

LEICESTERSHIRE ADULT LEARNING SERVICE

ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT 2023-2024

1. Statement of Purpose

Leicestershire County Council's Adult Learning Service (LALS) aims to engage adults into learning and support them develop skills and behaviours they need to improve their lives.

Strategic Goals

LALS programmes support the objectives of a number of key strategies, in particular Delivering Wellbeing and Opportunity in Leicestershire: Adults and Communities Department Strategy 2020–2024 and the County Council's Strategic Plan 2022-2026.

- Great Communities
- Safe and Well
- Improved Opportunities
- Clean and Green
- Strong Economy, Transport, and Infrastructure

LALS Mission Statement

LALS mission is to improve the lives of the people of Leicestershire using education as a vehicle for social mobility and increased life chances. We will support people, communities, and businesses to develop and engage in learning programmes to suit their needs with particular focus on the following themes:

- Building confidence
- Promoting independence
- Preparation for further learning
- Preparation for employment
- Improving essential skills (English, including English for Speakers of Other Languages, maths and digital provision)
- Equipping parents/carers to support children's learning
- Health and well-being
- Participation and widening engagement in learning
- Developing stronger communities

In each of these themes we will contribute to the delivery of priorities in positive partnership with other agencies, voluntary organisations, and providers, to develop learning activities that are driven by communities and businesses across the county. We will direct more resources towards the most vulnerable and disadvantaged and endeavour to actively engage those least likely to participate. In doing this, we aim to play a part in equalising access to learning, achievement, and progression, and provide best value for money for Leicestershire residents.

2. Context and place

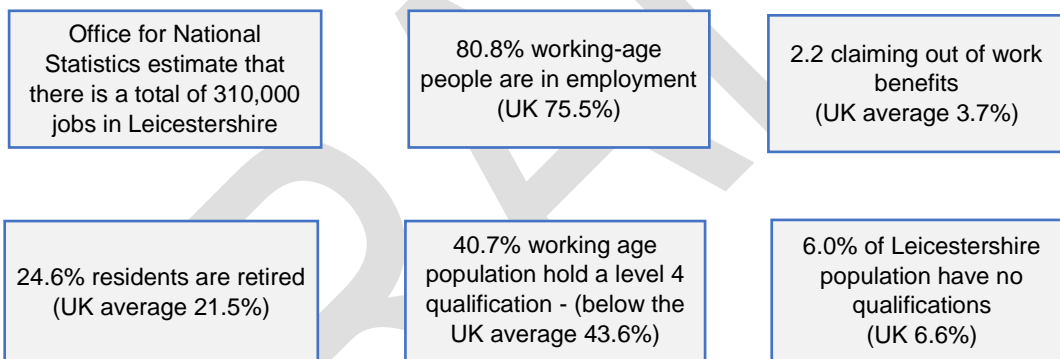
LALS serves a county that is predominantly rural by area, but urban by population. The total population of the county is 712,300 with 77.6% of the population aged 20 or over, compared to 76.9% for England. The county has experienced a 9.5% increase in population between 2011 – 2021.

Within the county, 69% of the population live in urban areas, 18% in rural town and fringe settlements and 12% in rural areas. The population is ageing and becoming more ethnically diverse, with a significant Asian/Asian British population (6.3%).



In August 2022, 2.2% of the working age population of the county were claiming universal credit compared to 3.3% in the East Midlands and 3.7% in Great Britain.

Charnwood experienced the highest overall number of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) and Universal Credit (UC) claimants in August 2022, with 2,530 claimants, followed by Hinckley and Bosworth with 1,705.



