

SOUTHEND ADULT COMMUNITY COLLEGE ACCOUNTABILITY AGREEMENT

By Stuart Wesselby (Principal)

Context & Place

Southend-on-Sea, located in Essex on the north side of the Thames Estuary, is a coastal city 40 miles east of central London. Known for having the longest pleasure pier in the world, Southend boasts a population of 180,700 as of 2021. The Greater Essex area, encompassing Southend and Thurrock, is one of England's largest counties and features a mix of rural and urban landscapes, with both affluent and deprived areas.

This region's proximity to London results in a high level of commuting or remote working for London-based companies, with similar commuting patterns to Cambridge, Hertfordshire, and Suffolk.

Southend Adult Community College (SACC), operates three campuses in Southchurch, Westcliff, and Belfairs, providing a supportive and nurturing environment for adult learners.

The college's mission is to empower individuals by offering a range of qualifications, helping learners build confidence, enhance knowledge, start businesses, or simply enrich their lives.

Achievement rates at SACC are impressive: 93% in maths, 92% in ESOL, 81% in Level 2 GCSE English, and 92% in maths. With approximately 150 staff members working in various capacities, SACC serves a diverse student body, including vulnerable 16-19-year-olds, adults from various economic backgrounds, and learners with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), as well as ESOL students, including refugees from Afghanistan and Ukraine.

The college had a successful inspection in September 2023 achieving a Good grade overall.

Vision and Values

SACC aims to:

Provide high-quality learning and skills that enhance employment opportunities and enable progression.

Focus on improved outcomes for local people, businesses, and community partners as the council's learning provider.

Embrace growth and innovation to create a sustainable future for learning and skills in Southend.

Lead in learning and skills aligned with Southend 2050 ambitions, supporting community resilience and economic growth.

Offer a flexible, relevant learning experience responsive to local changes.

Create a caring environment where individuals can develop new skills, gain confidence, raise self-esteem, achieve aspirations, and make progress.

Collaborate with partners and employers to create more opportunities for local success.

Value and develop our workforce, celebrating collective achievements.

Learner Cohorts

1. **Community Learning:** Divided into general community learning and those from deprived communities, this cohort includes classes like jewellery making, pottery, foreign languages, and more. These programs strengthen communities, reduce isolation, and promote well-being.
2. **Vulnerable 16-19-Year-Olds:** At risk of becoming Not in Employment, Education, or Training (NEET), these learners benefit from small class sizes and extensive pastoral support, helping them achieve targets and move towards employment or further education.
3. **SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities):** Located at the Westcliff campus, these learners, aged 19-21, have various needs including physical disabilities and communication issues.
4. **SEN (Special Educational Needs):** These 16-19-year-olds, based at the Southchurch campus, pursue both accredited and non-accredited qualifications and low-level study programs.
5. **Accredited Maths, English, ESOL, Digital & Vocational Students** gain qualifications in these essential areas, progressing to employment or higher education.
6. **Study Programmes:** Offered in three main areas: vulnerable 16-19-year-olds, SEN, and ESOL.
7. **Miscellaneous Learners:** Includes participants in programs like Skills Network, Multiply, Southend Business School.

Strategic Plan & Curriculum Planning

SACC Senior Leadership Team uses various local employment data and strategies to shape the curriculum, aligning with the Southend Skills Strategy and the council's 2050 targets. The college's Strategic Plan for 2023-28 outlines its vision and ambitions, supported by annual curriculum planning cycles.

Curriculum Offer 2023-24

Hospitality & Catering- addressing the 6000 vacancies in Southend by offering relevant training programs.

Accountancy & Money Management: Providing AAT Accounting (Levels 2-4) and financial literacy courses to meet local demand.

Administration & Customer Service: Developing a business school to address the high demand for these skills.

Basic Skills (English, Maths, ESOL): Enhancing basic skills through various programs, including the national Multiply initiative for improving numeracy.

Childcare: Offering early years practitioner qualifications to support local childcare sufficiency efforts.

Community Learning: Offering diverse courses that foster community engagement and personal enrichment.

Cybersecurity: Providing essential training to help businesses protect against cyber threats.

Digital Skills: Launching the Digital Academy to equip learners with advanced digital skills, from networking to AI development.

Education & Training: Offering courses to meet the high demand for education and training professionals.

Healthcare & Social Work: Collaborating with the council on the HALO project to fill hard-to-fill roles in health and social care.

Higher Education – Access Courses: Launching Access to HE courses in September 2023, with a focus on facilitating lifelong learning.

Leadership & Management: Launching a business school to provide comprehensive leadership and management training.

Leisure, Sport & Tourism: Offering sport programs through study routes for young people.

Maths: Emphasizing numeracy through various programs, including the Multiply initiative.

NEET: Offering targeted study programs to support vulnerable 16-19-year-olds.

Soft Skills & Work Readiness: Embedding employability skills across the curriculum to enhance workforce readiness.

SEND: Providing tailored programs for individuals with special educational needs and disabilities.

Management Board and Accountability

SACC collaborates closely with the council to offer comprehensive learning opportunities, enhancing the quality of life through education. The Management Board, comprising council members and the college's senior leadership team, ensures the college's accountability and alignment with strategic goals.

Management Board Membership

- Safeguarding Advisor - Director of Growth & Planning - Kevin Waters
- Senior Finance Business Partner - Paul Grout
- Director of Education - Liz Hunt
- School Improvement Officer – Amanda Champ
- Principal – Stuart Wesselby
- Head of Finance & Operations - Jason Raymond
- Head of Quality - Caroline Quirk
- Head of SEND & Young People - Jay Ellis
- Head of Community Learning - Patricia North
- Head of HR - Lorraine Reader

The SACC Accountability Agreement has been approved by the Management Board and is accessible via our website at www.southend-adult.ac.uk

For support or inquiries, contact SACC at:

- Phone: 01702 445700
- Email: sacc@southend-adult.ac.uk

By adhering to these strategic plans and values, SACC is committed to providing exceptional education and training, fostering personal growth, and supporting the community's economic and social well-being.