

Press Release

Communications PO Box 11. Chelmsford CM1 1LX

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Ofsted rates adult learning in Essex outstanding

Adult Community Learning and the Vocational Learning Team, Learning and Development Service, both part of Essex County Council, have recently been graded 'outstanding' following a joint Ofsted inspection.

The Ofsted report highlights how leadership and management are outstanding and the overall effectiveness of the provider is outstanding.

Adult Community Learning (ACL) offer more than 4,000 courses and training programmes at local venues across the county. In the last academic year more than 41,000 adults enrolled on courses.

Vocational Learning (VL) deliver work based qualification provision to the workforce of Essex County Council and partners, including apprenticeship opportunities for young people and adults.

Lord Hanningfield, Leader of Essex County Council said: "It is a great triumph for our Adult Community Learning and Vocational Learning teams to receive an outstanding grade. I wish to add my congratulations and wish them every success for the future."

Moreover, inspection grades have improved from satisfactory to outstanding in health, care and public services, and arts, media and publishing. The report highlighted a number of key strengths including; 'High success rates on work-based learning programmes, high achievement rates for learners on non-accredited courses and outstanding equality of opportunity arrangements.' Learners commented on the well equipped centres, the high standard of teaching and that staff go out of their way to be helpful.

Commenting on the report Lynsi Hayward-Smith, Principal Officer at ACL said: "This is a tremendous achievement for ACL and VL; to achieve the highest Ofsted grading is testament to the skill, professionalism and dedication of the staff involved.

Members of the community that enrol on the ACL courses and Essex County Council and Partner's employees which participate in the VL courses can be

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confident that they will enjoy a rewarding and outstanding learning experience.

If anyone is interested in enrolling in any of the Adult Community Learning courses then please visit Essex County Council's website www.essex.gov.uk.

To see the report in full visit the Ofsted website www.ofsted.gov.uk

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