- Bosworth has seen higher rates of claimants with a higher proportion of working age population claiming JSA or UC.
- 28.5% of the working age population of Leicestershire are students (UK average 26.6%).
- There is a high percentage of employees in manufacturing jobs located in Melton, Hinckley and Bosworth and Charnwood, compared with other types of employment.
- North West Leicestershire has a high percentage of transport and storage related jobs.
- Charnwood has a high concentration of workers in the Education industry, followed by manufacturing.
- Blaby has a high percentage of employees in Professional, Scientific and Technical jobs.
- Leicestershire compares well against the East Midlands and Great Britain for the qualifications achieved and in 2021 - 81.6% of 16-64-year-olds had achieved a NVQ2 or higher, compared to 74.7% across the East Midlands. Leicestershire has 40.7% of people with an NVQ4 or above, just below the average for Great Britain of 43.6%

Leicestershire Local Skills Improvement Plan

The Leicestershire Local Skills Improvement Plan (LLSIP) produced by the East Midlands Chamber, is one of eight employer representative bodies testing an employer-led approach to skills planning. The LLSIP focuses on the knowledge, skills and behaviour (KSBs) that businesses identify as priorities to meet growth aspirations.

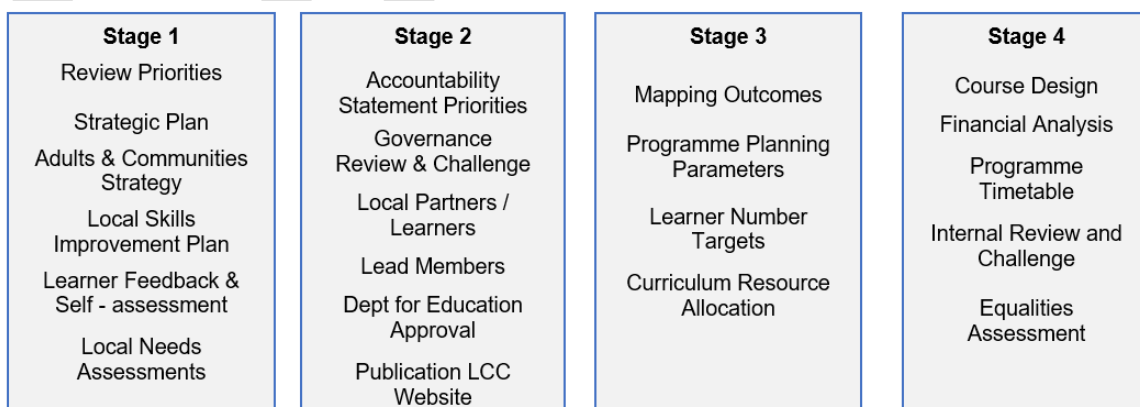
Key Findings

- Knowledge - across all sectors, technical and vocational knowledge areas are the most important to a business's success. The next top four identified knowledge requirements are: basic literacy, basic numeracy, health and safety, basic IT.
- Skills - team working is the most important skill across all sectors, followed by, verbal communication, specific occupational skills, written communication, and time management. In addition to technical and vocational knowledge and skills, employers highly value basic numeracy and literacy, along with other more transferable knowledge and skill areas.
- Behaviours – the LLSIP notes that employers value the right behaviours in their employees more than knowledge and skill areas. Being a team player is the most important behaviour, followed by, being hard working, reliable, resilient, and honest.

3. Approach to Developing the Accountability Statement

LALS Accountability Statement will help ensure the curriculum offer meets the needs of local priorities. The proposal is to integrate an annual refresh of the statement into stage 2 of the existing planning process prior to the preparation of programme planning parameters and timetabling of courses.

Our approach will provide an opportunity for partners to comment on programme and help steer planning proposals to ensure local needs are met and progression pathways are provided. Prior to the courses being scheduled the accountability statement will be reviewed and approved by elected members.



Planning the Curriculum Offer

The adult learning programme planning cycle draws on a range of evidence to inform the final curriculum offer. The timeline commences in November and finishes in April the previous academic year. The service develops curriculum planning parameters from an analysis of regional and local priorities. In-year performance data is used including, levels of achievement, learner destinations, end of course evaluations. Performance is also measured against regional and national benchmarks where these are available to establish if LALS or another local provider is best placed to deliver a specific programme.

