



Recommendation 3

Adult Learning Partnerships should be established at regional and sub-regional levels, bringing together local and regional government, universities and colleges, community and educational groups, and local employers (broadly defined) to deliver the Adult Education & Lifelong Learning Strategy through collaborative working.

Progress will be made only through a mobilisation of talent and enthusiasm across the country — from community groups to employer initiatives, with co-production of educational provision whereby colleges and local authorities facilitate and support new initiatives and ideas.

The Adult Learning Partnerships need to stimulate and encourage community engagement and foster the participation of all in their areas, ensuring that all the local and regional actors are contributing fully and appropriately. There are three crucial areas of any Adult Education & Lifelong Learning Strategy which the Adult Learning Partnerships should have specific responsibility for delivering:

- i. Firstly, the provision of information, advice, guidance and mentoring. All members of the Adult Learning Partnerships – universities and colleges, local employers and others – would be expected to be involved in some way. Public Libraries might be the go-to venue for such a service nationally (including mobile libraries in rural areas). But the Partnership would have the duty to ensure that a sufficient level and quality of information, advice, guidance and mentoring is being provided;
- ii. Secondly, taking steps to deal with regional and local inequality in provision and outcomes. Ensuring that the Adult Education & Lifelong Learning Strategy delivers to all members of our society will require sustained work from community organisers and local facilitators commissioned by the Adult Learning Partnerships to work in these communities to identify needs, and engage with them to co-produce the required activities. Such organisers could also play a crucial role in providing the necessary information, advice, guidance and mentoring; and
- iii. Thirdly, supporting national media campaigns to encourage and signpost opportunities and pathways, at a local level.

