

## ADULT AND COMMUNITY LEARNING – RESULT OF REINSPECTION

Report By: Director of Policy and Community

### Wards Affected

County-wide

### Purpose

1. To advise Members of the outcome of the reinspection of the Council's Adult and Community Learning provision.

### Financial Implications

2. Not applicable.

### Considerations

3. Herefordshire Council's Adult and Community Learning Provision (ACL) was originally inspected by the Adult Learning Inspectorate in January 2003. The conclusion of the inspection was that whilst the training provided was good there were significant weaknesses in the leadership and management which meant that the service provision was deemed unsatisfactory and required reinspection.
4. Herefordshire Council's ACL provision was re-inspected by the Adult Learning Inspectorate (ALI) week commencing 6th December 2004. The report was published on the ALI website on 4th February 2005. The Council's provision was graded as good in five out of six of the areas inspected and satisfactory in the sixth. These grades demonstrate that the service has made significant progress since its first inspection and place it within the top 28% of Council's inspected by ALI.

### Grades Achieved in the Reinspection

Leadership and Management	2
Contributory grades:	
Equality of Opportunity	2
Quality assurance	3
Information and communications technology	2
Foundation programmes	2
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Grade 1= outstanding, grade 2 = good, grade 3 = satisfactory, grade 4 = unsatisfactory, grade 5 = very weak

5. Within leadership and management notable strengths identified were the strong partnership work that exists, the good progress towards strategic development and the positive actions that the Council had taken to resolve weaknesses identified within the original report. Weaknesses in this area were primarily about the restricted capacity of the Council to meet all the ACL needs in the County. Quality assurance was given a 3, on the basis that, whilst the appropriate processes are in place, it was not possible within the short timescale since their implementation to assess the full impact on the quality of learning.
6. Within curriculum areas the standard of teaching and learning, and the achievement rates were identified as strengths along with good curriculum management. There were weaknesses in some areas regarding the lack of strategic planning and of the approach to Basic Skills assessment in curriculum areas other than basic skills.
7. The Council's Public Relations Officer together with the Learning and Skills Council are developing a series of press releases to inform the community of this result.
8. The Council will be required to develop a Post Inspection Action Plan (PIAP). This Plan will identify actions to address the weaknesses identified within the report and in addition to identify actions to ensure that strengths are maintained. This Plan is to be submitted to the local Learning and Skills Council within six weeks of the report's publication.
9. The Council will receive a quality monitoring inspection visit in a year's time. This visit normally lasts one day and is carried out by two inspectors. The focus is on the 'distance travelled' on efforts to improve provision and to measure the effectiveness of the PIAP. A short report is produced, a copy of which is provided to the local LSC. This report is not made public.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the report be noted.**

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- None identified