

## **City & County of Swansea**

### **Swansea Learning Partnership ACL Partnership**

#### **'Improving Choice – Meeting Needs' 2009 – 2012**

#### **The Proposal**

To refocus existing and future ACL planning and provision via an ACL Partnership.

#### **Implementing the proposal:**

The Swansea Learning Partnership will oversee the creation and embedding of the ACL Partnership via a project entitled '**Improving Choice - Meeting Needs**' which will have 8 key aims of:

- Establishing a single comprehensive local planning framework for the delivery of ACL provision (KA1).
- Providing an insight into the demand for learning and ensuring that provision meets the needs of individuals and communities (KA2).
- Encouraging participation from those people who are under-represented in current provision (KA3).
- Achieving more effective and efficient use of existing and new resources so that students benefit from a universal service (KA4).
- Promoting opportunities for adult learners to move between the different levels of learning (KA5).
- Providing a continuous professional development programme to meet the national standards for staff working in lifelong learning (Lifelong Learning Sector Skills Council) (KA6).
- Achieving ESTYN Grade 2 or above for all provision and the Basic Skills New Quality Standard (KA7).
- Promoting the role of the 2 HE institutions with regard to higher level learning and specialist subject areas (KA8).

#### **b) Impact on local labour market demand.**

The 'Improving Choice – Meeting Needs' project will act as a gateway and provider for people to engage with learning and training at the community level. The integrated nature of the project will mean that links with Jobcentre Plus and Careers Wales West will be overt and straightforward. The project will work closely with the Beyond Bricks & Mortar initiative to ensure that students actively seek training and job opportunities.

Students will be encouraged to progress onto higher level education and training so that gradually the supply of skilled labour is increased.

The involvement of Work Based Learning providers will further improve access to appropriate training for learners.

## Outputs

- A single Adult Community Learning & Skills Plan for Swansea (KA1)
- Higher visibility amongst policy makers and funders of the role and impact of ACL on health, social and economic policies (KA2).
- Increased participation rates especially amongst under-represented and hard to reach groups of students (KA3).
- Promoting personal and social well-being through local and wider community activities (KA3).
- High quality ESOL provision (KA3).
- Improved levels of basic skills in line with the national BSC targets (KA3).
- Better use of facilities and a reduction in surplus capacity (KA4).
- Collaborative planning for work based learning contracts (KA4)
- Community Learning & Skills Centres (KA4).
- Increased take up of education & training opportunities (KA5).
- Opportunities to study up to Level 4 qualifications (KA5).
- Increased employer involvement in identifying and planning provision (KA5).
- Support for people to enter the labour market (KA5).
- Focus on increasing the attainment of Level 2 & 3 qualifications (KA5).
- Quality Effectiveness Framework implemented (KA6 & KA7).
- Increase in overall learner attainment and achievement rates (KA7).
- Promoting innovative learning opportunities through the creative use of ICT/ILT (KA8).
- Development of ACL Welsh medium provision (KA8).

## Outcomes:

- Structural change in post 19 education and training planning and delivery (KA1).
- Improved access to information and activities aimed at helping individuals to take responsibility for their own health and well-being (KA2).
- Increased participation in learning activities especially from those sectors of the community under-represented (KA3).
- More efficient use of available resources and facilities (KA4).
- Improved skill levels and confidence appropriate to the needs of the individual and the economy (KA3).
- Increased opportunities available to people and groups who are more likely to experience discrimination and have access to fewer opportunities (KA3).

**The Geographic/Sectoral Transformation Strategy**, outlining the steps the Learning Partnership wish to take to secure the agreed deliverables

1. Secure political and organisational approval for the proposal.
2. Confirm the management & governance structure to take forward the first stage of the proposal.
3. Review current provision and carry-out a gap analysis.
4. Confirm level of available resources.
5. Implement the 'Improving Choice – Meeting Needs' project

### **Expected timeframe for each delivery step and to complete the transformation programme**

The establishing of the ACL Partnership will be influenced by other changes taking place across the education and training sector locally, not least of which is the proposal to establish a single Further Education College from September 2010.

