

London Borough of Bromley

PART 1 - PUBLIC

Briefing for Education Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee 23 January 2013

ANNUAL REPORT – BROMLEY ADULT EDUCATION COLLEGE

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1. Summary

- 1.1 This report provides members with an overview of work of the College during the 2011/12 academic year whilst it was part of the Renewal & Recreation Directorate

2. THE BRIEFING

2.1 Re Positioning the Service

In March 2011 the Director of R&R commissioned a review to examine the strategic options available to Bromley Adult Education College (BAEC) given the known funding cuts to the national adult education budget.

The review board, chaired by the Assistant Director of Organisational Improvement, considered a total of six options, evaluating the advantages and disadvantages of each. The options were subsequently narrowed down to two models, that of remaining part of Bromley Council directly providing adult education for residents, but rationalising the service to reflect the lower levels of funding, or merge the service with Bromley College of Further and Higher Education (BCFHE).

Both BAEC and BCFHE were asked to provide business cases to demonstrate how their differing proposals would protect and enhance the adult learning offer for Bromley. Following a review of these proposals, the review board concluded that the most appropriate option at the time was for BAEC to implement its proposed internal restructure.

Consultation for this restructure commenced on 8 March 2012, closed on 18th April and the new structure was in place for the start of the new academic year in September 2012.

2.2 Profile of Provision at BAEC

The provision is divided into three main areas, which are reflected in the current business structure.

Adult Skills: This area of provision consists of courses that lead to qualifications that are supported by public funding. In the previous academic year this area accounted for 15% of the total enrolments at the College. The subject areas in this provision currently include adult basic skills (literacy, numeracy and English language), modern foreign languages, complementary therapies, counselling, ICT, business and administration, photography, interior design and independent living courses for adults with learning difficulties. The College also provides a growing number of level 1 courses for adults referred by Job Centre Plus (JCP) to help support them into employment. Whilst many learners on these courses pay fees, their courses are subsidised by the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) through the Adult Skills Budget. Adults in receipt of specified state benefits do not have to pay tuition fees for these courses.

Community Learning: This is the largest area of provision for BAEC and covers most of the non-accredited courses. These courses are in part supported by the Community Learning Fund provided by the SFA, however there is an expectation that learners who can afford to do so will increasingly pay for their learning. This area of provision accounted for 68% of the total enrolments in 2011/12. The range of subjects on offer is extensive and includes a wide range of arts and crafts, IT, modern foreign languages, cookery, history and fitness. However, some more unusual subjects are also available, such as clock repairs, archery and astronomy. The college also uses this funding stream to work with an established network of community partners to deliver learning across a range of community venues to help widen participation amongst isolated or disadvantaged groups within the borough. This includes delivering family learning in schools and Children and Family centres. Much of the provision in the community settings is delivered free or at minimal cost to learners.

Non-Funded: Some of the courses the College offers receive no public subsidy from the Skills Funding Agency. These include the high level ICT courses, one-day leisure courses (Saturday provision) some non-approved qualification courses and workforce development/employer training. The training the College manages for the London Borough of Bromley, e.g. the corporate ICT training, also comes under this category. In the 2011/12 academic year, this provision accounted for approximately 17% of the total enrolments.

2.3 Key Performance Indicators

The performance of the College is measured using a range of standard post-16 educational benchmarks for the provision that is funded by the SFA. These include retention, attendance and achievement. The College also monitors the quality of the teaching and learning through a lesson observation scheme where teaching sessions are graded using the same 4-point scale applied by Ofsted for educational inspections.

Table 1 sets out the College's overall performance against these key indicators for the 2011/2012 academic year.

Table 1

Indicator	Whole College	Adult Skills	Community Learning
Retention	88.9%	90.3%	92.7%
Attendance	87.4%	84.1%	90.0%
Achievement	88.6%	83.3%	90.1%

Table 2 shows the lesson observation grade profile for the 2011/12 academic year.

