

<b>16 January 2024</b>		<b>ITEM: 10</b>
<b>Children’s Services Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee</b>		
<b>Update on Thurrock Adult Community College</b>		
<b>Wards and communities affected:</b> All	<b>Key Decision:</b> N/A	
<b>Report of:</b> Keeley Donati – Acting Principal Thurrock Adult Community College		
<b>Accountable Assistant Director:</b> Michele Lucas, Assistant Director, Education & Skills		
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Sheila Murphy, Executive Director of Children Services		
<b>This report is Public</b>		

## **Executive Summary**

### **1. Recommendations:**

- 1.1 Children’s Overview & Scrutiny to gain an understanding of how the college’s curriculum offer meets local need and priorities.
- 1.2 Children’s Overview & Scrutiny to gain an understanding of the funding streams the college uses to deliver provision to residents of Thurrock.
- 1.3 Children’s Overview & Scrutiny to have an update on the college’s actions and progress on the areas for improvement identified in the Ofsted inspection report published in June 2023.

### **2. Introduction & Background:**

- 2.1 Thurrock Council’s Adult Learning Service, Thurrock Adult Community College, provides learning opportunities that improve people’s lives and outcomes, enable people to participate in their communities and support growth and prosperity in Thurrock.
- 2.2 **College Intent** - Leaders and managers have designed and planned a broad curriculum offer with the intent to engage with the hard to reach, support residents to become active citizens and reduce social isolation, develop the knowledge, skills and behaviours that learners need to take advantage of the considerable opportunities for employment both within Thurrock and in the surrounding areas.

- 2.3 Thurrock Adult Community College reaches approximately 1400 adults across Thurrock each academic year. Opportunities include skills development at level 2 and below in Essential Skills (maths, English, ESOL [English for Speakers of Other Languages] & digital skills) and level 3 and below in vocational qualifications as well as Community and Family Learning.
- 2.4 Vocational training includes Childcare, Teaching Assistants, Counselling, Bookkeeping and Health & Social Care.

### **3. Ofsted Inspection**

- 3.1 In May 2023 the college underwent a full Ofsted inspection. The outcome of this inspection is now available in the published Ofsted report. The Lead Inspector acknowledged that leaders and managers were aware of the areas for improvement and had put in place clear actions to address these. However, they felt that the improvements were not moving at a sufficient pace and that it was too early to see the full impact.
- 3.2 Apart from the apprenticeship provision, the Ofsted gradings were in line with the college's own self-assessment. Leaders and managers had assessed the apprentice provision as *requires improvement*.
- 3.3 With an overall grade of *requires improvement*, the college will now have a monitoring visit within 7 – 13 months of the date the report was published (June 2023). The inspectors will focus on the areas for improvement and judge how well the college has made progress against these. The outcome of the monitoring visit will be either – *insufficient progress, satisfactory progress, or significant progress*.  
The college's aim is for the inspectors to agree that the college has made *significant progress*.  
Following the monitoring visit the college will be subject to a full inspection within 12-30 months of the monitoring visit.

### **3.4 Key Actions following inspection**

- In view of the significant work needed to improve the quality of the apprenticeship provision, Senior Leaders, with the agreement of the Governing Body made the decision to cease apprentice training provision for Thurrock Council and transfer the apprentices on programme to an alternative training provider. 4 providers were invited to tender to take over the apprentices' "Off the Job Training". The decision was made for the provision for twelve apprentices to move to South Essex College with effect from 1 September 2023. The college continued to support five apprentices who were close to their End Point Assessment. Four completed by the end of October 2023 and all passed within their planned end date. One apprentice failed but had been on long term sick leave.

- End of July 2023 a two day CPD programme was held for all tutors, content related to improvements identified at inspection and by senior leaders. Follow up session was held in October 2023 for tutors to showcase improved practice as a result of the training.
- Regular CPD sessions planned from September 2023 for curriculum staff – no classes were run on Monday afternoon to ensure attendance at training.
- In a planned restructure of the Business Support Teams a new role of Team Leader Quality & Exams was created and in post from 1 August 2023. This post supports the Assistant Principal with the coordination and administration tasks involved in the quality assurance/improvement tasks that are ongoing through the academic year.
- Vacant curriculum posts have now been filled.
- The college is a member of the Federation of Inspection Nominees and they provided support with the Quality Improvement Plan ensuring it was robust and sufficiently addressed the areas for improvement at inspection. The college's Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) includes all improvements identified at inspection and actions needed to address these.
- An Ofsted Inspector with many years' experience as a senior leader in Adult Community Learning provided three days support to the Quality team and tutors in October and November. This included class visits, feedback to tutors and feedback on the college's SAR (Self Assessment Report). In January 2024 they will carry out a "mock Ofsted monitoring visit".
- The Local Skills Improvement Plan Director from the Essex Chamber of Commerce worked with the Programme Managers to ensure curriculum planning addresses priority areas in Essex and local skills gaps.
- The Principal reached out to the FE Commissioners for additional support in making improvements and the first visit is planned for January 2024.

#### 4. IMPLICATIONS

##### 4.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **David May**  
**Head of Finance, Children Services**

<b>Funding Streams Adult Education Budget</b>	<b>1/8/23 – 31/7/24</b>
Adult Skills	£544,704
Community Learning	£705,513
Free courses for jobs – level 3	£109,418
Advanced Learner Loans	£8,962 (includes £1658 bursary)
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,368,597</b>

These funding streams are received from the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) are grant funded and ring fenced for the provision of adult education. Apart from a nominal amount of fee income from learners this constitutes the college's income for all expenditure.

Thurrock Adult Community college is the Borough's lead provider for Multiply funding, a DfE initiative that runs from 1 October 2022 – 31 March 2025

<b>Multiply</b>	
1/10/22 – 31/3/23	£346,144 (£40,137 clawback)
1/4/23 – 31/3/24	£399,397
1/4/24 – 31/3/25	£399,397

#### 4.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Nicola Monerville**  
**Principal Safeguarding solicitor, Children, Adults and Education – LBB**

The Committee is not required to make any decisions about which legal comments are needed. There are, therefore, no further legal comments.

#### 4.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Rebecca Lee**  
**Team Manager - Community Development and Equalities**  
**Adults, Housing and Health**

The college provides a range of additional learning support options to enable access for learners with learning difficulties and disabilities. The college learner population reflects the population of Thurrock. An increasing number of refugees and asylum seekers are attending ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) courses to support them to integrate into the local community and gain employment.

There is no gap in achievement rates for learners receiving learning support or from different ethnic backgrounds.

The college also provides help with travel costs, course fees, childcare fees and loans laptops to learners who are unemployed or on a low income. The college celebrates various events throughout the year to celebrate diversity and promote equality.

## 5. APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT:

### 1. Ofsted Inspection Report June 2023



Appendix 1 - Ofsted  
Report June 23.pdf

### 2. Implementation Plan 2023-2024



Appendix 2  
Implementation Plan.c

### 3. Accountability Agreement 2023-2024



Appendix 3 -  
Accountability Agreeen

### 4. Adult Community Education Briefing Note



Appendix 4 - Adult  
Community Educator

## Report Author Contact Details:

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