

Southend Adult Community College

Annual Report

2021/22

Keeping local people learning and working



Introduction

Southend Adult Community College (SACC) is the lead provider of adult education in Southend. The college also specialises in the provision of learning, skills and work preparation for vulnerable young people, those with special educational needs and for those with high needs. The college provides a nurturing environment where adults can pursue their interests, develop their cultural and creative skills, develop their confidence and work alongside others to achieve their aspirations. The college is a valuable service area within Southend City Council and its curriculum is shaped to support the Southend 2050 themes. Additionally, the college is flexible and responsive rapidly adapting its provision to meet the changing needs of Southend residents, community partners and local businesses to support the skills required for the local workforce.

The college has a large provision for English, maths and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and this year has been proactive in responding to the needs of citizens arriving in Southend from Afghanistan and the Ukraine. The college has provided learning, skills and community events for more than 200 refugees and their families with many gaining employment, entry into university and progression to further learning as a direct result of the work the opportunities the college has provided for them.

The college has provided a lifeline for many local people as Southend emerged from the pandemic. Learners said that taking part in learning had reduced their sense of isolation, improved their mental health and physical well-being and improved their skills and confidence. The college continues to work towards achieving excellent outcomes for local people placing them at the heart of all it does.





Westcliff Centre

This is a specialist centre for high needs students aged 19-21 with profound learning needs.

A dedicated and experienced team of staff offer a range of learning and skills opportunities to prepare the students for further learning, independent living and entry into work.



Ambleside Drive

The largest of the three centres, Ambleside Drive provides more than 400 courses each year across a wide programme of learning and skills. Courses include English, maths and ESOL, vocational qualifications for young people and adults and programmes across a range of creative, cultural and technical subject areas.

This centre also provides a range of Study Programmes for vulnerable 16-19 yr olds and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.



Belfairs Campus

This modern and well-equipped site in Leigh- on-Sea provides learning and skills across creative, cultural and technical subject areas.

These includes, arts, languages and digital skills in addition to vocational programmes.

Each year we provide hundreds of courses across our three sites for over 2,000 adults and young people within the City of Southend. We pride ourselves on the caring environment we create and the skills of our talented workforce who always put learners first.

Ours courses start at entry level and progress up to level 4, enabling local people to make progress and achieve their aspirations. This year we provided more than 1070 free information, advice and guidance sessions for local people that enabled them to make informed choices about their next steps into learning and work.

We excel in our partnership working: during the year we worked with more than 20 employers, 25 community partners, public health, social care, Job Centre Plus and service areas across the council to bring relevant, tailored made learning and skills opportunities to Southend residents. Partners told us that we have provided a rapid, responsive and high-quality service that has made a significant difference to young people and adults providing them with the skills and confidence they need to move on to their next steps.

We celebrated the progress and many achievements of our learners this year at the 'Made in Southend' partnership event held at the House of Commons which showcased the many talents of our diverse learning community.



Our values

THE HOME OF LEARNING WHERE EVERYONE
ACHIEVES THEIR FULL POTENTIAL

1

Inclusive

We are respectful and put each other at the heart of all we do

2

Collaborative

We work together to achieve the right outcomes for everyone

3

Honest

We are honest, fair and accountable for our decisions and actions

4

Proud

We are proud of all we do

5

Agile

We are flexible and respond to the needs of each other, our partners and employers



Our purpose

1

To provide high quality learning and skills that enable people to progress

2

To ensure that, as the council's learning provider, we are focused on improved outcomes for local people, the workforce, business and community partners

3

To be ready for growth and innovation creating a sustainable future for learning and skills in Southend

4

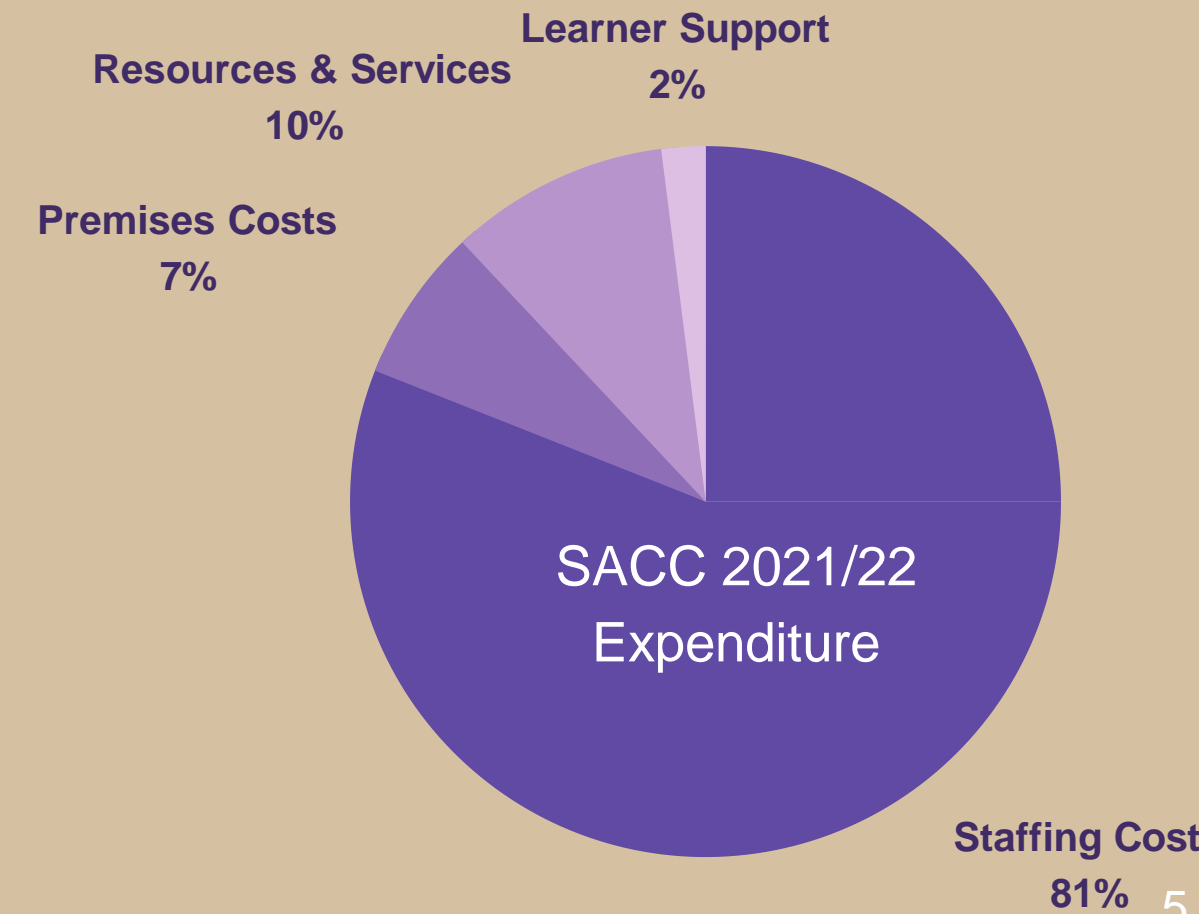
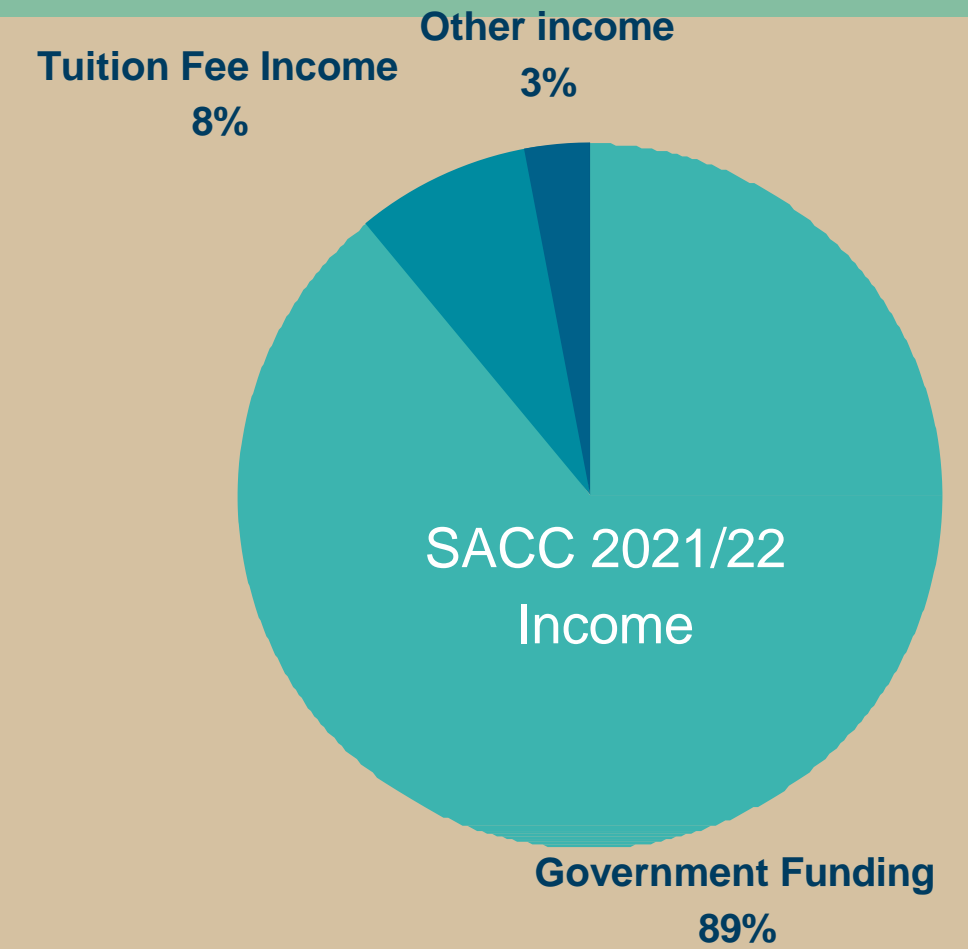
To be a lead provider of learning and skills that is matched to Southend 2050 ambitions supporting community resilience and economic growth

