

Cabinet – 16 March 2011

Walsall Adult & Community College Self Assessment Progress Report

Portfolio: Councillor Harris, Leisure, culture and environment

Service: Walsall Adult and Community College

Wards: All

Key decision: No

Forward plan: No

1. Summary of report

1.1 Walsall Adult and Community College was inspected by Ofsted in January 2010 and the report was published on the Ofsted web-site on 12 March 2010. Over the last year, the college has implemented a quality improvement plan to build upon the identified strengths and address areas for improvement. Progress made has recently been evaluated in the college's annual self assessment report and new judgements on the college's quality standards have been ratified. The report indicates a good rate of progress and further improvements in grades awarded.

2. Recommendation

2.1 That officers continue the drive to become an outstanding service and explore opportunities to make a greater contribution to the council staff training and apprenticeship scheme.

3. Background information

3.1 Self-assessment is the annual programme of performance review which is designed to support the college's programme of self-regulation and improvement. All curriculum areas and a number of cross-cutting themes are evaluated and graded following the Ofsted Common Inspection Framework indicators.

The grade system is:

Grade 1	Outstanding
Grade 2	Good
Grade 3	Satisfactory
Grade 4	Inadequate

3.2 The self-assessment evaluates the college standards in a number of cross-cutting themes including overall standards of learners' achievement and success, standards of teaching and classroom practice, standards of leadership and management of the college, standards in safeguarding learners, equality and diversity. In addition, college students completed a survey through which they give their views on the college services.

3.3 Since the last report to Cabinet, improvements have been made in the following areas:

Area	Standard	Improvement
Financial Health.	Good	Improved efficiency has reduced operating costs by £470,000 (13% reduction)
Learner Success Rates (learners' retention plus pass-rates).	Very Good	2% increase (91.3%) and 8% higher than the national average.
English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL).	Grade 1 (Outstanding)	Improved by one grade point.
Learning for People with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities (LLDD)	Grade 1 (Outstanding)	Improved by one grade point.
Lesson Observation Grades	60% of observed lessons are good or outstanding .	Improved by 4%.
Customer Satisfaction.	Outstanding	9% increase (99.7%)
Equality & Diversity.	Grade 2 (Good). 100% of learners surveyed report they are treated with respect.	Improved by one grade point.
Community Development	Good.	Increased involvement in community development initiatives eg Goscote Project
Economic Regeneration	Improving contribution.	Secured Apprenticeship Training Contract valued at £400,000.
Sustainability/Carbon Management.	Good.	Improved building Energy Rating to C.
National External Assessments: Framework for Excellence.	Effectiveness Grade 2 (Good). Responsiveness Grade 2 (Good) Efficiency Grade 2 (Good)	

4. Resource considerations

4.1 **Financial:** Improved efficiency has reduced operating costs by £470,000. This represents a reduction of 13% which has been taken into account when setting future years budgets.

4.2 **Legal:** None

4.3 **Staffing:** None

5. Citizen impact

5.1.1 The positive progress since the Ofsted inspection will provide Walsall residents with greater confidence in the council's adult learning services and its ability to support them to develop their skills for life, for work and for active citizenship.

5.2 There has been increased involvement in a range of community development initiatives including the Goscote Project.

6. Community safety

None

7. Environmental impact

The building energy rating of the main site has improved to a C rating, which has a positive environmental impact.

8. Performance and risk management issues

8.1 **Risk:** Low

8.2 **Performance management:**

8.2.1 The college quality improvement and post inspection action plan will be underpinned and supported by agreed performance management methods.

8.2.2 There has been a 9% increase in customer satisfaction, which now stands at an 'Outstanding' 99.7%.

9. Equality implications

9.1 Whilst the college approach to equality and diversity was judged 'satisfactory overall' the college will be implementing an action plan to improve the promotion of equality and diversity in teaching and learning practices.

- 9.2 Learning for People with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities (LLDD) has risen by one grade point and is considered to be 'Outstanding'.
- 9.3 Equality and Diversity has improved by one grade point and is now considered to be 'good'.

10. Consultation

Consultation has been undertaken with Financial Services.

Background papers

Ofsted published report

Author

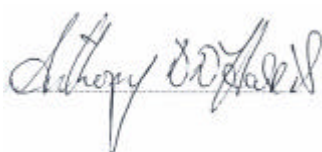
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4 March 2011

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Portfolio Holder



4 March 2011