



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

Agenda Item No: 3.2

ESOL Local Planning Annual Report

To:	Skills Committee
Meeting Date:	9 January 2023
Public report:	Yes
Lead Member:	Councillor Lucy Nethsingha, Lead Member for Skills
From:	Parminder Singh Garcha, Senior Responsible Officer - Adult Education
Key decision:	No
Forward Plan ref:	N/A
Recommendations:	<p>The Skills Committee is recommended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Receive the ESOL Local Planning Partnerships Annual Report and note the considerable progress made to dateb) Note and comment on the key deliverables for the ESOL Local Planning Partnerships for 2023/24c) Note the City of Sanctuary scheme
Voting arrangements:	A simple majority of all Members present and voting

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To provide an update on the progress made by the two ESOL Local Planning Partnerships that were established to improve the co-ordination and delivery of ESOL and related provision to improve integration and employment opportunities for refugee and migrant communities.
- 1.2 To note and comment on the deliverables for ESOL Local Planning Partnerships for 2023/24 and note the City of Sanctuary scheme.

2. Background

- 2.1 ESOL Local Planning Partnerships fully align with the Combined Authority's Employment and Skills Strategy (2022) in delivering pillars three and four:
 - **Lifelong and Life wide Learning** – by improving access to courses, the quality of ESOL courses and capacity-building of new types of provision
 - **Support into and between work** – by improving guidance and signposting to employment support, providing intensive and vocational ESOL that leads to employment.
- 2.2 At the Skills Committee on 10 November 2021, members unanimously supported the implementation of a new way-of-working to better co-ordinate ESOL provision through the formation of ESOL Local Planning Partnerships ('ESOL Partnerships') – one for the North (covering Peterborough, Fenland and Huntingdonshire) and one for the South (Cambridge City, East, and South Cambridgeshire).
- 2.3 ESOL Partnerships are a multi-agency and multidisciplinary approach to co-ordination of ESOL and community integration strategies in a defined geography. The aim is to provide independent and impartial system-leadership across public sector actors (DWP, Strategic Migration Partnership, local authorities, health, and police), adult education providers, civic, faith and voluntary organisations. Public sector partners can be expanded or reduced depending on the focus as can others such as business support agencies.
- 2.4 The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough ESOL Partnerships were constituted in January 2022 and have each met four times, with valuable inputs from the Strategic Migration Partnership, DWP and NATECLA. The South partnership is chaired by Cllr Dr Alex Bulat and the North partnership will be chaired by Cllr Sam Foye.
- 2.5 The Annual Report for the ESOL Partnerships is included in Appendix 1 to the report. The Partnerships have responsibilities to make recommendations to the Combined Authority and other partners to drive improvements to the system. Key achievements include
 - Piloting a fully funded ESOL Teacher Training programme to attract new entrants into FE teaching - City College Peterborough recruited and trained 9 new ESOL teachers through this pilot, which is being rolled-out
 - Securing additional funding from DLUHC to support BN(O) status holders from Hong Kong – 53 learners have received ESOL through this route and £33,055 claimed
 - Influencing funding for ESOL in Wisbech through ESF funded projects
 - Delivering a successful hybrid ESOL Conference, hosted by Cambridge Regional College – with attendance from 80 delegates and valuable insights from practitioners
 - Lobbying and influencing the delivery of Intensive ESOL for work

- Improving FE programmes of study for newly arrived young people.

2.6 Key deliverables for the ESOL Partnerships for 2023/24 are:

- To appoint provider(s) to implement the ESOL Single Point of Contact (SPOC)
- Build capacity and bring new provision on stream with Intensive ESOL for Work programmes (including through the AEB Third Sector Commission)
- Continue the ESOL Teacher Training programme (CELTA and TESOL) and double the number of ESOL Teachers being trained
- Affiliate to the City of Sanctuary scheme with a focus on Trauma-Informed practice in post-16 and FE settings
- Provide enrichment for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking young people aged 19+
- Embed numeracy/maths into ESOL through the new Multiply programme
- Deliver CPD in partnership with NATECLA
- Deliver a second ESOL Conference with partners to showcase best practice
- Disseminate best practice in ESOL for Integration and employment.

These priorities have been developed in co-production with partners.

2.7 City and College of Sanctuary scheme

Over 30 councils have joined the network to become Councils and/or Cities of Sanctuary. Cambridge City Council and Peterborough City Council have already signed as non-awarded members of City of Sanctuary, as has West Yorkshire Combined Authority. The vision of City of Sanctuary UK is for the UK to be a welcoming place of safety for all and proud to offer sanctuary to people fleeing violence and persecution. To realise this vision, City of Sanctuary UK supports a network of groups, which includes cities, towns, villages, boroughs, and regions across the UK. The Combined Authority may wish to consider joining this network in the future.

- 2.8 Schools, Colleges and Universities can also accredit under this programme and benefit from best practice and resources. In the East of England, the University of East Anglia and University of Essex have accredited to date. The opportunity was disseminated to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Further and Higher Education Institutions. Inspire Education Group (Peterborough College) have subsequently been assessed and are awaiting final accreditation as our first 'College of Sanctuary'.

Significant Implications

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 At the Skills Committee of 7 November 2022, a budget of £70,000 was approved for ESOL Local Planning Partnerships and implementation of the SPOC from the AEB Local Innovation Fund for the 2022/23 academic year.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 Under orders made from the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, adult education functions from the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 were transferred from the Secretary of State for Education to Cambridgeshire and

Peterborough Combined Authority from August 2019 as part of the Devolution Agreement. The recommendations within this report support the discharging of these functions.

- 4.2 The Combined Authority discharges its devolved adult education functions with due regard to the DfE Statutory Guidance for Devolved AEB for Combined Authorities (July 2018) ensuring that all underspent AEB, as a ringfenced budget is 'recycled' and utilised for adult education.

5. Public Health implications

- 5.1 The recommendations outlined in this report have positive implications for public health. Participation in adult learning improves the health and wellbeing of participants and wider society. Additionally, AEB funds skills training for professionals in the health care sector as well as short courses for adults on managing physical, mental health and wellbeing. Supporting mental wellbeing through trauma-informed practice is one of the priorities for the ESOL Planning Partnerships for 2022/23.

6. Environmental and Climate Change Implications

- 6.1 The recommendations outlined in this report have neutral positive implications for the environment.

7. Other Significant Implications

- 7.1 The recommendations outlined in this report have due regard to the Combined Authority's Equalities duties under the Equality Act 2010 in implementing funding policies which seek to widen participation and make learning opportunities more accessible for all citizens including all protected characteristics.

8. Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 – Annual Report of ESOL Local Planning Partnerships 2021/22

9. Background Papers

- [Skills Committee Report – ESOL Local Planning, 10 November 2021](#)
- [Cities of Sanctuary Website](#)
- [Schools of Sanctuary Website](#)
- [Colleges of Sanctuary Website](#)
- [Universities of Sanctuary Website](#)