Funding and Finance

The college is still in financial recovery following the pandemic and has worked hard to address the shortfall in tuition fee income and a reduction in contractual funding amounting to £145k. Through service re-design the college achieved annual savings of £398k and in year savings 21/22 of £313k. The total income during 2021/22 was £3,522k against a total expenditure of £3,617k. The college has set ambitious 2022/23 targets for further savings and income generation to ensure that it is financially sustainable into the future.

The college is funded through the Education and Skills Funding Agency, tuition fee income from those that can afford to pay or contribute towards their learning and a small amount of project-based income. The college focusses its funding on those that are from vulnerable groups, those that have benefited least from the education system previously and those from deprived communities. Following the pandemic, the college has also focussed its funding on reducing social isolation, improving mental health and physical well-being, re-building confidence and self-esteem and new skills required by changes in the way we work and learn.

The college has seen a significant increase in the use of its funding to remove financial barriers to accessing learning and skills and it is anticipated that this will impact further during 2022/23 with the cost-of-living crisis. The college has also invested existing resources into the new provision of essential learning and skills, social development, support and intervention and confidence building for our Afghan and Ukrainian community.



Learner numbers

- 2038 learners were supported by SACC in 2021/22

Of these

- 117 enrolled on SEN provision
- 54 enrolled in 16-19 provision
- 835 enrolled on Community or family learning courses
- 34 enrolled on Apprenticeships
- 998 enrolled on English, maths, ESOL and vocational courses

Progression routes

- 19% learners went on into other courses with SACC or others
- 37% learners went into employment or set up their own businesses

Achievement rates

- Maths 93% & English 95% (national benchmarks not yet available)
- ESOL 92% above national average
- GCSE grades 4 and above adult learners: English 81%, Maths 92%



Special Educational Needs (SEN) and provision for young people

- SACC continues to offer a wide range of provision for our SEN learners both at our Westcliff site (for learners with profound need) and at our Southchurch site. Enrolments were up on the previous year by 10%, although some learners, due to their vulnerability, stayed away with concerns about COVID.
- The year saw a marked change in process around our vulnerable 16-19 provision. With the support of a consultant, the programme was completely overhauled. Project placed learning was adopted, staff received intensive training and the programme embraced the 'right learner, right course' approach via pre-enrolment IAG meetings, developmental RAP (review, assess, plan) weeks and the introduction of personal tutors who supported learners throughout the year. Focus on improving the quality of this provision continues.
- The development of work experience opportunities also ensured that all learners on a study programme had at least five contacts with an employer. This was via Employer 'speed dating' events held at the college, guest speakers, internal and external work experience opportunities. Learners undertook work experience in finance, customer service, cafes, support work, gardening and site maintenance. Enterprise activities were run throughout the year where learners made and sold goods and provided services. Goods were made for sustainability fairs, where construction learners used recycled wood to make garden planters and Christmas fairs where SEN learners produced decorations and gifts in their pottery classes. Learners were able to work out costs and profits in their maths classes and produce posters in their English classes. Profits made went towards trips and events that ensured that learners were able to recognise the advantages of work.
- Learners also took part in a range of community events. SEN learners worked on self-expression through art, creating a dynamic video with music, that was played in Southend High Street outside the city's library (The Forum). This was attended by parents, carers, staff and local people. Other events included 'Luminosity', whereby learners helped develop social media content around an incredible light festival which celebrated Southend's newly awarded city status.



