

Statement: *New* Directions

Prospectus:

2010-11

July 29th, 2010

**The Learning Partnership
Calibration House
1 Sunbeam Road
Kempston
Bedfordshire
MK42 7BZ**

t: 01234-855868

e: sferris@learning-partnership.co.uk

Moving Forward Together

In the coming year the Learning Partnership wants to consolidate its position with learning providers across Bedfordshire and Luton and in the region. We want to work with partners to deliver good, high quality services to learners locally. Partners will always receive support for what they want to do. As a Partnership we will not become involved in the direct delivery of learning. We continue to see our role as a facilitator. Bringing partners together round the table to discuss priorities for collaboration. Where we bid for funding or seek to advance a particular proposal it will always be on the basis that other partners are involved in the delivery process.

An Honest Broker

We will continue to offer to hold contracts, project manage and quality assure partnership activity. We are and will remain an honest broker. Our success will be measured by the number of partnership activities we can generate and the variety of providers – big and small – that we are able to involve in delivering new and innovative learning activities.

A Dialogue On Skills

Our economy is changing, facing new challenges and needs a growth strategy geared for prosperity. Bedfordshire and Luton has not yet recovered from the recession, unemployment remains high and business performance is tentative. There are still significant skills gaps at the primary level of numeracy and literacy. And if we are to attract next generation employers we must also accept that there are not enough people qualified at professional or degree level.

We Must Do Better

Skills are a fundamental building block. If we are to make Bedfordshire and Luton a prosperous place to live and work we must do better. Learning funders and providers will need to work with employers to improve the training that is available for people at work and for those looking to work.

We know that the raft of services available can be confusing. And we accept that not all the current training available does always address the immediate needs of employers or their staff.

To make skills for growth a reality we must first listen to what local employers have to say. Where we can we will work to improve how information and advice is given and to make provision more responsive and more flexible.

“...to make a difference to the amount and quality of learning available to local communities in Bedfordshire and Luton”

What we Stand For:

1. Addressing the Skills Agenda

The Leitch Review requires a systematic improvement in results at all levels: level 2, 3 and 4. To meet these targets will require good links with employers and a clear understanding of learners needs. We will support the skills objectives set for Bedfordshire and Luton by the Bedford Assembly, Central Bedfordshire Assembly and and the Luton Forum. The Local Area Agreements (LAA's) identify adult skills as critical to economic growth and social wellbeing. The new Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) will herald broader cooperation between local authorities including MK to strengthen the local economy and the Partnership will seek to engage with this new development to champion measures that focus on adult skills.

2. Learning is for Life

In the coming year we will work to support a holistic approach starting with improved provision of informal learning and learning in the community to help improve access, widen participation and engage with a more diverse range of adult learners in our local community. We will continue to work with partners to improve access and widen participation to learning. We want to see more adults entering learning. We remain convinced that lifelong learning is enormously beneficial to people. Learning, not just for work, but for leisure, for pleasure, for life itself!

3. An Inclusive Approach

An inclusive partnership with a record of working with a diverse range of learning providers. Working with universities, colleges, adult and community learning workbase learning providers, trades unions, the local chamber and the 3rd sector. Key partners work together through an Adult Skills Partnership (ASP) which meets bi-monthly to discuss activities. Partners involved in delivering learning in the community, whether formal or informal, meet three times a year to share information and good practice.

4. A Strong Partnership

We are at the centre of a network of 150 organisations in Bedfordshire and Luton. Big and small, all involved in developing or delivering learning to their staff, volunteers or to local people across our local area. We provide information and opportunities for groups to come together to discuss issues around learning or to look at funding initiatives. We will rely on the strength of partnership working if we are to succeed in the challenging times ahead. Regional commissioning and open and competitive tendering is a challenge to us all.

5. Adding Value

We will work to identify gaps in learning provision and lobby to secure funding for additional learning activities that benefit local communities. Our role will be to enhance existing provision, not to duplicate what partners already deliver We will work to lever extra resources into Bedfordshire and Luton.