The first delivery step of securing political and organisational approval to form an ACL Partnership will begin with the submission of a draft Strategic Outline Programme to the Swansea Learning Partnership Steering Group by March 2010.

The second stage of developing the management & governance model will occur during the Spring of 2010 and be signed off by the Swansea Learning Partnership before submission to DCELLS in the Summer.

The 3rd & 4th stage will form part of the planning cycle for identifying learning needs and securing the resources to deliver an ACL programme. This activity can take place throughout the Spring term 2010.

The fifth stage will be the implementing the Improving Choice – Meeting Needs project from September 2010 onwards.

### **Proposed sources of funding**

The funding model which will underpin the delivery side of the ACL Partnership is far from clear at this stage. The predicted level of cuts in public expenditure coupled with the actual cuts to existing ACL provision locally could result in a skewed model of provision. Stages 3 & 4 above of the timeframe will identify the level of resources available and help the partnership prioritise provision.

The NPFS will be a key source of funding together with ESF Convergence Funding and Strategic Regeneration Area Funding. The level of student fees charged will also form part of the funding model.



## City & County of Swansea

### ACL Partnership 'Improving Choice – Meeting Needs' Implementation Plan 2009 – 2012

**Key Aim 1**      **To establish a single comprehensive local planning framework for the planning and delivery of Adult Community Learning provision.**

	Actions	By Whom	By When	Outputs	Outcomes	Progress To-date
<b>1</b>	Establish an Adult Community Learning Partnership Planning Group.	SLP Steering Group	March 2010	A single Adult Community Learning & Skills Plan for Swansea	Structural change in local post 19 education and training planning and delivery.	Initial meeting with SLP Steering Group to agree outline structure.
<b>2</b>	First draft of ACL Terms of Reference (TOR) & Operational Structure (OS)	SLP Steering Group	March 2010	ACL TOR & OS drafted for approval by Council and Governing/Management Bodies.	ACL TOR & OS approved.	
<b>3</b>	Establish clear planning and operational links with the Regional Learning Partnership South West Wales	ACL Partnership Planning Group	March 2010			

**Key Aim 2** To provide insight into the demand for learning and ensuring that provision meets the needs of individuals and communities.

Actions		By Whom	By When	Outputs	Outcomes	Progress To-date
1	Carry – out an audit of existing ACL provision	ACL Partnership Planning Group	June 2010	Interactive spreadsheet of ACL provision by provider and location.	Better insight into the demand and provision of ACL in support of learning needs and priorities within communities.	xPoint Intranet being used to host interactive data.
2	Carry – out a gap analysis of ACL provision against demand using Lifelong Learning Wales Records (LLWR) data.	ACL Partnership Planning Group	June 2010	Area maps of provision and demands.	Higher visibility amongst policy makers and funders of the role and impact of ACL on health, social and economic policies.	
3	Pilot the introduction the QCFW within the ACL Partnership provision.	ACL Curriculum Group	September 2010	Increase in overall learner attainment and achievement rates (KA7).	ACL programmes aligned to QCFW.	

**Key Aim 3 To encourage participation from those people who are under-represented in current provision.**

<b>Actions</b>		<b>By Whom</b>	<b>By When</b>	<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Progress To-date</b>
<b>1</b>	Establish close working arrangements with local community organisations.	ACL Partnership Planning Group Community 1 <sup>st</sup> Coordinators	On-going	Increased participation rates especially amongst under-represented and hard to reach groups of students	Increased opportunities available to people and groups who are more likely to experience discrimination and have access to fewer opportunities	Pilot ACL programmes established by C1st Groups
<b>2</b>	Hold a series of community roadshows to highlight learning opportunities.	Swansea Learning Festival Group 50+ Partnership	On-going	Promote personal and social well-being through local and wider community activities	Improved skill levels and confidence appropriate to the needs of the individual and the economy.	Roadshow held in Bonymaen C1st area (Sept)
<b>3</b>	Finalise the SLP ESOL Strategy and action plan	ESOL Sub-Group	September 2010	ESOL provision linked to identified demand.	High quality ESOL provision	
<b>4</b>	Implement the all Age Basic Skills Strategy and action plan	Basic Skills Sub –Group		Improved levels of basic skills in line with the national BSC targets.	Increased participation in learning activities especially from those sectors of the community under-represented (KA3).	