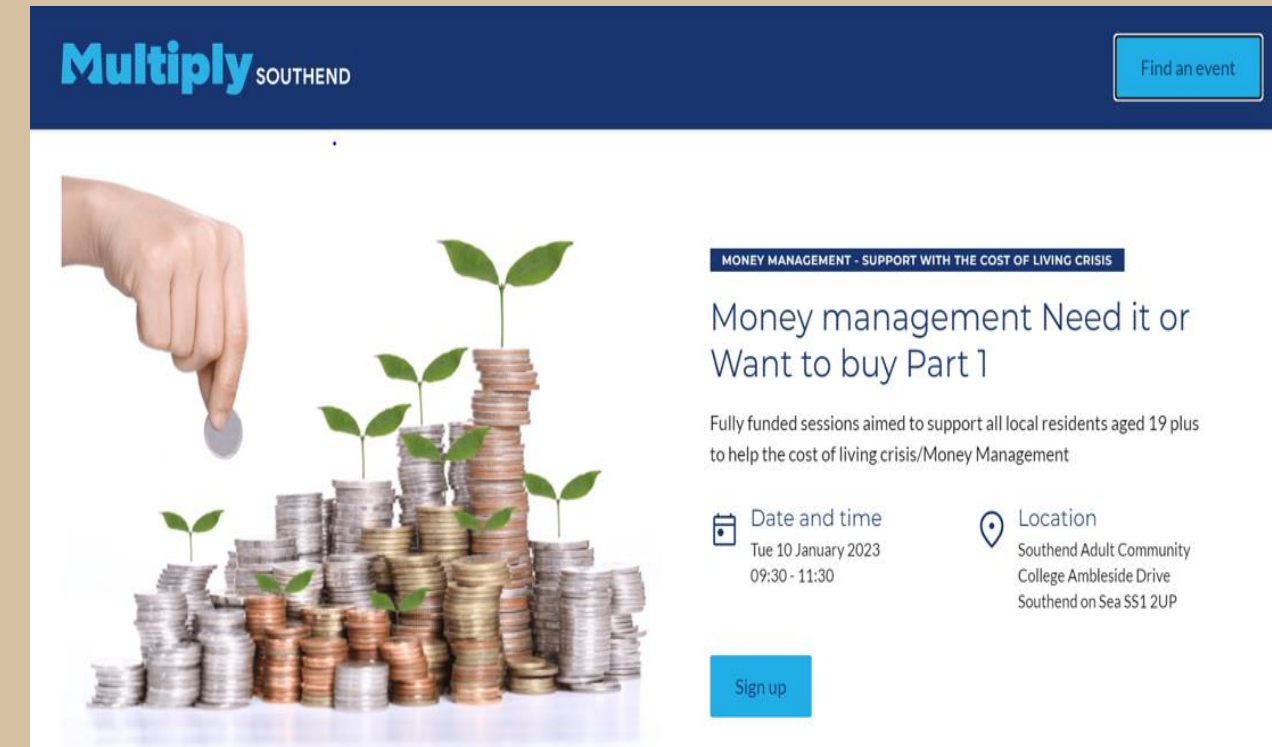
Community Learning

- Within Community Learning we have delivered 300+ courses with 1,684 enrolments by 852 learners. Courses covered a range of creative cultural and personal development skills which add increase opportunity develops passions and promotes positive wellbeing. All of these courses align to the 2050 council ambition and have the needs and aspirational potential of local people at their core.
- We have a growing Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities outreach provision working which achieved 106 enrolments working with 23 organisations. Allowing free accessible learning to be delivered in hotels, churches and community organisations these courses build learners confidence and opened up peoples potential. This programme creates a staged integration into mainstream courses, something which can be intimidating for those with poor educational experiences.
- For the 130 learners new to the country from Afghanistan and Ukraine who have signed up with us, we have focused on helping with language skills building confidence & community and supporting positive wellbeing.
- We provide bespoke language courses and activities such as art and textiles which include community integration, basic living skills and wellbeing. This resulted in items being sold at a sustainable fair in the college and a community kitchen was held with Afghan ladies being able to cook for their families which they are unable to do in the hotel where they are housed.
- We deliver a range of short free 'Ways 2 Wellbeing' courses with 191 enrolments throughout the year that promote positive mental health across a range of changing subjects. Working with Everyone Health on a 12 week weight management programme one learner has talked about suffering from an eating disorder. Others said the course gave them coping strategies which enabled them to lose weight, make friends and got them out of the house.
- Student quote coming to college ”..gives the week structure and also gives a good opportunity to learn



Adult Skills & Employability

- SACC continue to be the city lead for Adult Skills, offering people the opportunity to improve their Maths, English and ESOL skills. Recruitment was slightly down on the previous year due mainly to the impact of Covid, but the college made up ground during recruitment in February.
- Achievement rates were good across all areas. Maths, ESOL and English returned achievement rates of over 90% - well above national benchmarks. Attendance and retention for all areas were also above 80%, although this fell below the college target of 90%.
- Maths & English GCSE results, particularly Maths, were well above national benchmarks.
- This year all learners on adult skills programmes also completed an Employability qualification alongside their main programme, enhancing their employment related skills.
- Teaching staff across the area were all observed and all met the required teaching standards and competencies required. The college retains very well qualified and experienced staff.
- The vocational offer which included Association of Accounting Technicians (ATT), Health & Social Care, Teaching awards all produced achievement rates above national averages
- The college provided training for pathways into work projects. PAVE focused on supporting over 25s into work in Southend's key employment sectors and HALO focused on health & social care jobs. Overall 211 learners were supported on these projects with 10% continuing in Training and Education and 50% progressing into jobs.



Multiply SOUTHEND [Find an event](#)

MONEY MANAGEMENT - SUPPORT WITH THE COST OF LIVING CRISIS

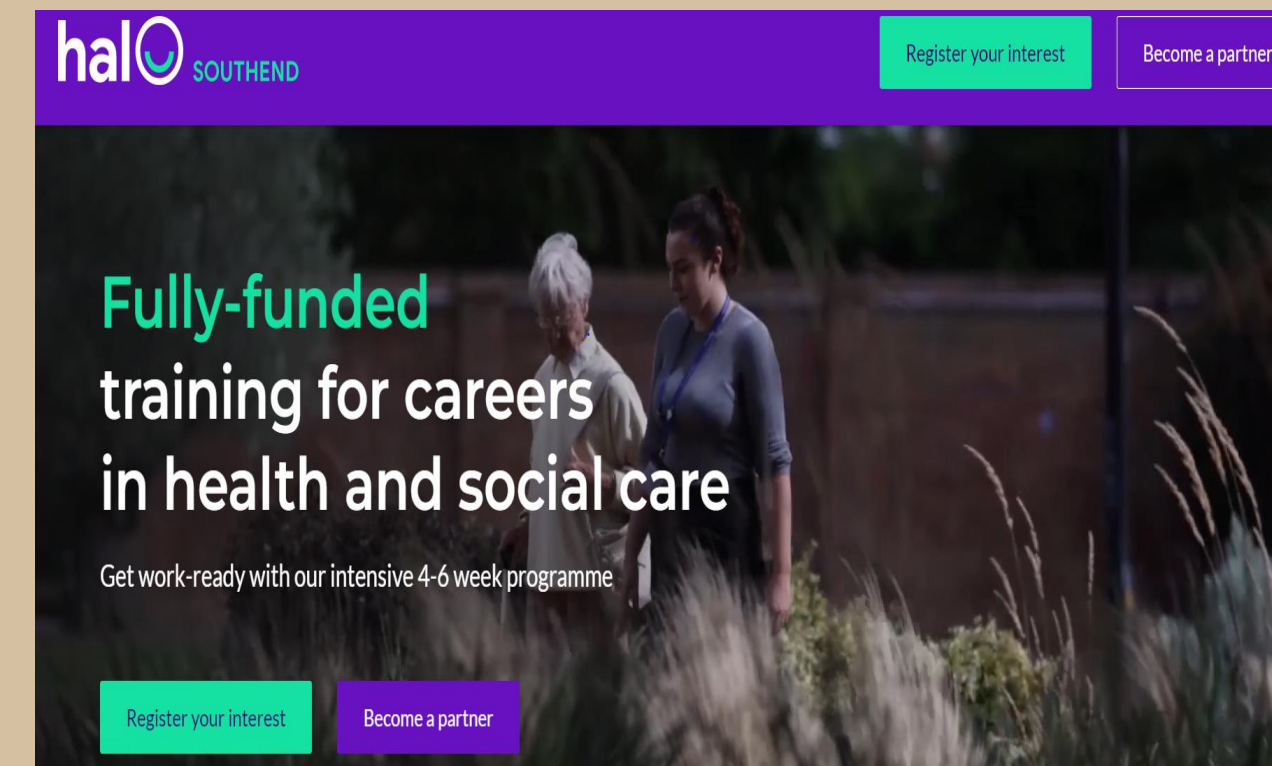
Money management Need it or Want to buy Part 1

Fully funded sessions aimed to support all local residents aged 19 plus to help the cost of living crisis/Money Management

Date and time
Tue 10 January 2023
09:30 - 11:30

Location
Southend Adult Community College Ambleside Drive
Southend on Sea SS1 2UP

[Sign up](#)



halo SOUTHEND [Register your interest](#) [Become a partner](#)

Fully-funded training for careers in health and social care

Get work-ready with our intensive 4-6 week programme

[Register your interest](#) [Become a partner](#)

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is hugely important within the college both in classroom and when thinking about the day to day lives of our learners. We ensure that all learners feel safe and know how to report concerns. We have a dedicated team of staff dealing with safeguarding concerns but consider safeguarding to be the responsibility of all our staff.

Partnerships and Outreach

We work closely with a range of partners to ensure that where skills gaps are identified accessible learning is delivered. In the past year we have developed bespoke ESOL courses working with CAST to create the ESOL for confidence course which bridges enrolment points for non-English Speakers and new arrivals to the area.

Working closely with Early Years and Southend Association of Voluntary Service to deliver tasters and qualification courses (Food hygiene and First Aid) which can enhance members employment opportunities.

We are currently exploring new partnership opportunities for launch in 2023-24 with Southend Football Club, Garons Park and other local businesses. We always welcome new initiatives and opportunities where they can be found.



Our achievements in 2021/22

College wide achievements

Our primary achievement in 2021-22 is that we supported hundreds of learners from all walks to life - many of whom had previously struggled to engage in education - to achieve a qualification and/or new skills that helped them progress into employment or study at a higher level, or gave them the courage and resilience required to accomplish a personal goal. Our learners are at the centre of everything we do.

Quality Improvement

The College has a current Ofsted rating of “Good” (2017) and is expecting another Ofsted inspection imminently. The Senior Leadership Team use a wide range of quality improvement and quality assurance systems that are tracked and reported on to the Governance Group throughout each academic year. We are currently self- assessing as “Good” and are working towards being "Outstanding".