What We Offer:

Key Services

An advocate for learning: consultations, representing views of providers and users (such as the DIUS consultation on informal learning in the community, adult learning, skills for jobs etc.)

An Information centre: website, bi-monthly newsletter, monthly funding newsletter. Mapping learning in local community and sharing the results

A fundingXchange: partner dating bringing together organisations who are looking to work or develop projects in partnership whenever funding opportunities are available to do so

Adult Skills Partnership: working with key stakeholders – University of Bedfordshire, local Colleges, ACL Bedfordshire and ACL Luton, Voluntary Sector Consortium, Trades Unions, Nextsteps, WBL Providers, Local Authorities, LSC and JobCentre Plus – to identify priorities for future learning projects to fill gaps in provision or add value

Partners Community Forum: quarterly, countywide partnership forum to exchange information, good practice and initiate new activity

Consultancy Services: consultancy, project management, data management, financial management, fund raising, event organisation, quality assurance (plus access to capacity building programmes around quality, bid writing and partnership working)

Briefings and networking events: 4 per year plus 1 eurofunding briefing to keep you up-to-date with key debates around learning and skills

A Regional Dimension

The Partnership needs to become a leading part of a regional axis for adult learning. Within the successful ACER led partnership that secured 10 bids valued at £25 million. The trend is towards regional commissioning and the ending of locally deployed funding. This affects learning and skills/LSC funding and DWP/Jobcentre plus funding for the skills for jobs programme, and for community and voluntary sector programmes too.

As a regional lead the Partnership is well placed to play a role as an advocate of an inclusive, broad based partnership built on a regional scale. This will involve lining partners locally to opportunities regionally to bring more resources into the local area.

Get in Touch!

Your feedback is welcome. Got a project idea? Looking for partners? Looking for advice? Need support? Get in touch. Talk to one our staff today. Come and see us. Arrange for someone to visit. Any one of us would be pleased to help.

Who's who here

Cindy Armstrong, Project Co-ordinator

Migrant Workers Qualification Conversion Bedfordshire and Luton and the East of England

e: carmstrong@learning-partnership.co.uk

t: 01234-852132

Vanda Bailey, Project Manager

All Partnership projects in Bedfordshire, Luton and the East of England, partnership building in Bedfordshire and Luton and the East of England

e: vbailey@learning-partnership.co.uk

t: 01234-851074

Chris Cooper, Senior Project Co-ordinator

Economic Participation, Future Jobs Fund Brokerage Service, quality assurance

e: ccooper@learning-partnership.co.uk

t: 01234-853201

Stephen Ferris, Executive Director

Company, external relationships, new initiatives

e: sferris@learning-partnership.co.uk

t: 01234-855868

Kishun Gohil, Project Co-ordinator

Ex-offenders, Migrant Integration Fund, Neighbourhood Learning, partner consultations

e: kgohil@learning-partnership.co.uk

t: 01234

Kevin McIlhagga, Project Co-ordinator

English Language Training, Equality and Diversity, project development and bid writing

e: kmcilhagga@learning-partnership.co.uk

t: 01234-851745

Adriano Perrone, Data Co-ordinator

Data input and analysis, contracts compliance, performance and communications

e: aperrone@learning-partnership.co.uk

t: 01234-851745

Who's who here (*continued*)

Carole Pullinger, Business Services Manager

Accounts, audit, business services, contracts, commercial services, data analysis, finance, reporting

e: cpullinger@learning-partnership.co.uk

t: 01234-857637

Sue Stevenson, Partnership Administrator

Office administration, bookings, communications, data inputting, newsletters, records

e: sstevenson@learning-partnership.co.uk

t: 01234-851154

f: 01234-856854

Caroline Wilkins, Partnership Co-ordinator

Economic Participation, capacity building, informal learning

e: www.learningincommunities.co.uk

t: 01234-851154