

Have your say on plans for our adult community education service

We're facing budget pressures like never before and need to save £157m by 2018.

In addition, Government grants which help fund our adult education service have been reduced over the last three years and more cuts are likely to come.

We need to look at how best we can help people learn and develop skills so we're for your views on:

- How, when and where you like to learn
- How you think we should target funding for adult learning
- The proposed increase in fees for adult community education classes.
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Frequently Asked Questions:

Who pays for adult community education in Derbyshire?

Adult community education is run by the county council but is funded by the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) and the Education Funding Agency (EFA). Each year the service receives notice of the funding levels for the next academic year. In order for the service to receive the funding it has to meet specified performance targets including number of learners, type of learning and volumes of qualifications.

What does the adult community education service do?

We provide a range of adult learning opportunities across the county, offering more than 2,500 courses. Last year we had more than 23,000 enrolments. Our courses range from apprenticeships, English and maths through to computing, languages, arts, health and well-being. Ofsted have rated us a 'Good' provider and the success rates of our learners is very high with more than 82% of learners achieving their learning aim.

Where do we offer our courses?

We currently have a network of 23 main centres across the county. Details of our venues can be found by visiting our web pages [here](#). We also use many community venues such as village halls and schools.

Why do we want to change the fees we charge?

Our funding agencies and the Government expect us to increase the amount of money we charge learners who can afford to pay more and charge more for types of courses which are not a high priority for the them. We are also looking at bringing our fees in line with what other local authorities' charge; so we can offer as broad a range of courses to as many people as possible.

Why conduct the consultation;

In addition to the £157 million cuts the county council has to find, the value of the funding from the SFA & EFA is reducing. This means we have less money to fund adult community education. We are now considering ways we can provide courses and classes with fewer resources. To inform our planning and decision making, we need to hear your views.

Who can complete the consultation?

We want views from as many people as possible, whether or not you have taken part in one of our courses. We would like to hear from anyone who might be affected by any changes.

How can I take part in the consultation?

You can fill in an online questionnaire by going to www.derbyshire.gov.uk/adultedfuture or you can request a paper copy from Call Derbyshire on 01629 53319. Alternatively, pick up one of our questionnaires from one of our learning centres or Derbyshire libraries. Please ask staff for one.

What will happen after the consultation?

Views gathered from the consultation will be used to inform the recommendations we make to cabinet. Any planned changes will be reported to service users and other interested parties

When will the consultation End

Sunday 14 December 2014

Objections to ‘the about you’ question

These are standard consultation questions. It will not be possible to identify anyone individually: we need to know if we have got views from a cross section of society