Information, Advice and Guidance

We have a dedicated Student Services team on site who provide impartial information, advice and guidance to all prospective and current learners, as well as local Southend residents. The team provide information on a variety of issues including course content & level, finances, transport, well-being, health, interview preparations, employment and more.

Learn a New Skill

Retrain

Change Careers

Information Advice & Guidance

Free, impartial and confidential information and advice available. Advice to support your learning and work progression routes

Are you unsure what to do next?
What qualifications or skills are needed?
Uncertain about what career path to take?

Get on the right track with Southend Adult Community College and take a positive step toward your future!
1 to 1 support by telephone or via Zoom

Call: 01702 445 700
Email: lindawagstaff@southend-adult.ac.uk

southend adult
community college

Environment Sustainability

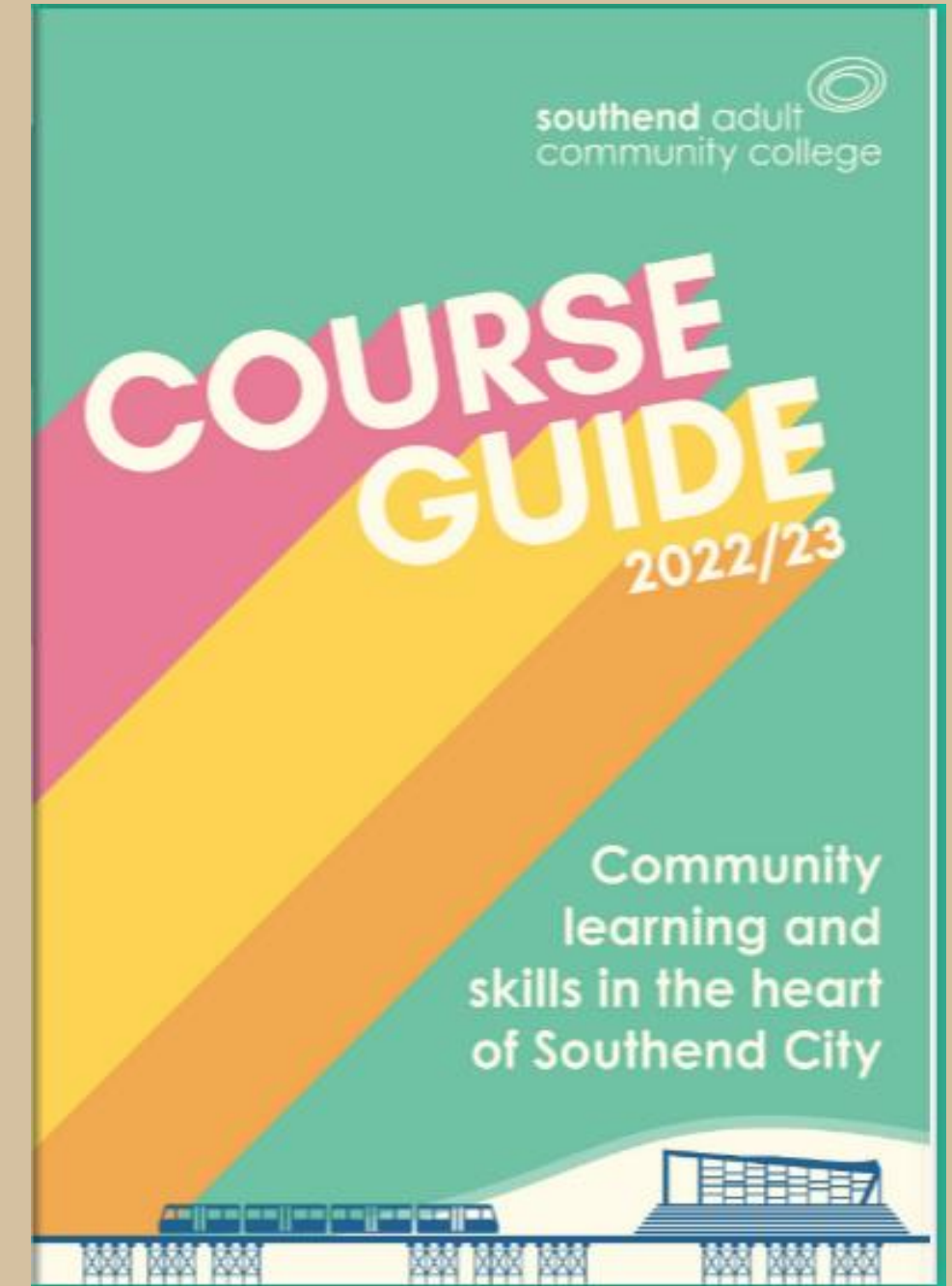
The College has a biomass boiler and solar panels to help reduce our day-to-day running costs. We try to utilise unused college space to offer wellbeing and exercise-based activities for staff and learners throughout the year, we participate in the local recycling scheme, and we have recently started to grow herbs for use by our on-site catering team.

Teaching, Learning & Assessment

We employ great teachers who are warm, accessible, professional, enthusiastic and caring towards their learners. They exhibit expertise in the subjects they teach and spend time continuing to gain new knowledge in their field. They present information in an enthusiastic manner and aspire to instil a mutual respect and hunger in their learners to learn more on their own. They look out for each individual learners' best interests and do their best to make the learner journey as enjoyable, rewarding and successful as possible.

Marketing and Communication

Southend Adult Community College (SACC) is a long-established centre-piece of the Southend-on-Sea community. Our marketing team aim to reach out to learners across the city and provide information about the skills they want to learn, the knowledge they seek and the courses they want to study. Our reputation speaks for itself: we care about our learners and are good at what we do. Learners always come first at SACC.



Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

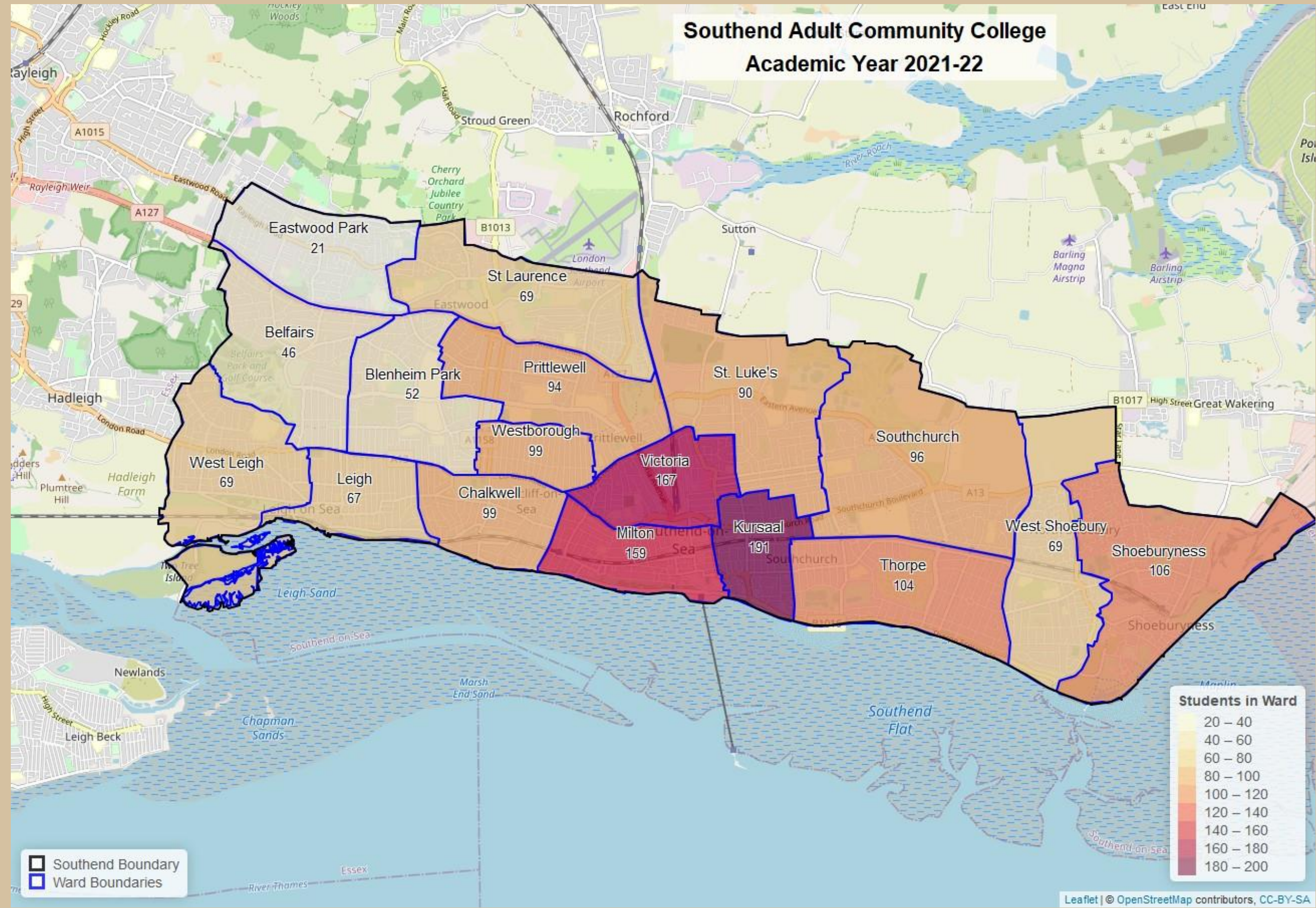
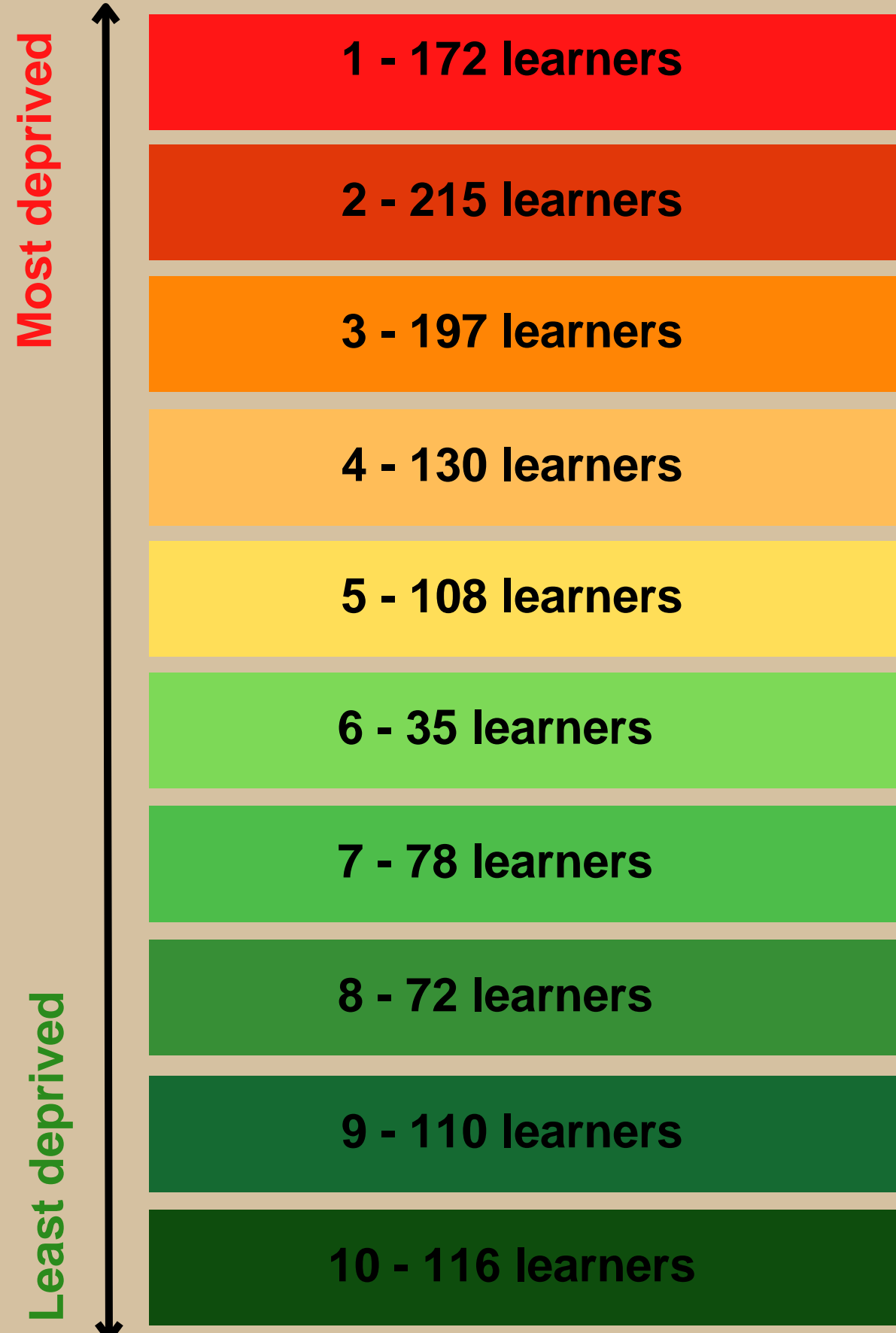
The College is agile in its response to the ever-changing landscape of the borough. We strive to help learners from all areas of Southend-on-Sea, including those from deprived backgrounds who may have struggled to succeed in education environments before now.

We pride ourselves on the bespoke work we do with our Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) learners; preparing them for future studies, work and independent living.

