

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
26TH APRIL 2010**

DARLINGTON ESOL ACTION PLAN

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to inform Scrutiny Committee members of the contents of the Darlington ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) Action Plan

Summary

2. Local Authorities have been asked to lead on the development of an action plan in order to ensure that English language provision for adults meets local needs, is fundable and is delivered through a partnership arrangement.

Recommendations

3. It is recommended that:-
 - (a) The contents of the Darlington ESOL Action Plan be approved

**Murray Rose
Director of Children's Services**

Background Papers

Darlington ESOL Action Plan

author: Ruth Bernstein Extension 349634

S17 Crime and Disorder	This Action Plan has no direct impact on Crime and Disorder
Health and Well Being	Effective language provision should help the minority ethnic community access health care better
Sustainability	This Action Plan has no impact on sustainability
Diversity	The Action Plan is intended to provide learning opportunities for our minority ethnic community who are currently underrepresented in learning
Wards Affected	All wards but with a greater impact on wards with higher numbers of minority ethnic residents
Groups Affected	Minority ethnic communities
Budget and Policy Framework	There is no direct impact as the funding goes directly to learning providers
Key Decision	This is not a key decision
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	Efficient and targeted delivery will support both the Prosperous and Aspiring themes
Efficiency	There are no implications for efficiency

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

4. In July 2009 the Government published 'Implementing the New Approach to ESOL' in response to the number of concerns raised about how ESOL provision would be funded. The Government's vision is to 'support individuals not currently engaging with or progressing in ESOL learning, in order to support their integration into society and the workplace, thus improving community cohesion'
5. 'A New Approach to ESOL' has a number of objectives including allowing local authorities to have more say over who has priority for ESOL funding and supporting providers delivering ESOL.
6. Several meetings with stakeholders and providers resulted in the identification of the priority groups in Darlington and a series of actions to be taken. The identified priority groups are:
 - (a) women who have poor or no English language skills
 - (b) Those who are isolated from their communities or are new arrivals
 - (c) Young people who are not progressing in learning or who are under-represented in learning
 - (d) Those living in priority neighbourhoods
 - (e) Those seeking employment

The group identified some key objectives which would improve outcomes. These are:

- a) To develop provision which allows women to participate in learning. Women from the BME communities are under-represented in learning
- b) To review their funding streams to determine who is eligible for support. A signposting and referral system will need to be developed
- c) Providers may need to review their curriculum offer for young people
- d) To review provision and location of delivery in order to support priority neighbourhoods

New roles and responsibilities have been established for the Local Authority, for the Skills Funding Agency, for providers, for the voluntary and community sector, for Job Centre Plus and for local partners. Local Authorities are expected to take a lead and ensure that all appropriate funding streams that can address the needs of the identified priority groups are considered and mobilised.

Outcome of Consultation

7. The ESOL Action Plan has been developed in consultation with Members, providers, Local Authority, voluntary and community sector and LSC