

Surrey County Council and Lead Accountable Body Status

All Local Authorities have been given the opportunity to state their interest in pursuing Lead Accountable Body Status - this would take effect from 1/4/2011 and gives the Local Authority the lead role in planning and commissioning Informal Adult Learning. The role comprises -

- providing vision and leadership locally, by encouraging collaboration and promoting a culture of lifelong learning and widening access to learning and skills
- leading a strong partnership to promote coherence and establishing a diverse local offer
- developing, and submitting an annual jointly-agreed delivery plan, as the basis of funding through the Skills Funding Agency
- ensuring local value for money, including leveraging in resources through fees, volunteering and sharing expertise

Surrey has confirmed its interest and further information will follow in future newsletters.

Adult Learning Plan for Surrey

The development of an Adult Learning Plan for Surrey for 2011-15 is being led by Cass Hardy of Surrey County Council. It will look holistically at adult learning and skills in the county, paying special attention to priorities for Adult Safeguarded Learning which includes Personal and Community Development Learning, Family Literacy, Language and Numeracy, Wider Family Learning and Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities. It will explore how the Lead Accountable Body can support self-organised groups and open up new spaces for learning as outlined in the White Paper. The plan will also aim to offer universal provision coupled with targeted provision for priority groups.

The proposed timetable for the adult learning plan is:

APRIL-MAY 2010	Review period – examining and analysing available funding streams, current provision and local intelligence
JUNE-JULY 2010	Needs analysis – using the data above together with demographic and statistical data to highlight priority groups to inform targeting
AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2010	Writing
OCTOBER-JANUARY 2011	Formal three-month public consultation process
JANUARY 2011	Revision period – incorporating adjustments based on consultation responses
FEBRUARY 2011	Approval by SCC Cabinet with detailed Implementation Plan to follow

Surrey's ESOL Plan

Surrey County Council is working on an ESOL Plan for 2010/11, which will form part of the wider Adult Learning Plan 2011-2015. Through research into current ESOL delivery and local needs, the following priorities have been identified:

- **Targeting Specific Geographical Areas in Surrey**
Evidence of ESOL need is strongest within the areas of Maybury and Sheerwater, Westborough, Merstham and Stanwell North.
- **Targeting Specific Nationalities/Ethnic Groups**
Building on existing ESOL provision focused on settled and migrant workers from mainly Asian backgrounds and addressing the disproportionate focus on 'White Other' groups. Also building on strong links to the citizenship and community cohesion agendas and ensuring that ESOL provision is offered in convenient locations for priority groups.
- **Targeting Sub-Groups**
Providing ESOL for carers, including primary parent carers and overlapping with other wider local priorities through related groups such as spouses entering the UK, those on benefits or low incomes and those with mental health problems.
Raising awareness of ESOL amongst men.
Encouraging the involvement of volunteers with strong English skills as Skills Advocates and of existing support groups, such as women's and faith groups.
- **Tackling barriers to ESOL**
- **Working in Partnership**

Consultation with partners and stakeholders will take place shortly.

Adult Learning Plan Conference

Surrey Lifelong Learning Partnership is taking the Adult Learning Plan as its theme for its annual conference, which is being planned in conjunction with Surrey County Council and NIACE. The conference will take place on **Friday 11th June** at Woking Holiday Inn and places are **free** to all involved in adult learning and skills in Surrey.

To book places at the conference please email landrews@surreyllp.org.uk for more information

Who's Who at the Skills Funding Agency?

The Agency is a national organisation, although some functions are organised regionally. Those of most relevance locally for Surrey are as follows.

Skills Service (South East)

This is the primary external face of the Agency.

- **Employer Services** provides strategic oversight and support for the employer offer in the region, geographically and in business sectors.
- **Learner Services** works with partners on integrating employment and skills, economic development and worklessness and promoting national policies for learners and also manages the regional contracts for the Offender Learning and Skills Service (OLASS) and the Adult Advancement and Careers Service (AACS).

Skills Director South East	<i>Tony Allen</i>
Head of Learner Services	<i>Viv Ottaway</i>
Head of Learner Services	<i>Fiona Willmott</i>
Head of Employer Services	<i>Jill Farrell</i>
Regional Learner Services Manager	<i>Philip Britton</i> whose role includes Agency link with Surrey

College and Learning Provider Services: Account Management

Provides the direct interface with providers covering accreditation, funding allocations, contracting and performance management of all Agency funded provision with the exception of OLASS and AACS. Each provider has one assigned account manager for all its work wherever delivered. The way this is organised is not related to local authority areas, but there are geographic groupings for management purposes.

Senior Account Director (South East) Account Management	<i>David Smith</i> Most providers in Surrey are currently managed within a team led by <i>Jackie Parry</i> (Head of Provider Accounts)
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National Apprenticeship Service

Leads and manages the development, implementation and performance of Apprenticeships, including meeting the requirements of learners and employers.

Regional Apprenticeship Director	<i>Rachel McKellar</i>
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FOR MORE INFORMATION ON TRANSITION ARRANGEMENTS PLEASE CONTACT:

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