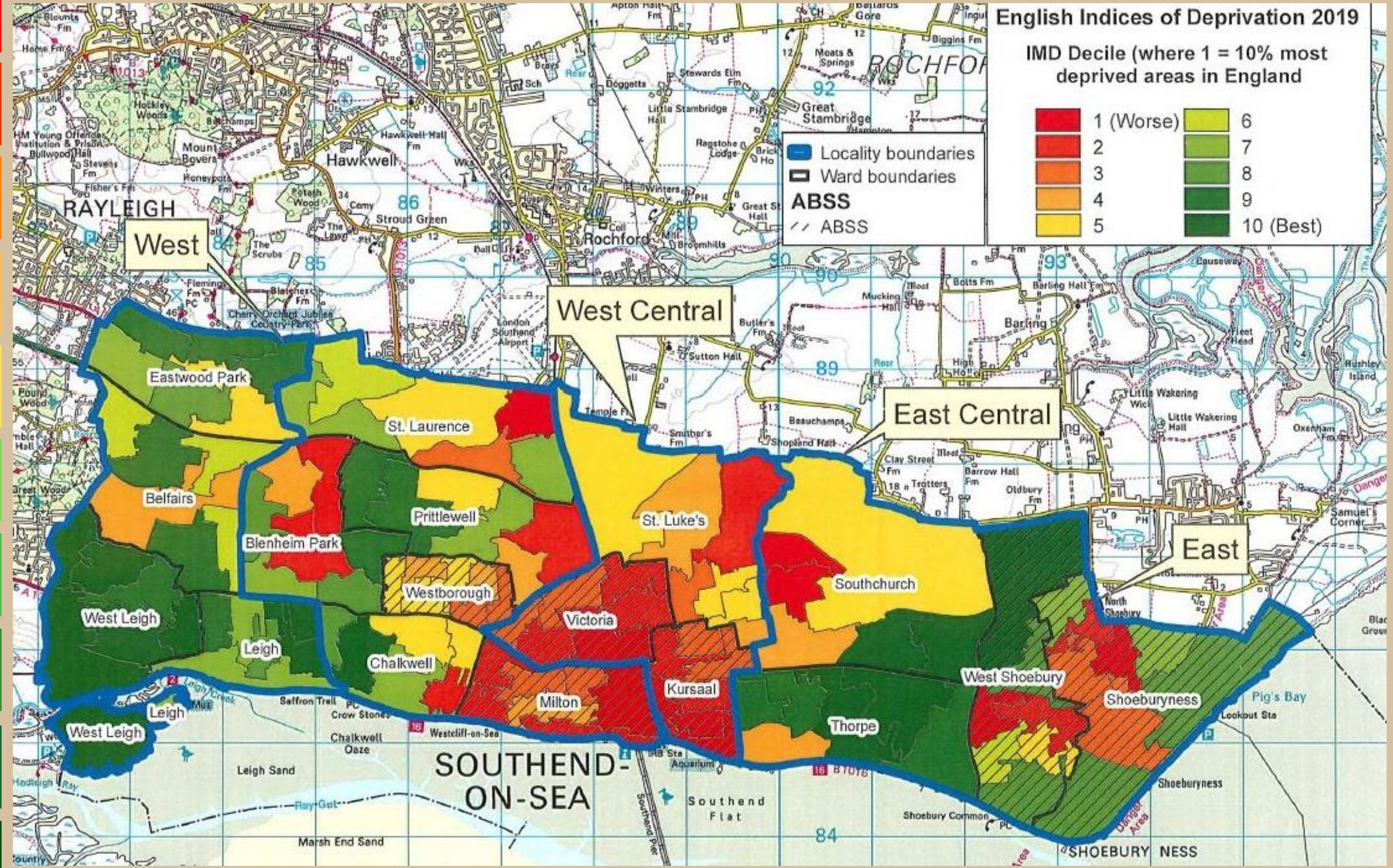
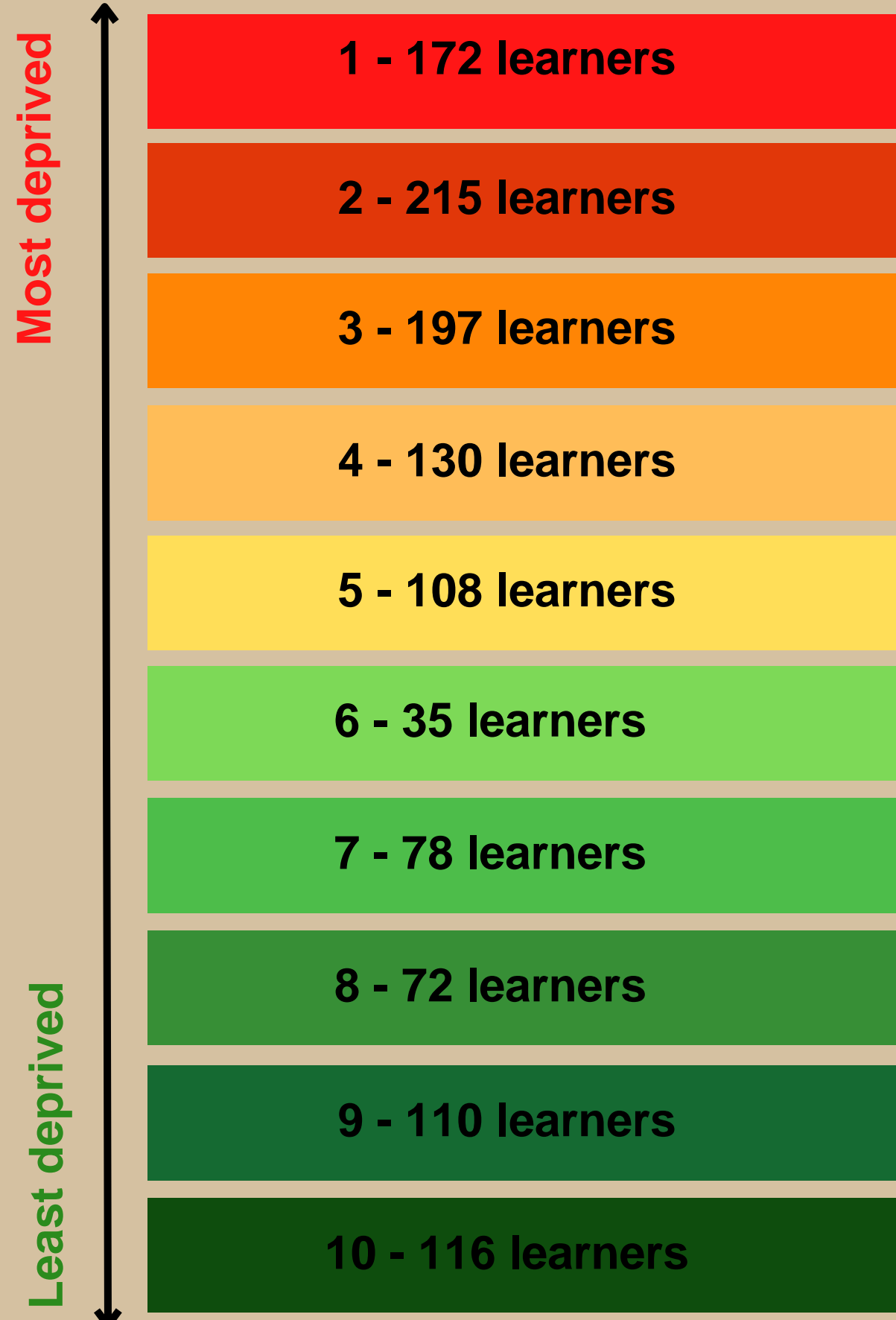
Each year we help hundreds of refugees to cope with learning English and settling into a new life here in the UK under the most challenging of circumstances. learners always come first at SACC - regardless of their gender, ethnicity, religion, age, disability or sexual orientation.



