

Newham Adult Learning Service

NALS Advisory Board: Minutes 02-11-2020



Minutes

Meeting: NALS Advisory Board
Date/Time: 4.00 – 6.00 p.m. on Monday 3/11/2020
Venue: Zoom Meeting
Chair: John Hartley
Minutes: Srabantika Dasgupta

Attendees:

John Hartley (Chair)
Angelique Grygorcewicz-Townsend
Derek Barrett
Louise Vera
Val Reid
Sara McCann
Jan Prendergast
Ayse Lacy
Marie Lloyd
Srabantika Dasgupta

Apologies:

Margaret Almond
Paul Schaffer

Topic	Actions
Welcome and Introduction: Paul Schaffer unable to attend due to Covid-19 infection. Steve Brayshaw invited. JH sought clarification whether Steve Brayshaw was the relevant Cllr for the NALS Advisory Board. DB confirmed that he was.	
Minutes of last meeting (09/06/20) JH asked for an update on funding bids mentioned in the minutes of the last meeting. AGT clarified the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 139 K funding bid to the GLA to upskill residents on soft skills and prepare them for civil service jobs has been successful. AG working with DB to develop the offer.- 175 K funding bid to Covid Emergency Response Fund successful; will help the service address digital poverty by providing laptops and mobiles to learners, 450 devices approved.- 100 K ESOL for Integration bid to Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government successful. Fund is to support learners who are hardest to reach and new to English language learning.- 40 K bid to buy equipment to allow for live streaming from lessons has also been successful.	
Updates (SM) <ul style="list-style-type: none">- GCSE Eng and Maths Results: Centre based grades were used.	

<p>GCSE English - 45% of learners achieved above grade 5 (+21% from 2018 - 19), 72% achieved grades 4 – 9 (+21% from 2018 – 19)</p> <p>GCSE Maths – 58% achieved above grade 5 (+2% from 2018 – 19. 80% got grades 4 – 9 (-1% from 2018 – 19)</p> <p>Functional Skills Eng and Maths Good pass rate of 72% for Level 2 English FS Maths pass rate significantly up on Level 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Other accredited provision ITQ 2- students’ work was sent for external moderation in the usual way. 	
<p>Open Learning update (SM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Learners access online courses completely remotely. - All online courses from April – July 2020 were offered free to learners. - 55 new courses offered last term with 1000 new enrolments. - New enrolments on Open learning courses this term has significantly reduced – 66 so far. - AGT meeting with GLA to see if it is possible to get an exemption to offer these courses free to learners this term. 	<p>AGT to update in next meeting.</p>
<p>Term B offer (AGT)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Three modes of delivery: face to face and live streamed delivery (at Forest Gate, Beckton Globe and Gainsborough Learning Centre), blended delivery and online learning. - Enrolment is down by 10 – 15% from before lockdown (good compared to some AEB providers who have seen greater decline). - Attendance has been low from the beginning of term and may be further impacted by lockdown 2. - There will be a scrutiny of attendance in the first week of lockdown to decide if courses should be delivered from the centres or should move to remote delivery. - Tutors now have Smarter Newham devices for blended delivery. - Denise Herman working on Future Skills (soft skills) provisions. - Priority areas to address through adult learning provisions have been identified as digital needs, language skills, employment needs and parental engagement. 	
<p>Update (DB)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jane Sherwood and Dan Hill Jane Sherwood took early retirement and Dan Hill has now left his position with Community Wealth Building. Derek Barrett is acting up in Jane Sherwood’s position at present. - Cultural Review Jane Sherwood and a representative from HR conducted a Cultural Review of NALS. A series of interviews were carried out and many members of staff contributed to it. Results of the cultural review has been shared in full with all NALS staff for transparency. JH made the point that if grievances have been addressed to the wrong level, it should be sent back to the person responsible for dealing with it. Repeated submission of grievances subsequently found to be without foundation could lead to disciplinary procedures. 	<p>DB to send Cultural Review Results doc to Advisory Board.</p>

<p>DB updated that Community Wealth Building is developing the “Our Newham” brand of which NALS will be an integral part. The “Our Newham” website will be an important place for MALS to market its programmes.</p>	<p>AGT and DB to feedback on Our Newham.</p>
<p>Service Review (AGT)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The conclusions on the Cultural Review recommended that a Service Review of NALS be done. - Policy of teaching learning and assessments, current structure as a service and how it fits within the LBN structure, current working practices, strategies to support staff and working with partners are all to be reviewed. - Review to focus on the learning journey of adult learners in Newham. - Review to begin before Christmas and will go on for 4 – 8 weeks, with a final report projected to be completed in February 2021. New structure to start operating from the new financial year. 	<p>AGT and DB to update Advisory Board in the next meeting.</p>
<p>Board membership vacancies There is a vacancy for another learner representative on the Advisory Board however members agreed that this would be taken up when we return to more normal times.</p>	
<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Business Support is going through a service review as part of an LBN service wide service review. It is important that NALS still has the exams and MIS support services. (AGT) 	<p>Feedback by AGT and DB to advisory board.</p>
<p>Date of next meeting (via Zoom) Monday 18th January 5.30 – 7.30 p.m.</p>	