Programme Planning Parameters

Once the local needs analysis has been completed and priorities are approved by Elected Members the programme planning parameters are prepared by senior managers. Targets are set for curriculum teams including learner numbers, target groups, courses, geographical locations.

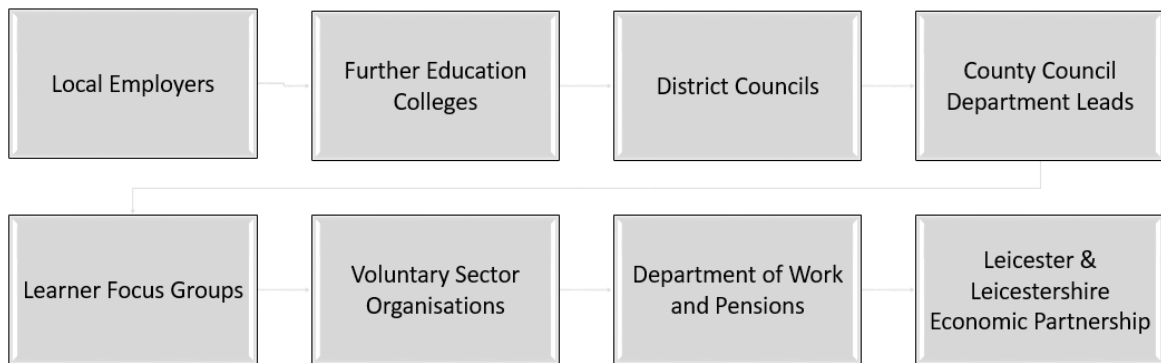
A service fees policy is agreed to ensure there is a consistent pricing of courses, fee remission and learner support funds are available to remove barriers to learning. To help generate additional income, full cost recovery programmes will be included to help cover service overheads.

The final stage of planning involves scrutiny from senior leaders and challenge to curriculum teams to test the strength of the rationale for including each course within the programme offer. Prior to final approval consideration is given to:

- Alignment to intent and strategic goals
- Outcomes including employment, progression, volunteering personal development and wellbeing.
- Progression pathways
- Effective use of resources
- Geographical cover
- Alignment to employer needs
- Careers Information Advice and Guidance
- Areas of possible duplication
- Alignment to regional skills improvement plans
- Inclusion of enrichment activities
- Is the LA the best placed provider to deliver the course? – expertise, resource, previous performance

Working together to meet local needs

The (LLSIP) identifies a need for further collaboration between learning providers to provide a comprehensive curriculum offer for the region. A number of key partners have been identified and the planning cycle is being tailored to include more opportunities for constructive dialogue to further improve the regional skills offer.



In 2023 District Councils will be allocated UK Shared Prosperity Funding (UKSPF) and it will and discussions are currently ongoing to help ensure there is an integrated skills offer that meets local needs and avoids duplication.

The service also intends to build on the recent partnership work developed through the national Multiply Project which has proved beneficial for engaging target groups and providing progression routes. In addition to in-house Multiply programmes the service is working with three Further Education Colleges and 10 organisations from the voluntary sector.