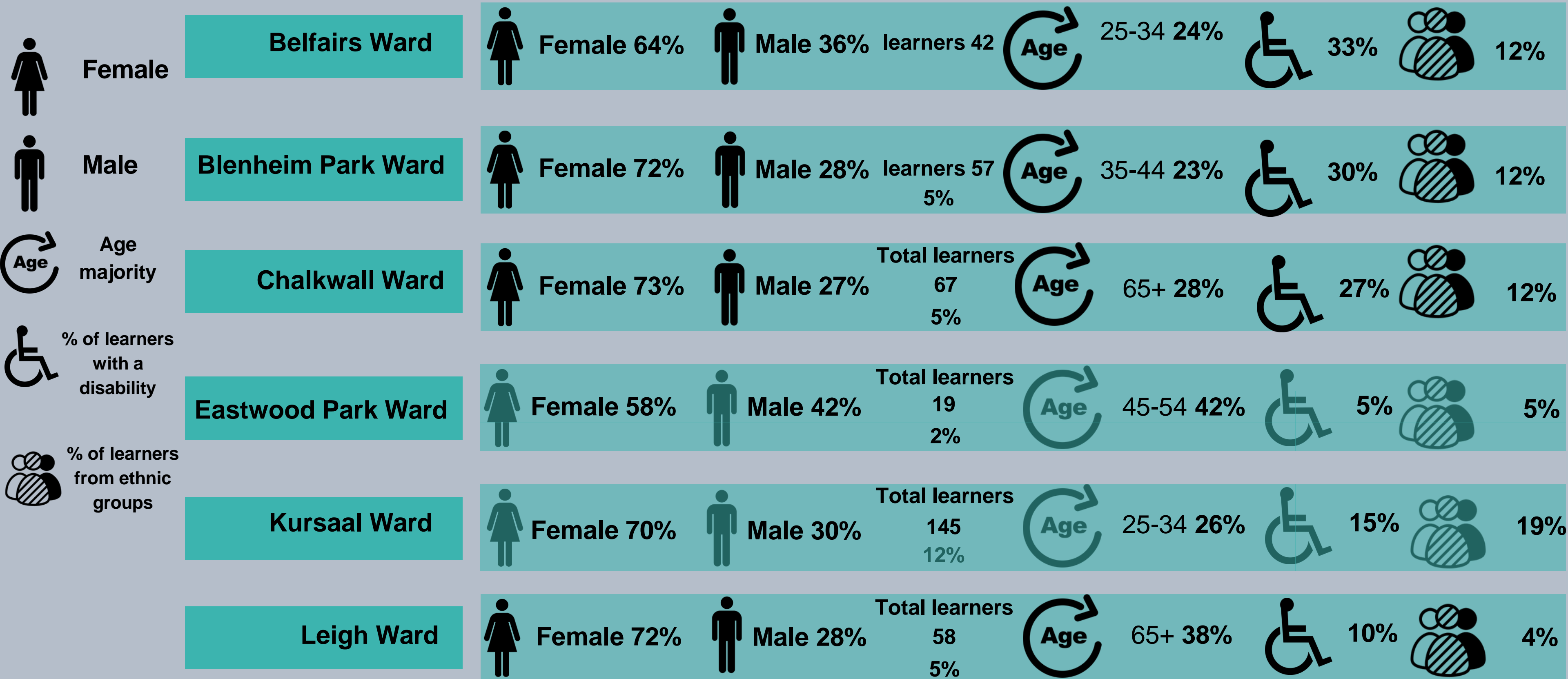
Ward Data



Ward data



Demographic data - our learning community

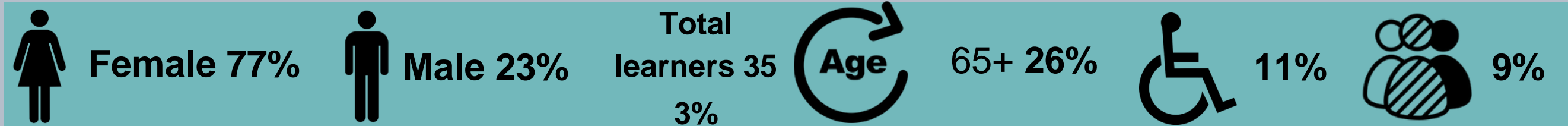


Demographic data

Southchurch Ward



St Laurence Ward



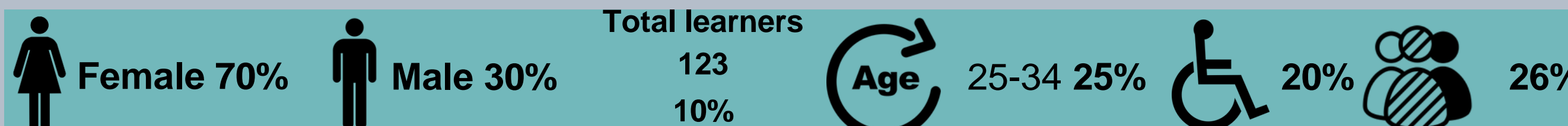
St Luke's Ward



Thorpe Ward






































Victoria Ward



West Leigh Ward



Demographic data

Milton Ward	 Female 68%	 Male 32%	Total learners 98 8%	 Age 25-34 30%	 22%	 29%
Prittlewell Ward	 Female 77%	 Male 23%	Total learners 65 5%	 Age 35-44 26%	 18%	 11%
Shoeburyness Ward	 Female 65%	 Male 35%	Total learners 80 6%	 Age 35-44 23%	 23%	 9%
Southchurch Ward	 Female 67%	 Male 33%	Total learners 94 8%	 Age 35-44 20%	 33%	 12%
West Shoebury Ward	 Female 81%	 Male 19%	Total learners 67 5%	 Age 35-44 25%	 33%	 16%
Westborough Ward	 Female 68%	 Male 32%	Total learners 80 6%	 Age 35-44 26%	 16%	 23%
Total	 Female 71%	 Male 29%	Total learners 1,233	 Age 35-44 22%	 20%	 14%

Our strengths

Effective governance, accountability & quality systems are in place

Leaders and managers use data and links to Southend 2050 to inform planning and decision making

The 'Employer Careers Carousel' event linked local employers with our students

Flexible and responsive: developing courses to meet local need

A new online teaching platform called 'The Skills Network' has been launched to offer courses via remote learning

Participation and engagement in virtual & face-to-face staff conferences and training has increased

Embedding Digital Skills in all appropriate courses has ensured learners receive training in this vital skill

Staff conference events have offered opportunities for staff to engage in dialogue with the Council and help shape the Colleges future

Effective partnership working has expanded to tailor make provision for targeted groups

Staff are flexible and agile in their working practices to ensure learners receive a good experience

Information, advice and guidance is good with a significant increase in referrals and enrolments

Communication with the staff, learners and local community has been promoted via a SACC newsletter



Outcomes for learners - case studies



Young person with special educational needs

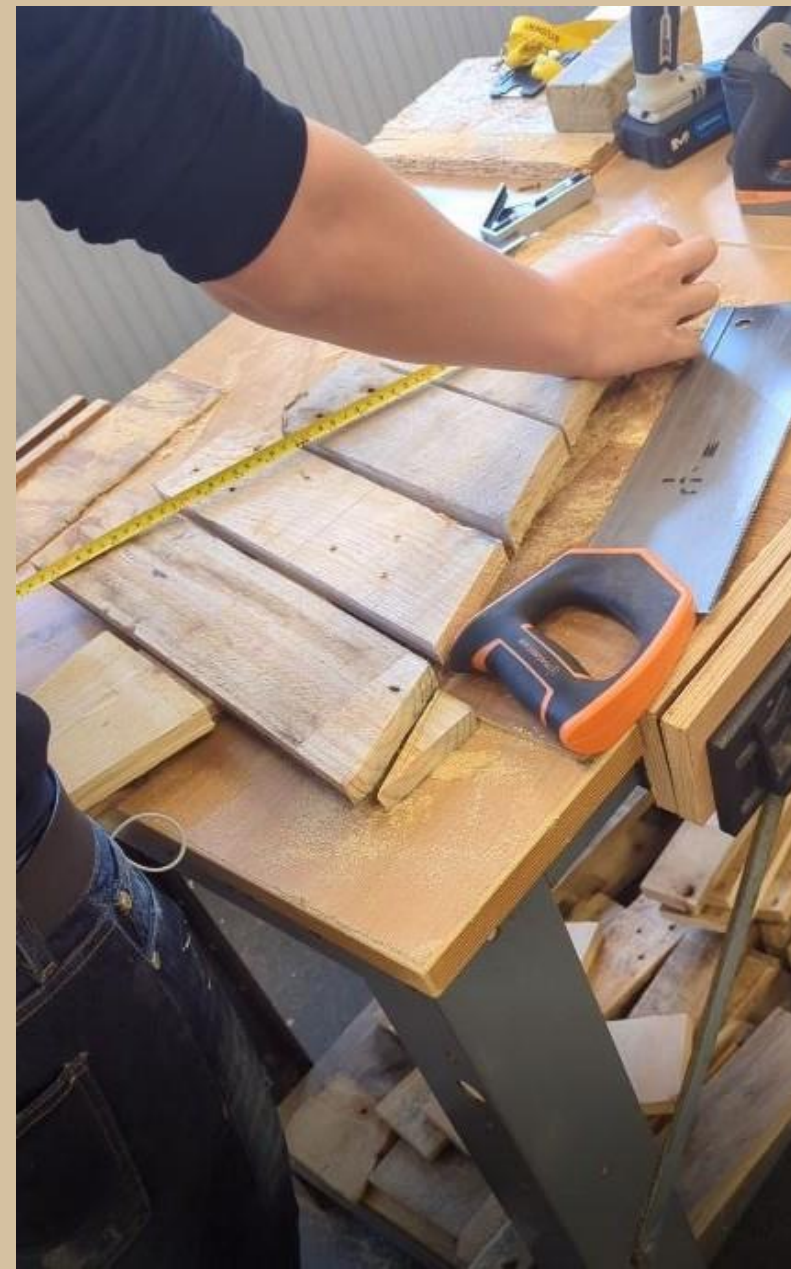
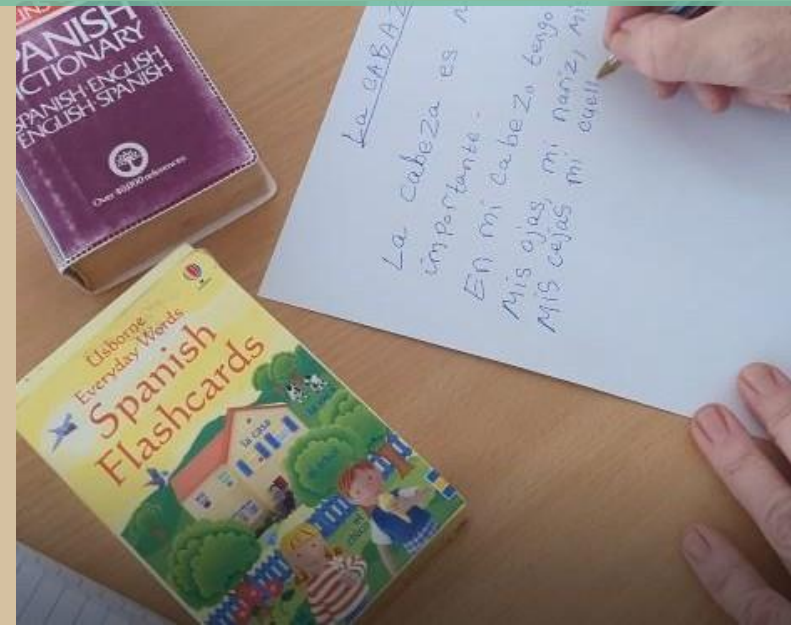
“The college gave me a laptop so I could keep learning, I could still see my class and I didn’t feel so lonely. My teacher Karen is the best”

