



Leading learning and skills

25 March 2010

Dear Mark

The introduction of Lead Accountable Bodies for Informal Adult Learning: an invitation from the Learning and Skills Council and BIS

The White Paper *The Learning Revolution* makes the case for much greater coherence at the local level between informal adult learning and other key activities, including digital inclusion, family learning, citizenship, mental and physical wellbeing, health, culture and environmental awareness. It calls for Local Authorities to develop the local strategic vision for informal adult learning and lead the associated planning and funding functions.

In our letter of 8 February we said that in Spring 2010 we would formally invite you to agree in principle to become a Lead Accountable Body and work with us during 2010 to further develop the model and the reporting arrangements.

As we set out in that letter, Lead Accountable Bodies will:

- provide the vision and leadership to innovate, by encouraging collaboration, promoting a culture of lifelong learning and widening access to learning and skills;
- lead a strong local partnership that will create the coherence envisaged in the White Paper and put in place a diverse offer to meet local needs;
- develop and submit an annual, jointly-agreed delivery plan as the basis for the funding agreement with the new Skills Funding Agency;
- ensure the local plan secures value-for-money and levers in additional resources from fees and in-kind services such as volunteering, opening up spaces and sharing expertise;
- moderate plans at a sub-regional level in the areas where local authorities have agreed voluntarily to form a sub-regional cluster.

In-principle acceptance of the Lead Accountable Body role means that:

- you will decide whether to take up the role as a single local authority or as part of a grouping of local authorities, whichever is the most suitable for your area;
- we will work with you to complete the development of a Lead Accountable Body model that will be sufficiently flexible to help you meet your local strategic priorities;
- we will share with you key information about funding for Adult Safeguarded Learning in your local authority area in preparation for transfer of all the available funding for this type of learning in 2011/12.

We can confirm that:

- we will together develop a Lead Accountable Body model that's flexible enough to accommodate the very different needs of different areas;
- accepting the Lead Accountable Body role is designed to be a cost-neutral exercise;
- you will have a further opportunity to decline the role once the model is developed, should you so wish. Accepting in principle means that we can involve you closely in the planning process.

What to do next:

If your authority does agree to accept the role in principle, please [click here](#) to download a copy of this letter. You will need to complete Annex A and return to Jerry O'Shea: jerry.oshea@lsc.gov.uk by 30 April 2010. Your authority will then have until autumn 2010 to take the in-principle decision through the relevant internal approval processes.

We have been very encouraged by the enthusiasm and breadth of vision among the Local Authorities we have spoken to over the last month. We very much look forward to working with you on this important reform agenda.

Yours sincerely



Jon Gamble
Director for Adults and Lifelong Learning
02476 82 3202
jon.gamble@lsc.gov.uk



Jane Bateman
Head of Social Mobility Unit
0207 215 1696
jane.bateman@bis.gsi.gov.uk

copy: Heads of Adult Education Services in Local Authorities, Principals of FE Colleges, Local Government Association, Association of Colleges

Full link to Annex A

<http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/National/nat-InformalAdultLearningInvitation-mar10.doc>

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Learning and Skills Council

Cheylesmore House Quinton Road Coventry CV1 2WT
T 0845 019 4170 **F** 024 7682 3675 **www.lsc.gov.uk**