4. Contribution towards National, Regional and Local Priorities for Learning and Skills

LCC Strategic Plan	Contribution towards National, Regional and Local Priorities for Learning and Skills	Why are we doing it?
Great Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will continue to support community integration through the delivery of a curriculum that appeals to people from different backgrounds. English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) programmes will support language progression from pre-entry to level 2. The programme will be expanded to 560 places helping to meet demand and for increasing number of residents settling in the county including programmes for those from Afghanistan, Hong Kong, Syria and Ukraine. To provide more opportunities for local voluntary groups to meet and engage, where there is a positive impact on outcomes, we will provide more access to our three major centres at Thurmaston, Enderby and Loughborough to community groups. We will link with these groups and deliver programmes that develop the skills and confidence of people wishing to volunteer for example, skills to run local services. We will encourage residents and local businesses to take more control of steering curriculum design by convening 4 engagement events across the county to help capture their views during the curriculum planning process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LCC Strategic Plan – Our goal is for Leicestershire to have active and inclusive communities in which people support each other and participate in service design and delivery. Our Community Learning programmes will empower learners to take greater control of their lives. Course content will help learners develop a greater appreciation how they can contribute and influence things that have an impact on their own quality of life and the communities in which they live. There has been a decrease in the percentage of residents who feel that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together (from 96% in 2019/20 to 91% in 2021/22). The ability to speak English provides greater opportunities for individuals to integrate and contribute to the local community and enterprise for the benefit of all. Support the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector and town and parish councils in their roles as providers of community-managed services and as community leaders.
Safe and Well	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The programme offer will bring together people from different backgrounds helping them learn from each other and further develop tolerance and understanding. We will deliver a Learning for Wellbeing and Mental Health programme providing 1,000 spaces on these programmes to support maintain their independence and recover from poor mental health. We will strengthen links with partners to improve referral from Social Prescribers and other agencies. We will create a safe learning environment and embed activities that develop confidence. Through these activities we will promote trust and respect for British Fundamental Values. We will empower individuals to speak up and take control of their own wellbeing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LCC Strategic Plan – our goal is to work with partners to increase community cohesion and tackle hate crime. Develop behaviours, attitudes, knowledge and skills which support learners to improve or maintain their wellbeing and resilience which may also contribute to preventing or reducing the need to access other services is a key priority of the A&C Strategy – <i>Delivering Wellbeing and Opportunity in Leicestershire</i>. Programmes will help address social isolation by connecting people and promoting social interaction in a safe learning environment where learners with shared experiences can make beneficial and supportive social links. Providing opportunities for learners to use their lived experience of mental illness to gain a qualification and improve employability prospects

<p>Improved Opportunities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will deliver a range of English and maths programmes including English and Maths functional skills and GCSE's enrolling 650 learners across these subject areas. These programmes will be offered on-site and online to provide greater flexibility for learners to attend. In partnership with LCC Children and Families Services we will support young adults with Additional Needs gain work experience piloting the delivery of a Supported Internships programme for 10 learners with educational health care plans (EHCPs). Our Learning for Independence programme will support 350 individuals with Additional Needs. The programme will focus on enabling learners to improve health and well-being, increase independence and self-advocacy, engage with and be active in the community, progress to identified positive destinations including transition from Children's and Social Care services. We will improve digital inclusion, increasing skills and confidence through the delivery of basic digital skills qualifications enrolling 500 learners to these programmes. In partnership with schools, academies and LCC Children and Family Welfare Services we will provide 800 places to our family learning. These programmes will be targeted at more deprived areas. In addition to providing adults with basic English and Math support these programmes will equip parents with the skills to support their children's education and development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The delivery of basic skills courses will help learners develop skills valued by employers including communication, team working these programmes will embed the development of positive behaviours such as timekeeping, reliability, respect, and values. The importance of these characteristics is highlighted in the Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP). Supporting young adults with additional needs to gain work experience whilst continuing their learning provides an important progression pathway. The programme will help these groups reach their potential, become independent and contribute to the local economy through long term employment. The learning for Independence programme is a discrete service for learners with additional needs. Courses develop learner independence in everyday life reducing demand on carers and support services. Courses also develop the behaviours and attitudes that enhance learners' abilities to positively represent themselves and contributed to the local community. According to recent surveys conducted with local employers, Digital skills were identified as a barrier to productivity. Poor skills also limit individuals' ability to access services and can limit opportunities for career progression. Improving digital skills can reduce social isolation and reduce the impact this has on wellbeing, particularly in the more rural parts of the county. LCC Children and Families Partnership Plan aims: to ensure children receive the best start in life, are safe and free from harm and support families to be resilient and self-sufficient. There are a range of benefits to parents from family learning including, the development of basic skills in English, maths, parenting skills, self-esteem, self-confidence.
<p>Clean and Green</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The curriculum will include activities to raise awareness of sustainable living and promote the protection of our natural environment. In collaboration with LCC Environment Services we will deliver a range of courses to help people minimise their impact on the environment. Community courses will include the popular Love Food Hate Waste, Reuse and Mend programmes previously delivered and we will pilot new programmes to help individuals reduce their carbon footprint and adopt behaviours to enhance the Leicestershire environment. We will increase opportunities for learning online to reduce the need for learners to travel to centres with 15% of learners participating remotely. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To achieve net zero carbon emissions in Leicestershire we need communities to take action to reduce their environmental impacts, such as by being more resource-efficient and travelling by sustainable modes. A key action within the LCC Strategic Plan is to '<i>Raise environmental awareness amongst local communities, schools and businesses to promote positive action</i>' National government has identified the need to reduce food waste which is currently estimated to be 10million tonnes per year, as a national priority due to the impact on the environment. Delivering more programmes online will help limit LCC's impact on the environment by reducing CO2 emissions from staff and learner travel as infrastructure is developed to provide a more sustainable means of transport.
<p>Strong Economy, Transport and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work Based Learning programmes will contribute positively to local economic growth, and we will enrol a total of 60 Apprentices onto Payroll, Social Care, Teaching and Learning and Business Administration and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In addition to the contribution to the LCC Strategic plan activities map to priorities identified within Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) priorities and Leicester and Leicestershire Economic Growth Strategy LLEP. Adult

