

## ADULT & COMMUNITY EDUCATION STRATEGY

### Introduction

Although the majority of the College's activity is in provision for 16-18 year olds, 19+, adult and community provision will make up a portion of its delivery. This will be in response to local and citywide needs and support the College in its main focus of widening participation in the North East of Sheffield.

This document is written in conjunction with the College Development Plan 2003-07

Adult & Community Education at Longley Park Sixth Form College will look to provide education opportunities that will boost the numbers of adults engaged within education across a range of curriculum areas and levels. As such it will respond to the following key aims.

### Key Aims

- 1.1 To support the College mission focus of widening participation in the NE of the city through work with the local community
- 1.2 To create a sense of ownership of the College by its local community
- 1.3 To develop a broad ranging curriculum that is responsive to the skills shortages of NE Sheffield
- 1.4 To develop progression options for adult learners in the community drawing on the resources of the College and provide appropriate and comprehensive advice and guidance
- 1.5 To create a programme that is inclusive, supportive and accessible to all regardless of ethnicity, background or ability
- 1.6 To create quality provision, both within Curriculum, support services and resources
- 1.7 To create a core of teaching and support staff committed to the adult market who provide high quality teaching and learning
- 1.8 To be responsive to the funding limitations and targets set by the LSC

The College will aim to be responsive to the educational needs of the local community through working in partnership with key providers as follows:

- 2.1 To be responsive to the needs of local employers and industry
- 2.2 To work with key partner schools and agencies to support the development of ACE within NE Sheffield, particularly through those with extended school status
- 2.3 To support the city wide strategy relating to ACE through Sheffield First for Work and Learning, the LEA and LSC
- 2.4 To work with local community groups and learning partnerships to promote lifelong learning in NE Sheffield and progression to employment or further education

### Strategic Response to aims

- 1.1 The College mission as a whole is to widen participation in NE Sheffield. Within Adult & Community Education this will be done through working with local community groups to promote learning to new learners and through the creation of a programme that will look to build on the provision already available in the area of the city. The College will also look to respond to barriers to learning such as childcare and transport. This will be done through working in partnership with other agencies rather than directly providing facilities.

- 1.2 The College aims to ensure that it is a key part of its local environment and as such wishes to create a sense of ownership by the local community. This will be done through a series of activities and events which will invite the community into the College throughout the year, but particularly around the opening time of the College. The College will also look to ensure that where appropriate the building is made available to the local community, however this will be in a limited capacity.
- 1.3 The citywide strategies for Adult Learning are clear that learning needs to respond to the skills shortages of the city. As such The College will work with external agencies and employers to ensure that curriculum fits with the skills shortages of the city and in particular NE Sheffield
- 1.4 Throughout NE Sheffield there is a lot of exceptional work taking place at foundation level and in getting adults into learning. The College will work closely with local providers to ensure clear progression routes for learners in the area in appropriate curriculum areas. The intention is that the College will not duplicate work already taking place but provide curriculum to fill the gaps in the progression routes. As part of this role the College will draw on its advice and guidance to provide learners with appropriate information about progression into and beyond the College. The College has in post a Progression & Liaison Officer who will, where appropriate, work with the Adult & Community Education Manager to provide this.
- 1.5 The College will have a group focussed on diversity, which will in part be responsive to the local community. The College has an equal opportunity policy, which will ensure that all learners are provided the same opportunities regardless of ethnicity or background. The College will also look to ensure that there is provision at all academic levels.
- 1.6 The College has a quality framework to ensure effective and quality teaching, which will be monitored by the directors of teaching and learning. It will also work with the citywide quality framework. The College also wants to ensure that all support services and resources for learners are appropriate and meet their individual needs. The Adult & Community Education Manager will work closely with teaching staff and the student services manager, Learning resource centre manager and Learning development manager to ensure that these needs are met.
- 1.7 The College will recruit teaching staff specifically for the adult market. Although these staff may also be recruited to teach the core 16-19 age range, that will not always be the case. Many staff will be drawn from a pool of occasional part time staff. The College is committed to ensuring the personal development of staff and meeting training needs as appropriate.
- 1.8 The College has been set specific targets by the LSC for adult learners. These are: 150 part time learners in 2004-05, 250 in 2005-06 and 400 in 2006-07. The College will maintain systems to respond to LSC demands, overseen by the Adult and Community Education Manager in conjunction with the College Information System Manager.

## Partnership Work

The College has appointed an Adult & Community Education Manager with a remit that includes creating and promoting the ACE programme to the local community and ensuring that it fits into the city wide framework for adult education. The ACE Manager will work with local organisations in the preparation, promotion, delivery and evaluation of the programme to ensure that the College is meeting the needs of its local community. This will, in many cases include participation in appropriate boards and community events to promote the status of the College.

## Direction and Planning

The College will endeavour to offer a programme that meets the needs of the local community as outlined above. Due to the demands placed on the building during the daytime provision for adult education will predominantly take place during evening sessions starting from 4:30pm. Due to the nature of the client group the College will need to be flexible in its approach to learning to establish the most successful and appropriate timing of provision. There is potential to run programmes not starting in September and straddling the academic years. There is also opportunity for the College to create provision at the weekend. In the first instance this will be used to create opportunities to gather people into the building to create a sense of ownership and encourage potential students as to the value of the College provision.

The planning process of adult provision will take place throughout the year to ensure that there is a constant refining and development of activity. In the first instance this will have to predominantly be responsive to the time restraints that the College faces, however over time there will be a greater flexibility and extended planning process to ensure the best possible curriculum options. The planning process will be a joint process between the College Directors of Teaching and Learning and the Adult and Community Education Manager.

## Community Events & Publicity

The College will look to develop a number of events throughout the year to encourage the local community to develop their use of the facilities and to invest in their local learning environment. It is envisioned that these will predominantly focus on individual taster experiences offered by the College, which will, where possible, lead into specific programmes. There are a number of suggested formats for developing these events.

The College will develop specific publicity material for the adult market, which will be published and distributed when appropriate. This will most often be created for a September start for programmes but will include updates throughout the year as appropriate. The College will also publish course information in local publications such as The Burngreave Learner. The College will also make use of organisations such as the learning champions to distribute publicity materials to the local area as well as positioning publicity material in all appropriate local agencies such as libraries and community centres.

## External Provision

Due to the lack of availability within the main site during the daytime for adult provision there will be a need to look into the feasibility for using community centres for providing off site provision where need arises. This is in direct response to the worries within the local community about transport and accessibility of the building. However this is a route that will be developed once the core adult programme at the College centre has been developed.

## Transport

There is a strong worry within the local community about accessibility to the College site in regard to transport. The College needs to develop a policy in regard to support for transport. Although the area is easily accessible from a wide range of public transport there may be a need to look at community transport options if transport continues to prove to be an issue.