Table 2

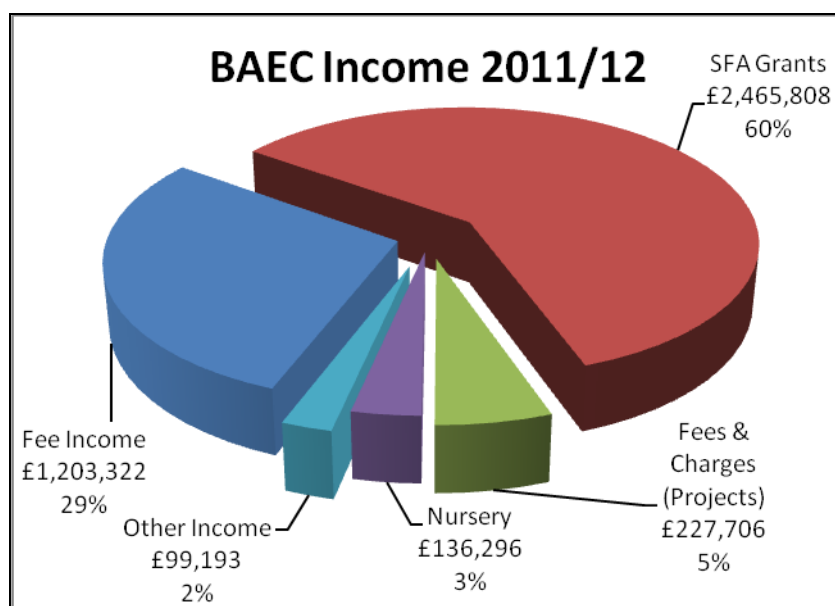
Grade	%
1. Outstanding	29.8%
2. Good	60.1%
3. Satisfactory *	8.9%
4. Unsatisfactory	0.6%

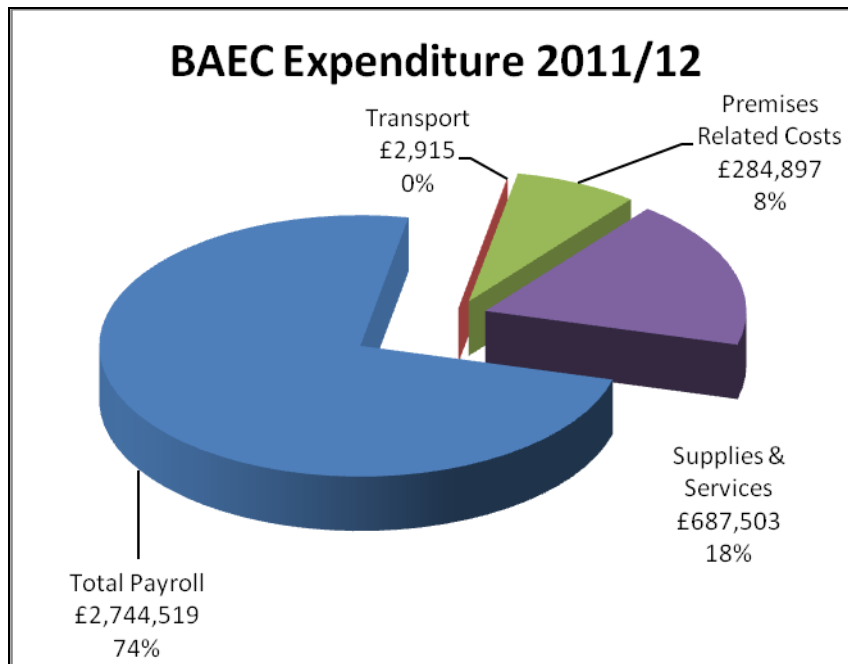
*With effect from September 2012, the descriptor for grade 3 has been amended to that of "Requires Improvement".

As it is in receipt of public funding, BAEC is also subject to Ofsted inspections. The College was last inspected in February 2010, when it received an overall effectiveness grade of 2 (Good).

2.4 Financial Overview

The charts below show the overall income and expenditure for BAEC during the 2011/12 financial year.





2.5 Priorities for 2012/13

- Developing the workforce development strand to incorporate the training elements that will move over from the EDC into Adult Education with effect from 1 April 2013. This will include the NQT programme and the Governor Training Programme
- Ensuring that BAEC meets the targets set by the SFA to deliver approved qualifications to the value of £1,184,226.00.
- Consolidating the new structure and ensuring the service is in a position to deliver a zero budget for the current financial year and going forward.

3. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- Bromley Adult Education Review - Report to Renewal and Recreation Portfolio PDS/Holder (13.12.12) (Report No: DRR11/146).