Infrastructure

Management programmes. We will attain an overall achievement rate of 68% for our Apprenticeship programme.

- We will grow our basic skills programmes focusing on Digital, English, Maths. The programme offer will include basic introductory courses such as the Essential Digital qualification, English and Maths functional skills and GCSE's to provide individuals the foundations they need to support them in their personal or professional life. We will attain an overall achievement rate of 84% for our adult skills programme.
- We will create stronger links between the service's Family Learning and ESOL provision to enable next steps for learners within these areas.
- Our Work and Skills Leicestershire programme is designed to support unemployed or those at risk of losing their job find sustainable employment. We will work with District Councils to explore how this important programme is maintained and extended to other areas.
- In addition to the support and guidance provided through enrolment and initial assessment activity when learners join courses, we will provide a discrete Information Advice and Guidance (IAG) service to 500 clients who will benefit from a personalised career development plan.

learning apprenticeships will support the delivery of a highly skilled workforce and these programmes will contribute to the wider workforce strategy to recruit to hard to fill posts e.g. within adult social care.

- LSIP report notes that across all sectors, technical and vocational knowledge areas are the most important to a business's success. The next top four identified knowledge requirements are: basic literacy, basic numeracy, health & safety, basic IT.
- These basic skills courses will be targeted towards disadvantaged groups which will help them progress to positive destinations whether this be entering employment, career progression or going into further or higher education.
- Adults with low levels of basic skills often require support with planning their career progression and effective IAG is therefore essential to support individuals find the right programmes to support their needs. Combining IAG with effective initial assessment ensures individuals find the right level course increasing their chances of achieving their goals. IAG also provides signposting to other services helping prevent higher level of support where there is timely intervention.
- To meet the skills needs of the region there is a requirement for adults already in the workplace to upskill and good IAG support is important to find the right training programme or apprenticeship.

DRAFT

Corporation Statement/Sign-off

On behalf of Leicestershire County Council, it is hereby confirmed that the plan as set out above reflects an agreed statement of purpose, aims and objectives as approved by:

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The plan will be published on the Council’s website within three months of the start of the new academic year and can be accessed from the following link:

