

Appendix A

**Response to Scrutiny Panel Report and Recommendations on ACL**

No	Recommendation	Statement	Actions	Timescale	Cost
1	<b>That the Council lobby at a national level for a more strategic footing for funding for PCDL and a redistribution of funding that addresses historical anomalies</b>	The current Harrow ACL 3-Year Development Plan 2005-2008 includes an overarching aim of securing and sustaining a varied and accessible adult learning curriculum across the borough, including learning opportunities for personal fulfilment. The national 'safeguard' funding for PCDL is for 2006-2008, though LSC funding will be reduced during each year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awareness-raising of wider benefits of learning and value of PCDL, including the health agenda, through distribution of <b>The Wider Benefits of non-accredited Learning</b> Report</li> <li>• Harrow Lifelong Learning Providers Forum to act as local focus for lobbying regional and national bodies for sustainable funding for PCDL</li> <li>• Maintain membership of Executives of LEA FEA and NILTA to argue case for PCDL</li> <li>• Membership of London Region LSC Advisory Group on ACL</li> <li>• Membership of LSC Working Group on Course Cost Modelling for PCDL</li> </ul>	<p>May 06-Oct 06</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Oct 05- March 06</p> <p>Feb 06-July 06</p>	£3k, ACL/TrEA CL budgets
2	<b>That active consideration be given to whether the Council should (a) extend its direct delivery of adult and community learning (b) develop its co-ordinating role as a partnership 'hub'</b>	Currently about 23% of learners are from direct delivery, including Family Learning. The current Harrow ACL 3-Year Development Plan 2005-2008 proposes an increase in targeted direct delivery, particularly for community-based ICT and Family Learning, and a more directed contractual arrangement with providers that reflects delivery of agreed priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mapping exercise of providers in Harrow, with aim of all being included on <a href="http://www.learninharrow.org.uk">www.learninharrow.org.uk</a></li> <li>• Strengthening links with Arts Culture Harrow, Library Service, Extended Schools and Sports and Cultural Services as potential providers of adult learning</li> <li>• Involvement as lead partner provider in re-built KLC if Capital funding bid is successful</li> </ul>	<p>April 06-Sept 06</p> <p>Sept 06-ongoing</p> <p>April 06-March 07</p>	

Appendix A

3	<p><b>That the ACL Service actively explores other means of supporting provision other than through the block grant so that funding for PCDL can be maximised</b></p>	<p>For 2006/7, the overall reduction in LSC funding in real terms on 2005/6 is about 7%, following a 6% cut in 2005/6 over 2004/5. It is anticipated that there will be a further reduction in 2007/8</p>	<p>The consequences on provision of this reduction are being minimised through</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reviewing programmes for more cost-effective provision and cutting down under-subscribed courses</li> <li>• raising fees so that fee income covers a higher proportion of delivery costs</li> <li>• through reducing expenditure on those areas of provision that is not the remit of the ACL service</li> <li>• accessing additional funding, including ESF and Ufl funds.</li> <li>• Reducing expenditure on infrastructure and connectivity costs for community-based ICT through a wireless learning network covering the UK Online centres</li> </ul>	<p>March 06-Feb 07 Feb 06 Feb 06-July 06 Feb 06 onwards April 06 onwards</p>	<p>£30k from additional secured funding</p>
4	<p><b>That fees for non-accredited ACL provision will need to increase, at a sustainable and competitive rate, and that fees be set at the minimum level which will enable the service's strategic priorities for ACL to be met</b></p>	<p>It is the expectation of the Government and the LSC that fees for ACL provision should rise, with those who can afford to pay more paying an increasing proportion of course costs. The target expectation is fees covering 50%+ of total costs in 2 or 3 years time. Following consultation with the Colleges and a course costing exercise, fees have risen from a basic rate of £2.20 to £2.75 ph for 2006/7, with concessions kept at 75% or 50%.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carry out a full consultation on changes to fee levels and to concessionary rates for 2007/8</li> <li>• Benchmarking of fees with other authorities and providers, though because of the unequal allocation of ACL funding against learner numbers, benchmarking is difficult, as authorities with a larger allocation of funding can keep fees lower.</li> <li>• Further development of a course costing model</li> </ul>	<p>Sept 06-Dec 06 Ongoing Feb 06-July 06</p>	

