

Southend-on-Sea City Council

Report of Executive Director of Growth & Housing
To
Cabinet

On
21 February 2023

Report prepared by: Emma Lindsell Director of Regeneration
& Growth (Interim)

Agenda
Item No.

Southend Adult Community College Annual Report

People Scrutiny Committee
Cabinet Member: Councillor Laurie Burton
Part 1 Public Agenda Item

1. Purpose of Report

The Southend Adult Community College (SACC) Annual Report provides an overview of SACC achievements and performance for the academic year 21/22 and points to priorities for the year ahead.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that Cabinet note the content of the Annual Report.

3. Background

3.1 SACC is the council's adult and community learning service. It delivers:

- Functional skills - English, Maths, and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)
- Vocational learning,
- Alternative 16-19 provision
- Community and family learning
- Special Educational Need and Disabilities (SEND) provision.

3.2 SACC is funded by the Education & Skills Funding Agency, earned income from fee paying courses, Multiply for adult numeracy, and other smaller grants and contracts. To draw down this funding SACC must meet performance targets in terms of learner numbers and achievements.

3.3 This is the second annual report that Cabinet has received following a change to governance processes implemented in November 2020.

4. Key Achievements for 2021/22

4.1 SACC, while still recovering from the impact of the pandemic, saw a number of new programmes and positive outcomes delivered. Key achievements were:

- Quickly mobilising to establish programmes for new residents from Afghanistan and Ukraine and their families – first delivering community engagement and then learning activities to build confidence, increase understanding of local custom and practice, and develop ESOL skills;
- Functional and vocational skills achievement and retention rates were higher than the national average;
- SEND enrolments were up by 10% on the previous year.

5. Priorities for 2022/23

- Improve the financial sustainability of SACC while continuing to deliver high quality learning outcomes;
- Support cost of living crisis activities, for example working with food banks to deliver slow cooker and healthy eating on a budget course;
- Delivering innovative adult numeracy activities using Multiply funding including courses on managing a household budget.
- Review use of the SACC estate to promote co-location with other services, encourage more community engagement, and improve learner experience and outcomes.

6. Reasons for Recommendations

The report recommends that SACC's annual performance report is noted by Cabinet. SACC makes a significant contribution to Southend's economic recovery and community resilience by upskilling residents to prepare them for work and life, delivering community led well-being activities, and by bringing different residents together.

6. Corporate Implications

6.1 Contribution to the Southend 2050 Road Map

SACC has aligned its provision to the Southend 2050 roadmap. The learning, employment and wellbeing activities delivered by SACC directly contribute to the following 2050 outcomes:

We protect and improve the quality of life for everyone in our community, including the vulnerable. SACC is inclusive and seeks to improve outcomes for all who engage with it. Further, it offers specialist provision for vulnerable learners including those with physical and learning disabilities, those for whom mainstream education does not work, people with no qualifications or low skills and people from the most deprived wards.

More Southenders agree that people from different backgrounds are valued and get on well together. SACC brings together learners from different backgrounds with a shared ambition around learning, skills and employment, including provision such as ESOL.

Our children are school-ready and young people are ready for further education, employment or training. SACC has an increasing number of 16-19 year old learners, this area is an area of delivery that could grow in the future.

As part of our economic recovery, Southend businesses feel supported to respond to economic shocks and can thrive and grow, creating enough job roles to match the needs of the population and safeguarding fulfilling careers. SACC works with

local businesses to ensure courses are meeting local need and so that meaningful work experience can be offered to learners.

Southend is a leading smart city, using technology in smart ways to enable improved resident services, and ensure digital inclusion. Our connectivity, data and principles approach to digital enable us to facilitate better decision making, automated services and digital experiences for those across the borough. SACC is seeking to address the digital divide through its provision and has worked with Cityfibre on this agenda.

Further SACC positively contributes to the council's recovery priorities, and cost of living crisis response.

6.2 Financial Implications

There are no specific financial implications arising from noting the Annual Report, but it is referenced within the annual report that 2021/22 was a challenging year financially resulting from the impact of the pandemic and despite annual savings delivered. Actions are proposed for 2022/23 and 2023/24, and as noted in the Annual Report, that also aim to improve SACC's financial position by increasing income from external sources, generating further savings and continuing to expand support to more vulnerable groups in our community and young adults with Special Educational Needs.

6.3 Legal Implications

There are no legal implications of this report

6.4 People Implications

There are no people implications of this report.

6.5 Property Implications

SACC operates across three sites (Southchurch, Westcliff and Belfairs). Further work will be undertaken in academic year 2022/23 to ensure that these sites are being used to best effect and will explore co-location with other services that will benefit learners/residents.

6.6 Consultation

SACC undertakes regular engagement with staff, learners and partners to inform its activities and provision. It is considering a change of name to reflect city status and to be as inclusive in its name as possible. Consultation with staff and learners is currently underway.

6.7 Equalities and Diversity Implications

SACC works with some of the Southend's vulnerable residents and supports them towards work, further learning or towards living healthy and independent lives.

6.8 Risk Assessment

SACC has risk assessments in place and continues to monitor and report on risks. The high-level risks include improving financial performance and securing quality improvements in teaching and learning to support growth and future sustainability

- 6.9 Value for Money
There are no value for money considerations directly resulting from this report. SACC's financial position is regularly reviewed through the new governance arrangements.
- 6.10 Community Safety Implications
There are no Community Safety Implications for this report.
- 6.11 Environmental Impact
SACC regularly considers actions to mitigate negative environmental impacts of delivery on the environment.
- 7. Background Papers**
[Southend Adult Community College Annual Report 2020/21](#)
- 8. Appendices**
Southend Adult Community College Annual Report 2021/22