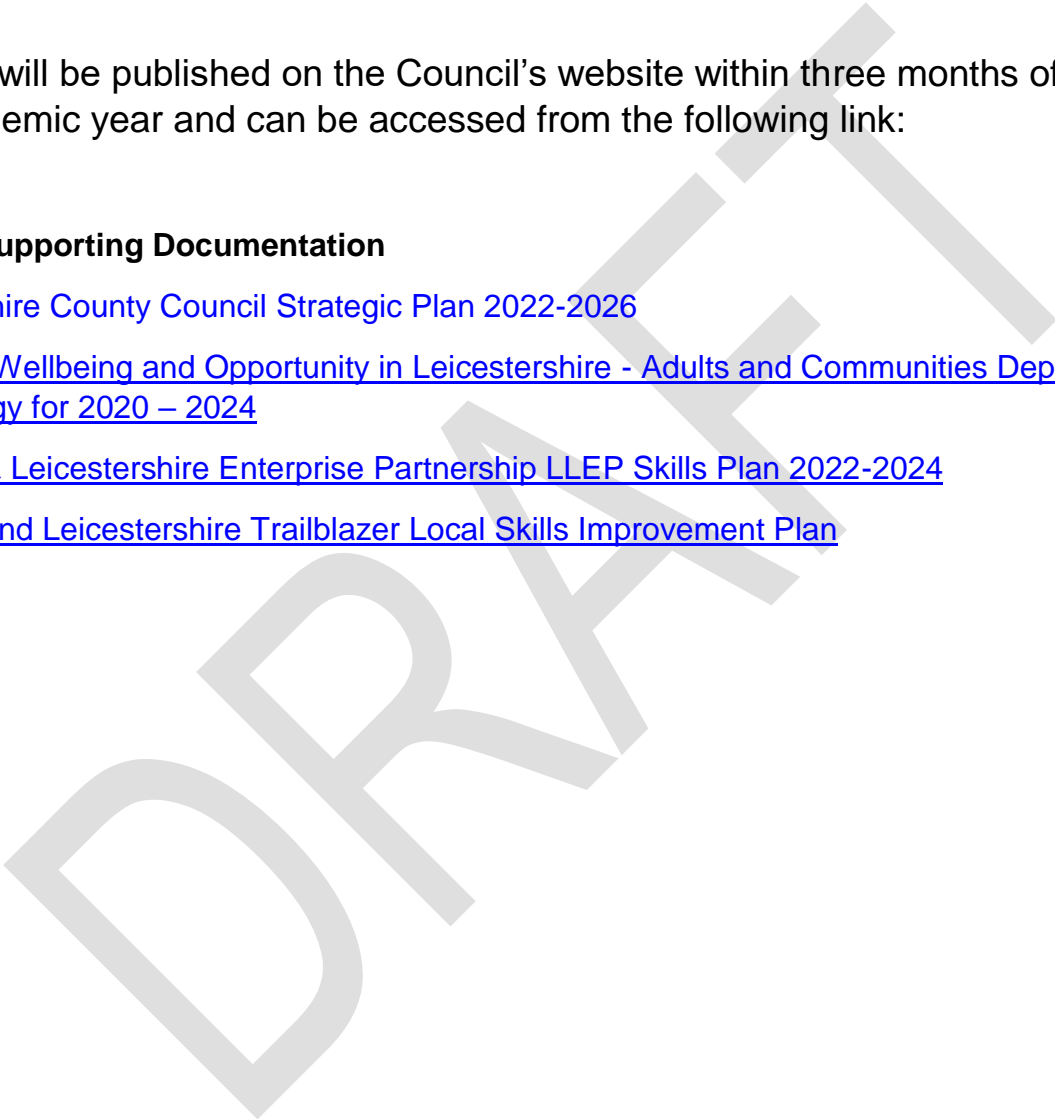
Links to Supporting Documentation

[Leicestershire County Council Strategic Plan 2022-2026](#)

[Delivering Wellbeing and Opportunity in Leicestershire - Adults and Communities Department Ambitions and Strategy for 2020 – 2024](#)

[Leicester & Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership LLEP Skills Plan 2022-2024](#)

[Leicester and Leicestershire Trailblazer Local Skills Improvement Plan](#)



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