8 10% fee concession\* will be given to Derbyshire Gold Card holders.  
10% fee concession\* will be given to adults who attended a Derby City Council Family Learning course in 2011/12
- 4.9 Concessions marked with \* will only apply to those who do not meet the criteria for 50% fee concession.

<b>OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED</b>
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- 5.1 To increase course fees. This could lead to an overall reduction in income as learner numbers may decrease.
- 5.2 To reduce the number and range of courses offered in order to reduce the overall running costs of the service. This could lead to a reduction in choice and opportunity for Derby residents.
- 5.3 To introduce a course fee subsidy from council funding. This option has not been recommended due to current Council budget pressures

**This report has been approved by the following officers:**

<b>Legal officer</b> <b>Financial officer</b> <b>Human Resources officer</b> <b>Service Director(s)</b> <b>Other(s)</b>	n/a Alison Parkin n/a Lynda Poole
<b>For more information contact:</b> <b>Background papers:</b> <b>List of appendices:</b>	Name Cath Harcula 01332 642304 e-mail cath.harcula@derby.gov.uk None Appendix 1 – Implications

<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>
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**Financial and Value for Money**

- 1.1 The Adult Learning Service has received an indicative allocation of funding for the 2012/13 academic year of £2,892,399 across all funding streams. This includes an indicative allocation of funding for Adult Safeguarded Learning which remains at the same level as 2011/12 at £1,579,229.

The Adult Learning Service is not funded through core council budgets.

The fee rates represent good value for money for learners and are comparable with other services in the region.

The income generated from fee income in the 2010/11 financial year was £292,000. The expected income for the 2011/12 financial year is £312,000. The target for 2012/13 will be £330,000. Income from the higher rate courses is used to subsidise places for those learners who receive a concession.

**Legal**

- 2.1 None

**Personnel**

- 3.1 None

**Equalities Impact**

- 4.1 An equalities impact assessment was conducted in April 2011 when the current fee structure was considered. Since the recommendation is that there will be no changes made, any additional assessment will not be required.

**Health and Safety**

- 5.1 None

**Environmental Sustainability**

- 6.1 None

**Asset Management**

- 7.1 None

**Risk Management**

- 8.1 None

**Corporate objectives and priorities for change**

- 9.1 Achieving their learning potential – more adults learning