

**LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT**

Executive – 28<sup>th</sup> April 2003

Council – 19<sup>th</sup> May 2003

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, ARTS & LIBRARIES

FP REF: 0054R/2003

NAME OF WARD(S)  
ALL

**REPORT TITLE: ADULT LEARNING PLAN 2003/4**

**1.0 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report introduces Brent's Adult Learning Plan 2003/4. The Plan is the key document by which the local authority will secure funding from the Learning and Skills Council for Adult and Community Learning.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the Executive approves the plan and recommends to Full Council that it be adopted.

**3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 The Plan is the key document by which local authorities secure funding from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC).
- 3.2 The Plan does not, however, cover all the funding that Brent receives from the LSC. As a former external institution (as defined by the Further and Higher Education Act 1992), BACES continues to receive money from the LSC through two funding streams and will have to report to it separately for each funding stream.

**4.0 STAFFING IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no staffing implications arising from this report.

**5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The new duty upon local authorities in respect of Adult and Community Learning is set out in clause 23 of the Learning and Skills Act 2000:
- “If a local education authority does not secure the provision of education and training (and connected leisure time occupation) in accordance with the provision included in a plan under clause 22 (3) the Secretary of State may direct the authority to do so”.
- 5.2 As far as adult education is concerned, powers are given to local authorities by a new section 15B of the 1996 Act inserted in Schedule 9 of the Learning and Skills Act. This gives LEAs the power to secure full and part time education suitable to the requirements of persons who have reached the age of 19.

- 5.3 As the Adult Learning Plan is part of the Council's Policy Framework, it is required under the Local Government Act 2000 and related regulations to be developed by the Executive but adopted by Full Council.

## **6.0 DETAIL**

- 6.1 Guidance on the production of Adult Learning Plans was issued in December 2002. Plans must follow the format set out in the guidance and address the following national priorities:

- the need to improve basic skills
- the need to widen participation in learning to those who do not traditionally participate in education and training
- the need to enhance family learning provision
- the need to support strategies for neighbourhood renewal.

- 6.2 Plans will be assessed and approved by local LSCs and there will be arrangements for national moderation to ensure consistency of approach. The final date for submission is 31<sup>st</sup> March 2003. Brent's plan has been submitted on the understanding that approval by members is pending and that changes may therefore be made.

- 6.3 Brent's draft Adult Learning Plan 2003/4 is attached as Appendix 1. The main strategic objectives set out in the Plan are:

- to contribute to national adult learner targets, particularly by increasing levels of participation by non-traditional learners
- to improve quality, retention and achievement
- to work in partnership to meet the learning needs of adults in Brent
- to maintain BACES as a Best Value service that meets LSC requirements.

- 6.4 Data within the Plan is still in the process of being checked and finalised and should be treated with some caution.

## **7.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The following papers were used in the compilation of this report:

- i) Learning and Skills Council, Local Education Authority Adult Learning Plans 2003/4 – final guidance, December 2002.

Any person wishing to inspect the above papers should contact:

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