



Skills & Employment Committee

17 June 2024

Title:	Wider Outcomes Framework
Report of:	Jaki Bradley, Head of Adult Education Budget
Lead Member:	Cllr Lucy Nethsingha, Lead Member for Skills
Public Report:	Yes
Key Decision:	No
Voting Arrangements:	No vote required

Recommendations:

A	The Skills and Employment Committee is asked to note and scrutinise CPCA's Wider Outcomes Framework (Phase One) which is designed to help us more effectively evidence the impact of learning beyond training 'completions' and achieving qualifications - see Appendix A
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Strategic Objectives:

The proposals within this report fit under the following strategic objective(s):

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Achieving ambitious skills and employment opportunities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Enabling resilient Communities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Achieving good growth
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Achieving Best Value and High Performance

1. Purpose

1.1	The CPCA's Wider Outcomes Framework is designed to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of how the CPCA utilises its devolved Adult Education Budget funding.
1.2	In 2024/25, we will pilot the framework across our Community Learning Provision. We will then review, amend and roll out the framework across all AEB provision in 2025/26.
1.3	This paper sets out Phase One of the Framework which has been developed by an external consultancy which has a wealth of experience in developing similar frameworks for Combined Authorities and other public sector organisations.
1.4	The CPCA's Wider Outcomes Framework is aligned with recommendations made in an external impact evaluation of the Adult Education Budget. A summary was shared with the Committee in January 2024
1.5	In March 2024, the CPCA's Head of Adult Education Budget presented a paper to the Skills and Employment Committee entitled Improving Efficiency and Effectiveness (Adult Education Budget). This paper set out our plan to develop a Wider Outcomes Framework to help us more effectively assess the impact of learning provision.

2. Background

2.1	<p>At the outset of devolution, Community Learning provision was disrupted due to the strategic decision to focus on formal technical skills. This resulted in a significant reduction in funding allocated to Community Learning.</p> <p>In subsequent years, a strategic decision was taken to reallocate Community Learning funding to a level of 20% of the overall budget. This has enabled providers to reinstate provision.</p>
2.2	<p>The next step is to ensure that the funding is utilised most effectively by reaching into the most disadvantaged communities and breaking down barriers which traditionally make it difficult for residents to engage with the skill system.</p>
2.3	<p>Therefore, we are undertaking a review of Community Learning in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understand more fully the impact of the funding and provision in order to champion its use• Identify areas of best practice and amplify• Introduce additional guidance and more consistent approaches to funding in order to improve impact across the region.
2.4	<p>A critical element of evidencing learning impact is an Outcomes Framework which takes us beyond measuring training completions and qualifications achieved - these are outputs, not wider outcomes.</p>
2.5	<p>The CPCA has commissioned research into the use of outcomes frameworks nationally and how they can inform the development of the CPCA's local outcomes framework.</p> <p>The results of this work are set out in Appendix A.</p>

3. Appendices

3.1	Appendix A. CPCA Wider Outcomes Framework – Phase One Report
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4. Implications

Financial Implications	
4.1	Costs are budgeted from the AEB management top slice, used to facilitate administration costs
Legal Implications	
4.2	Section 3 of the Local Government Act 1999 requires that a best value authority, which includes the CPCA, must plan to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.
Public Health Implications	
4.3	Community Learning, in particular, is strongly linked with learners who experience health issues. Acquiring new skills is widely regarded as a steppingstone to mitigating some of the impact of health issues. The more we can understand the wider impact of our provision, the more we can be effective in helping individuals with disabilities and long-term health issues to realise their full potential - economically and socially.
Environmental & Climate Change Implications	
4.4	N/A
Other Significant Implications	
4.5	N/A
Background Papers	
4.6	Improving Efficiency & Effectiveness (AEB) - 4 March 2024 report