Appendix A

5	<p><b>That the ACL service considers ways in which priority areas such as literacy, language and numeracy can be embedded into learning so as to attract additional funding.</b></p>	<p>Currently Harrow ACL does not receive any Skills for Life(SfL) funding, which is directed by the LSC to the Colleges. However, Skills for Life teaching is an integral part of Family Literacy, Language and Numeracy (FLLN) programmes delivered in a number of schools and elements of ESOL are part of an e-learning programme on Citizenship, ESOL and ICT delivered in UK Online centres.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of Skills for Life (SfL) Strategy and Action Plan</li> <li>• Guidelines for direct delivery of basic skills in FLLN programmes developed</li> <li>• Establish group of tutors with SfL expertise for intervention in FLLN programmes</li> <li>• SfL awareness training in Peer Observation training programme for pt tutors</li> <li>• Development and piloting delivery of a flexible suite of courses designed to support learners wishing to complete the e-citizenship test <b>‘Life in the UK’</b></li> <li>• Staff development opportunities for Level 3 or 4 teaching qualifications for LLN subject support</li> </ul>	<p>April 06</p> <p>Sept 05</p> <p>Sept-Dec 05</p> <p>Oct 05</p> <p>April 06 – Dec 06</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>FLLN funding</p> <p>£500 – ACL budget</p> <p>£3100 Ufl funding bid for</p>
6	<p><b>That the ACL Service consider the conversion of some programmed provision to clubs or ‘practice groups’ in greater detail with a view to piloting such an approach</b></p>	<p>In order to sustain PCDL, Harrow ACL service considers it important that different models of provision are explored, including clubs and self-directed groups.. Following an initial discussion with the colleges, Harrow ACL Service considers that such an approach would be best piloted in partnership with the voluntary sector and non-College providers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consideration of different models of ‘club’ provision, including visit to Mary Ward Centre</li> <li>• Discussion with local organisations, including U3A and ACH</li> <li>• Develop tender for new ‘Club’ provision</li> <li>• Production and distribution of ‘Club’ leaflets</li> <li>• Piloting of ‘club’ provision</li> </ul>	<p>March-April 06</p> <p>April-May 06</p> <p>June 06</p> <p>June-July 06</p> <p>Sept 06-March 07</p>	<p>£480 ACL budget</p> <p>£5k ACL budget</p>

Appendix A

7       8	<p><b>That the branding for the ACL Service be reviewed and that 'Learn in Harrow' be considered as a potential brand</b></p> <p><b>That the ACL service, in conjunction with the Communication Unit, places a higher profile link to <a href="http://www.learninharrow.org.uk">www.learninharrow.org.uk</a> from the Council's web-site</b></p>	<p>Re-branding of promotional material will need to cover the current web-site, leaflets and display stands</p> <p>The current link from the Council web-site to the ACL web-site is not easy to find.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Re-branding the www.learninharrow.org.uk web-site</li> <li>• Production and distribution of leaflets after re-branding</li> <li>• Production of display stand after re-branding</li> <li>• Discussion with the Communications Unit on new profile link</li> </ul>	<p>March-May 06</p> <p>May 06</p> <p>May 06</p> <p>March-April 06</p>	<p><b>£12k</b></p> <p><b>No funding currently available</b></p> <p>Costs currently unknown</p>
9	<p><b>That a communications plan be developed in order to ensure that changes to fees and concessions are properly explained to partners, staff and learners</b></p>	<p>In order to maintain and develop provision and learner numbers when fees are becoming a greater proportion of course costs, the reasons why costs are going up needs to be explained and the value put into the context of other expenses.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A draft Marketing and Communications Strategy to be drawn up</li> <li>• This will also incorporate the consultation exercise on fees to be undertaken under Recommendation 4</li> </ul>	<p>April-May 06</p> <p>Sept-Dec 06</p>	
10	<p><b>That the area of access to all Council services (of which ACL is an important part) for adults with learning difficulties and their carers be considered by Scrutiny as a potential area for a separate review</b></p>	<p>Provision for adults with learning difficulties is an important part of Harrow ACL service. The ACL Service Manager is Chair of the Post-19 Group of the Harrow Learning Disability Board and the Group welcomed a recommendation for a separate review. This is particularly timely with the recent publication of the LSC Paper <i>Through Inclusion to Excellence</i></p>	<p>Lifelong Learning Services would welcome a Scrutiny review of provision for adults learning difficulty and their carers</p>		

Appendix A

11	<p><b>That the Chief Executive, as the Council's representative on the West London Alliance, raise the issue of support to disabled learners with a view to developing solutions for the region and giving consideration to the forthcoming pan-London round of ESF funding</b></p>	<p>The Chief Executive was informed of this recommendation.</p>	<p>The External Funding Officer has contacted the West London Alliance to take forward a possible bid to ESF.</p>	<p>Feb 06</p>	
12	<p><b>Given the costly nature of creche provision, that the ACL service should consider further ways in which it can share such provision and support, for example, through initiatives such as extended schools and the development of children's centres across the borough</b></p>	<p>As Harrow ACL Service receives only ACL, not FE, funding there is no discrete funding for childcare support. Under Recommendation 2, Harrow ACL will explore ways of extending links with other initiatives, including Extended Schools and Childrens Centres, where there is synergy with Family Learning provision.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initial discussion with Stanmore College and EYP Manager on future of creche at Kenton Learning Centre</li> <li>• Business Plan for KLC creche developed</li> </ul>	<p>Feb 06  2006/7</p>	