

Appendix B

Description of Community Learning programmes

Leisure courses

Leisure or recreational courses are aimed at all Staffordshire adult residents who wish to

- develop a skill
- acquire knowledge
- pursue an interest for the purpose of cultural enrichment, intellectual or creative stimulation
- improve health and fitness.

Examples of current courses include modern languages, art, yoga, dance, cookery, photography. This programme recognises the wider benefits of learning in the community, including its contribution to broader government policies such as health (mental and physical well-being).

Programmes for adults with learning difficulties and/or disabilities (ALDD) and/or those with enduring mental ill health

This is discrete provision that is designed and delivered to address the learners' specific needs, for example adults with mild and moderate learning difficulties and/or disabilities or enduring mental ill health. The programmes are aimed at those who prefer bespoke programmes which cater specifically for their individual needs. This provision, which includes leisure, employability skills and functional skills courses offers the requisite level of support to allow the learners to fully engage in the programme.

Examples of courses delivered within this programme include: healthy living, art, photography, IT, CV writing, budgeting and independent living skills. Innovation is welcomed where this meets the aims and objectives of the programme.

Family programmes which include Wider Family Learning and Family English Maths and Language aim to encourage family members to learn together to improve basic skills and skills for development in order to equip families to thrive. The offer includes opportunities for inter-generational learning and, where possible, leads both adults and children to pursue further learning; "Family" is purposely not defined so as to enable adults and children with a range of family relationships to participate together. The term "adult" includes mothers, fathers, carers and grandparents – whoever has a key caring role for the child. These programmes are targeted at

- parents/carers of children up to age 16 including those in special schools
- parents/carers of underachieving children
- families on the Building Resilient Families & Communities (BRFC) programme
- families at risk of becoming BRFC families

Wider Family Learning (WFL)

WFL programmes are specifically designed to enable adults and children to learn together or to enable adults to learn how to support their children's learning. They aim to:

- develop the skills or knowledge of both the adult and child participants
- help adults to be more active in the support of their children's learning and development and to understand the impact of that support

Family English Maths and Language (FEML)

FEML programmes are aimed at and designed for adults with English, maths and language needs. Family language is a programme designed to improve English language and communication skills in families where English is not the primary language at home. The programme includes a broad coverage of skills including Family English, maths, language and information and communication technology courses.

The programmes are for adults at Entry, level 1 and level 2 to meet the local profile of need – for example to address particular gaps in maths skills in a locality. FEML programmes aim to

- improve the English, maths and language skills of adults
- improve the adult's ability to help their children learn
- improve children's acquisition of English and maths
- prepare learners to progress onto Functional Skills accredited courses

Employability skills

These courses are targeted at

- "hard to reach" adults below level 2 who have not recently engaged in learning and lack the confidence to commit to a longer course
- unemployed adults who want to improve their chances of finding work but who are not yet ready to enrol on an accredited course

The aim is to improve learner confidence and willingness to engage in learning and/or acquire skills and knowledge to prepare learners for further learning, volunteering, employment or self-employment. Examples of courses include confidence building, identifying skills, CV writing, interview skills, introduction to health and social care.

Functional skills

These courses are for those adults who lack essential skills in English, maths or information technology and who do not want to or are not yet ready to enrol on an accredited course. These short courses enable adults to acquire

essential skills in reading, writing, maths or information technology in a fun and interactive way and to improve their ability to deal with everyday tasks or to progress to an accredited course.