<b>5</b>	Agree and implement an Information Advice & Guidance Plan in conjunction with Careers Wales West	ACL Partnership Planning Group		ACL Information packs available at community venues. On-line information portal.	Improved access to information and activities aimed at helping individuals to take responsibility for their own learning, health and well-being.	
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**Key Aim 4** To achieve more effective and efficient use of existing and new resources so that students benefit from a universal service.

	<b>Actions</b>	<b>By Whom</b>	<b>By When</b>	<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Progress To-date</b>
<b>1</b>	Fully cost the ACL Partnership Plan using the Credit Equivalent Unit (CEU) methodology.	ACL Partnership Planning Group		Better use of facilities and a reduction in surplus capacity.	More efficient use of available resources and facilities.	
<b>2</b>	Prepare a business case for a single Community Learning and Skills Service (CLASS)	Swansea Skills Task Force		Collaborative planning for work based learning contracts	Community Learning & Skills Service established. Single point of entry to work based learning planning within the SLP.	

**Key Aim 5****To promote opportunities for adult learners to move between the different levels of learning.**

<b>Actions</b>		<b>By Whom</b>	<b>By When</b>	<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Progress To-date</b>
<b>1</b>				Increased take up of education & training opportunities (KA5).		
<b>2</b>				Developing opportunities to study up to Level 4 qualifications (KA5).		
<b>3</b>				Increased employer involvement in identifying and planning provision (KA5).		
<b>4</b>				Support for people to enter the labour market (KA5).		
<b>5</b>				Focus on increasing the attainment of Level 2 & 3 qualifications (KA5).		

**Key Aim 6****To provide a continuous professional development programme to meet the national standards for staff working in lifelong learning (Lifelong Learning Sector Skills Council).**

	<b>Actions</b>	<b>By Whom</b>	<b>By When</b>	<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Progress To-date</b>
<b>1</b>				Quality Effectiveness Framework implemented (KA6 & KA7).		
<b>2</b>						
<b>3</b>						
<b>4</b>						
<b>5</b>						

**Key Aim 7****To achieve ESTYN grades 'Excellent or Good' for all provision including the Basic Skills New Quality Standard.**

	<b>Actions</b>	<b>By Whom</b>	<b>By When</b>	<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Progress To-date</b>
<b>1</b>	ACL Quality Group to prepare Partnership SAR for Estyn Inspection	SAR writing group	October	Quality Effectiveness Framework implemented (KA6 & KA7).	SLP Partnership SAR published	Level 1 draft written
<b>2</b>	Write Quality Development Plan (QDP)	SAR writing group	October	QDP published	QDP underpins the development of the ACL Partnership ACL Plan	
<b>3</b>	Implement the SLP Basic Skills Strategy	Swansea Skills Service	September 2010	SLP Basic Skills Strategy implemented within the ACL Partnership	Basic Skills provision has achieved BS Quality Standard	
<b>4</b>						

**Key Aim 8****To promote the role of the 2 HEIs with regard to higher level learning and specialist subject areas.**

	<b>Actions</b>	<b>By Whom</b>	<b>By When</b>	<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Progress To-date</b>
<b>1</b>	Work with the			Promoting innovative learning opportunities through the creative use of ICT/ILT (KA8).		
<b>2</b>	Work with the Welsh for Adult Centre to identify and provide appropriate opportunities for students to study through the Welsh language.	ACL Partnership Planning Group		Development of ACL Welsh medium provision (KA8).		
<b>3</b>						
<b>4</b>						