Adult learner

“My mental health hit rock bottom during lockdown which started to impact on my physical health because of the choices I made. I come to college because it is a caring environment where I feel safe and supported. It is going to take me time to fully recover but the staff know what signs to look out for when I go downhill and put in interventions that ensure I get access to the services I need. The college is my lifeline and it understands how to adapt my learning to improve my wellbeing”

90 year old student attending a community learning course

“We carried on with our fitness class during lockdown, our tutor would set us routines to do safely at home in a chair. It meant I wasn’t just sitting, it was difficult being so isolated but you have to get on with it don’t you and our tutor was always there for us. I was glad to get back into college because it keeps me active and missed not seeing people”



Outcomes for learners

Apprentice

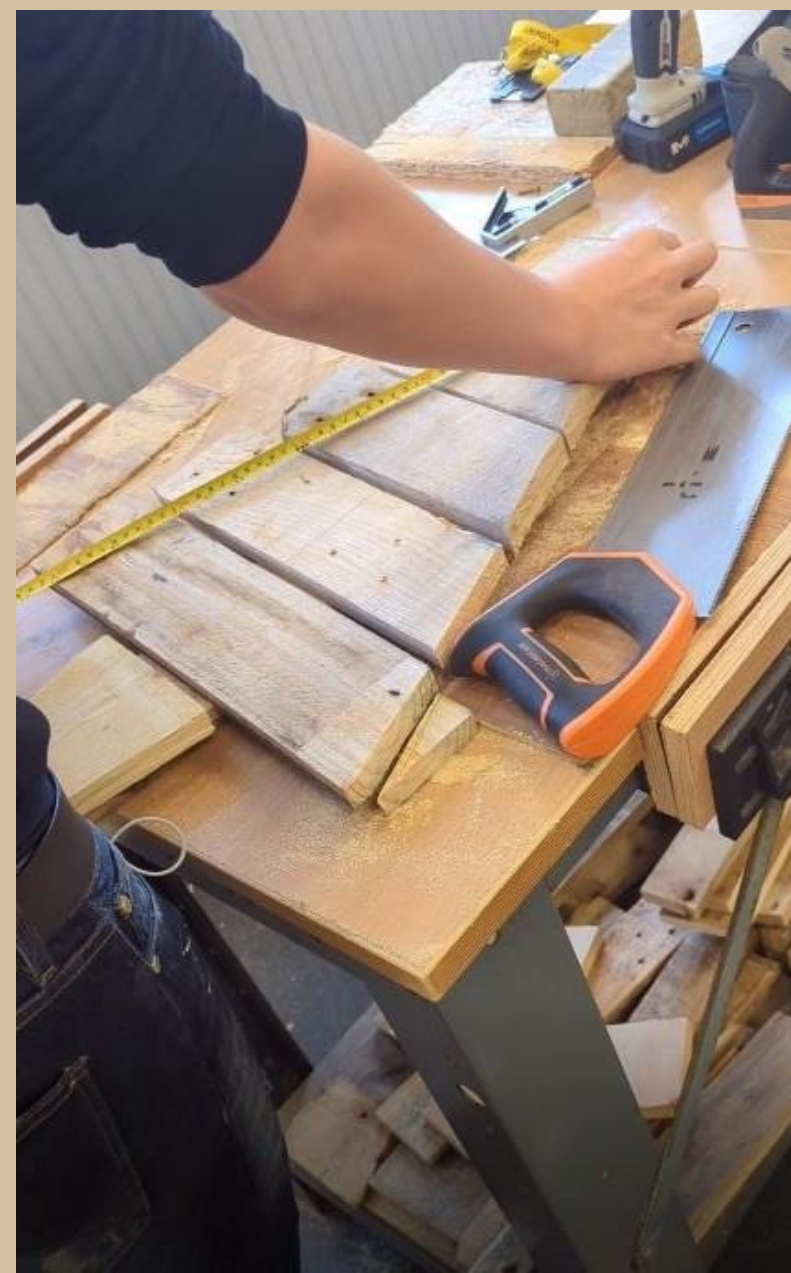
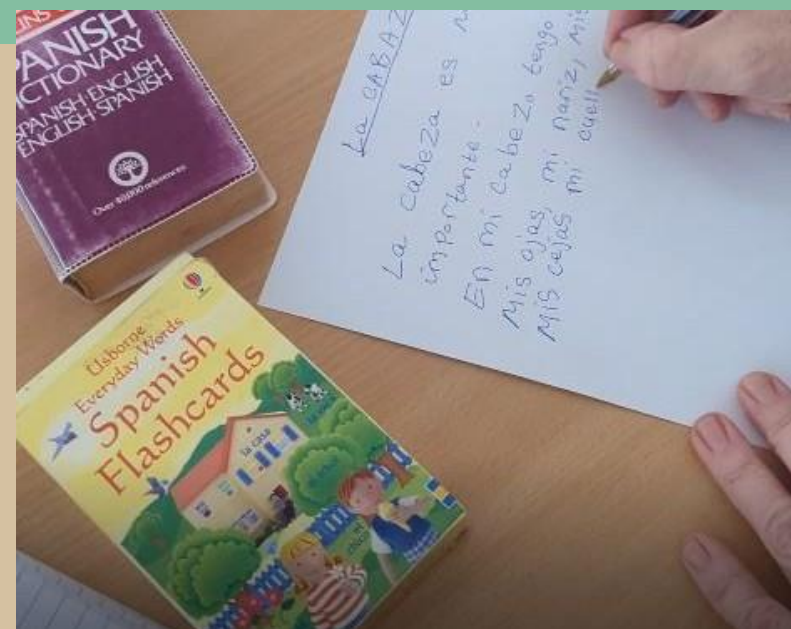
“During the lockdown I lost my job and the college found me a new job so I was able to keep learning and working. I am so grateful it’s been so good for my mental health as well as my opportunities for the future”

Skills for life and work learner – undertaking English qualification for work and her progression

“I was absolutely terrified coming back to college when the restrictions were lifted. I dropped by son at nursery, drove to college and just sat in my car. I nearly drove home then I saw my tutor and some of my class arriving. It made me realise how much I had missed this. I walked into college and saw how safe everything had been made and the care staff had taken to put in a one way system, create space between learners – even the test centre on site was brilliant. I felt so safe and glad to be back – thank you so much”

16-19 study programme

“As part of our construction course we went to South Essex College to see what they did. My whole world opened up before me and suddenly I saw my future. I had been a bit of a cheeky chappy before that but I came back and worked hard, well – for me anyway, to pass my exams and now I’ve been accepted onto a bricklaying course and then I want to be an apprentice.”



1. Improve financial performance to maximise income, reduce costs and secure a sustainable future
2. Ensure the learner experience is excellent from initial contact to destination - all learners will have access to high quality information, advice and guidance that informs learner choice
3. Review how the three current sites are used – promoting co-location with other services and effective use of the buildings to maximise income
4. Target our services to some of our most vulnerable residents including those who will benefit most from upskilling or community engagement
5. Support learners, Southend residents and staff through the cost of living crisis
6. Ensure we hear and act on feedback from learners, staff and partners
7. Improve the timely and accurate collection, reporting, analysis, and dissemination of data to inform planning and decision making
8. Improve our curriculum planning to ensure the purpose of all provision is clear and inclusive, achieves growth, meets local need, employer demand, individual and community aspirations
9. Create high quality teaching, learning and assessment environments focused on good pedagogy to raise standards ensuring learners attend, make progress from their starting points and achieve their full potential
10. Improve the way we work to become efficient, aware of our environment, responsive and focused on positive outcomes for learners.