



CENTRAL SUSSEX COLLEGE

Personal and Community Development Learning Strategy 2008-2013

AIMS

1. To work with our partners to plan and deliver PCDL for our community.
2. To develop a curriculum offer with progression opportunities.
3. To widen participation in PCDL.
4. To offer high quality provision.
5. To create distinct Adult learning environments.

1. To work with our partners to plan and deliver PCDL for our community by:

- Taking forward the West Sussex Adult Strategy.
- Being an active partner in the West Sussex PCDL Partnership.
- Establishing the college as a key partner for West Sussex Local Authority/LSC Sussex for local delivery of learners with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities.
- Planning for long term sustainability given funding changes.

2. To develop a curriculum offer with progression opportunities by:

- Establishing demand for Personal and Community Development provision.
- Responding to identified gaps in existing provision.
- Ensuring courses are developed within curriculum pathways leading to Level 2.
- Providing advice and guidance about progression opportunities.
- Developing support to overcome barriers to learning.
- Building strong links between PCDL teachers and curriculum leaders.

3. To widen participation in PCDL by:

- Working with community and voluntary groups to identify demand in priority groups.
- Focussing on the needs of students in areas of disadvantage.
- Building on offer for Learners with Learning Difficulties.
- Exploring non-traditional course structures and learning environments.
- Supporting community-delivered provision.

4. To offer high quality provision by:

- Identifying and sharing good practice.
- Recognising and recording progress and achievement of non-accredited learning provision (RARPA).
- Ensuring that all courses (including full cost provision) are subject to the college's quality assurance framework.
- Establishing staff development and recruitment practices appropriate to staff working in the community in line with Lifelong Learning UK recommendations.
- Ensuring that all teaching and learning is good or outstanding.

5. To create distinct adult learning environments by:

- Providing classrooms and resource centres with a range of learning technologies.
- Providing good, well-equipped accommodation conducive to learning.
- Ensuring offsite provision is supported by a range of learner support services.

CONTEXT/BACKGROUND

National

The Government's Skills Strategy recognised that learning does more than raise skill levels for job-related purposes; it has wider social and personal benefits,

'Safeguarding a varied range of learning opportunities for personal fulfilment, community development and active citizenship' (para 1.28)

'Including a wide range of opportunities for pensioners' (para 4.48)

ACL Reforms are necessary, as it is recognised nationally that provision is variable, not planned to meet local needs or national priorities and is funded in different ways. Fee levels charged bear no relationship to criteria such as the characteristics of the local population.

The White Paper *Further Education: Raising Skills, Improving Life Chances* published in March 2006 signalled the desire for a wider partnership to be involved in the delivery of Personal and Community Development Learning (PCDL):

We will reinvigorate this type of learning through local LSC Partnerships, which look beyond just LSC funded learning and include a wide range of recreational, health-related and cultural learning funded through other sources. We want representatives of learners, including voluntary and community groups, as well as providers, to plan provision in a co-ordinated and cost effective way in line with local community priorities. (Para 2.46)

The Learning and Skills Council in response to the White Paper have set out how they propose to change the way in which they plan and fund what was known as Adult and Community Learning, confirming that those who have benefited least from the education system, or who are in most financial need, should have the greatest access to public funding for PCDL.

Local

West Sussex agreed an Adult Learning Strategy for the County in January 2007.

The key purposes of this strategy were to:

- Prioritise a framework for adult learning in response to the existing and emerging needs and demands of adult learners (aged 19+) in West Sussex
- Safeguard a limited resource and use it to maximum effect through the delivery of a broad offer of learning and skills opportunities, whilst focusing resources on areas of greatest need
- Inform policy makers, funders, planners and providers of adult learning to support the alignment of funding most effectively and minimise duplication

In West Sussex, the PCDL Partnership activity also aims to contribute towards the following Local Area Agreement outcomes:

- Outcome 3 – Helping vulnerable adults into work
- Outcome 22 – Disadvantaged neighbourhoods

The introduction of 'In Control' for adults with learning difficulties and/or disabilities is a further context as this will mean adults choosing how to spend their money on their learning in the future.

Central Sussex College's Strategy for Personal and Community Development Learning has been developed in response to the West Sussex County strategy with the aim of supporting the purposes, objectives and principles set out and positioning the college for the future, given the national context. The strategic intent is to work with our PCDL partners to provide access to high quality adult education for all our communities.