



Adult Learning Role and Purpose Statement 2024-25

Statement of Intent

Southampton City Council's Adult Learning Service will commission, broker, support and monitor adult learning and skills opportunities across Southampton; encouraging social, economic, educational and personal progression for individuals, families and communities.

Local and National Priorities

Southampton City Council recognises the key role that adult learning has in supporting social and economic wellbeing of individuals and the city as a whole. The City Strategy 2015-25 has three main priority areas and the Adult Learning service works to support all of them:

- Economic growth with social responsibility
- Skills & Employment
- Healthier and safer communities

Nationally, 'New Challenges, New Chances' (Further Education and Skills Reform Plan: Building a World Class Skills System, December 2011) confirms the purpose of Government Supported Community Learning is to:

- Maximise access to community learning for adults, bringing new opportunities and improving lives, whatever people's circumstances.
- Promote social renewal by bringing local communities together to experience the joy of learning and the pride that comes with achievement.
- Maximise the impact of community learning on the social and economic well-being of individuals, families and communities

'New Challenges, New Chances' also sets out the service objectives for Community Learning:

1. Focus public funding on people who are disadvantaged and least likely to participate, including in rural areas and people on low incomes with low skills
2. Collect fee income from people who can afford to pay and use where possible to extend provision to those who cannot.
3. Widen participation and transform people's destinies by supporting progression relevant to personal circumstances, e.g.

- improved confidence and willingness to engage in learning
 - acquisition of skills preparing people for training, employment or self-employment
 - improved digital, financial literacy and / or communication skills
 - parents / carers better equipped to support and encourage their children's learning
 - improved / maintained health and/or social well-being.
4. Develop stronger communities, with more self-sufficient, connected and pro-active citizens, leading to:
- increased volunteering, civic engagement and social integration
 - reduced costs on welfare, health and anti-social behaviour
 - increased online learning and self organised learning
 - the lives of our most troubled families being turned around.
5. Commission, deliver and support learning in ways that contribute directly to these objectives, including:
- bringing together people from all backgrounds, cultures and income groups, including people who can/cannot afford to pay
 - using effective local partnerships to bring together key providers and relevant local agencies and services
 - devolving planning and accountability to neighbourhood / parish level, with local people involved in decisions about the learning offer
 - involving volunteers and Voluntary and Community Sector groups, shifting long term, 'blocked' classes into learning clubs, growing self-organised learning groups, and encouraging employers to support informal learning in the workplace
 - supporting the wide use of online information and learning resources
 - minimising overheads, bureaucracy & administration.

How this will be achieved

Commissioning

Southampton City Council uses a commissioning model across its services, and subcontracts its Adult Skills Fund (ASF) budget provision to:

- Ensure value for money in line with our Procurement Strategy and Contract Procurement Rules, and Pound Plus;
- Provide a responsive and flexible service to learners, and
- Offer a wide range of courses and venues to utilise the experience and expertise of many different training providers.

Around 90% of provision is delivered via external sub-contractors (in terms of funding - 60% in terms of enrolments) who are appointed via a four year framework running from August 2024 – July 2028. The rest is delivered by internal delivery partners. All subcontractors have formal contractual agreements which clearly lay out the rights and responsibilities on both sides of the subcontracting agreement for the full length of the framework. Call-off contracts are entered into each academic year which detail delivery for that year.

Partnerships and quality improvement

Southampton City Council's Skills & Community Learning team is committed to raising the quality of every learning activity delivered through its subcontracting arrangements. A wide range of formal and informal support is provided for subcontractors in order to achieve this including:

- contract reviews
- observations
- target setting and monitoring
- staff training
- learner evaluation and analysis
- emails, phone calls and meetings with subcontractors as and when requested or necessary.

The Skills & Community Learning team works hard to form strong partnerships with all subcontractors, as well as facilitating the sharing of good practice and peer support across the range of subcontracted and internal provision.

More information and a copy of this statement can be found at: [Adult Education and Community Learning](#)

Delivery Partners for 2022-23

Organisation	Main curriculum areas	Priority groups targeted	Location	Contact details
Bfluent	Functional Skills	Unemployed, black, minority ethnic and migrant communities	Bfluent School of English 132 St Mary Street, Southampton SO14 1NX	Tel: 02380 678500 http://www.bfluent.co.uk/
Citizen's Advice Southampton (incorporating Carers Southampton)	Support for Carers Free, independent, confidential and impartial advice on rights and responsibilities	Carers Anyone over 18 living in Southampton	Citizen's Advice Southampton 14-15 Brunswick Place Southampton SO15 2AQ	Tel. 0808 278 7863 www.citizensadvice-southampton.org.uk
City College Southampton (South Hampshire College Group)	Family ESOL and Family ESOL with Maths	Parents and those without level 2 qualifications	St Mary Street Southampton SO14 1AR (courses run in locations across the city)	023 8048 4848 www.southampton-city.ac.uk enquiries@southampton-city.ac.uk
CLEAR (City Life Church)	ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) and employment support	Unemployed, black, minority ethnic and migrant communities	James Street Centre Southampton SO14 1PJ	023 8022 1111 www.clearproject.org.uk
Itchen College	Award in support work in schools	Unemployed, single parents	Middle Road, Bitterne, Southampton SO19 7TB	023 8044 6156 acet@itchen.ac.uk

Organisation	Main curriculum areas	Priority groups targeted	Location	Contact details
Mayflower Theatre	Improving Health and Wellbeing through arts-based learning	Universal access; some courses targeted at learners with learning difficulties/health issues	Mayflower Theatre Commercial Road Southampton SO15 1GE.	02380 711810 engage@mayflower.org.uk http://mayflower.org.uk/get-involved/
SoCo Music Project	Improving Health and Wellbeing through creative engagement	Adults in recovery from addiction, those with mental health issues and older people in care homes.	The Pavilion, Hoglands Park, Southampton, SO14 1NH Hightown Studios, Hightown Community Centre Tunstall Rd, Southampton SO19 6AA	www.socomusicproject.org.uk mark@socomusicproject.org.uk
Southampton City Council Cultural Services	Arts and Heritage themed cultural learning activities for all ages and abilities	Universal access; some courses targeted at learners with learning difficulties/health issues	Southampton City Art Gallery Civic Centre Southampton SO14 7LP	023 8083 2810 www.southampton.gov.uk/libraries-museums/art-gallery/activities-adults.aspx gallery.education@southampton.gov.uk
TWICS	Community development and support	Volunteers, people with a learning disability, unemployed people	Swaythling Neighbourhood Centre Hampden Park Way Southampton SO17 3AT	023 8067 1111 www.twics.org.uk ichambers@twics.org.uk mtomlinsom@twics.org.uk

Organisation	Main curriculum areas	Priority groups targeted	Location	Contact details
We Can Train (part of Pitman Training)	Business Skills and IT courses, Employability & Self-Development Book-keeping, Accounting, CSCS Card, Food Safety, Warehousing & Storage	Unemployed	31 Eastgate St, Southampton SO14 3HB	023 8037 1679 www.pitman-training.com/our-centres/south-west-england/southampton/
WEA	Maths, English and skills for employment, health and wellbeing, cultural studies and community engagement	Black and minority ethnic communities, women's groups and those with basic skills needs	Workers Educational Association (WEA) 60-68 Clovelly Road Southampton SO16 3NX	023 8063 0483 http://www.wea.org.uk