

Equalities Panel: briefing paper

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CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH REGION OF LEARNING

Michelle Lord, Project Manager, Cambridge City Council

Brief summary

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Region of Learning (CPRoL) has been developed and led by Cambridge City Council (Culture and Community) as part of a strategic partnership with Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council. It is a place-based partnership that will offer a universal passport to learning, skills and career opportunities to young people, taking a highly targeted approach to engaging those who face disadvantage and barriers to access.¹ CPRoL has been specifically designed to support a system-wide and evidence-based approach to improving outcomes for children and young people that utilises existing local authority assets and new digital technologies.

The model responds to national research and findings that establish a strong correlation between participation in additional learning and experiences, to improved health and wellbeing, increased aspiration and resilience, and a stronger likelihood of progressing into education, training, and employment; and reduced probability of experiencing poverty².

The project has been funded at various stages of development including feasibility, live prototyping and now implementation and delivery between 2021 and 2023. Current funders (cash income) include the European Social Fund (£625k), Cambridgeshire County Council (£112k), Cambridge City Council (£21k), Arts Council England (£100k) and Greater Cambridge Partnership (£150k). Support in kind is received from ARU (£68k), Form the Future CIC (£383k), Shift Momentum Ltd (£60k) Cambridge City Council (£7.5k), and Cambridgeshire County Council (£53k).

Delivery approach

Alongside on the ground support, the project will include a repurposed, smart library card, web portal and mobile app that can be used wherever learning and activities take place to improve outcomes for young people:

- Provide disadvantaged young people with a credible, alternative way to build confidence, record and demonstrate their skills, competencies, interests, talents or experience not currently captured through formal education; to potential employers, trainers or further/higher education providers
- Support disadvantaged young people by providing individual and personalised pathways to pursue interests, learning and skills development, and career destination,
- Offer wellbeing pathways with learning and activities that promote exercise, psychological wellbeing, healthy eating, relaxation, and connecting with nature
- Bring together existing local learning, events and activity providers in an open digital badge³ format that captures experience and skills that can be dynamically linked to opportunities.

¹ This includes young people who have received free school meals/pupil premium, children in care, BAME, looked after children, SEND or with an EHC Plan, living in supported housing, and youth offenders

² The contribution of learning, education and skills on long term health has been described by the Health Foundation as the single most important modifiable social determinant of health. Only 25% of disadvantaged young people take part in any learning outside of school, compared to 75% of their peers, where 62% of young people that do go on to achieve a level 2 qualification, compared to 37% of those who do not (Social Mobility Commission). 49.9% of 19-year-olds in Cambridgeshire from low-income backgrounds do not have a level 2 qualification and is the second worst area in the country (Children's Commission). Of young people, the majority of adult and children's service users are from low-income backgrounds with low educational achievement (72% compared to 28% of their more advantaged peers).

³ Open Badges will use the Cities of Learning Badge Standard and are endorsed by City & Guilds

- Enable the end user to set individual goals, generating a bespoke user pathway using the localised information, breaking down the user journey into achievable, easy to follow incremental steps

Equalities commitment

The project will engage 1,070 young people experiencing disadvantage, aged between 15-24 years in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough region between now and December 2023. This includes those from low-income backgrounds and/or low educational attainment including those at risk of NEET, are NEET, unemployed or economically inactive. Target groups include those with disabilities, young parents in single adult households, Black and Minority Ethnic groups, children in care/care experienced, looked after children, young people who have experienced homelessness, those with SEND or an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), or without basic skills.

Equalities has been embedded within the project from the outset, and has a detailed [Equality and Diversity Implementation Plan](#) with SMART objectives, and a [Equality and Diversity Policy Addendum](#).

Partnership working

CPRoL represents a coalition approach to creating systemic change. Our existing and growing list of partners include the following stakeholder groups:

- Local authority services and teams such as NEET Services, Early Help, Virtual School, CEIAG, SEND/Inclusion, Youth Offending Services, Alternative Education Provision, across East Cambs, Peterborough Cambridge, Fenland, Huntingdonshire and South Cambs localities
- Employment services including JobCentre Plus and Form the Future, who are delivering a range of activity 'on the ground' including 121 career guidance, work experience, work readiness and business mentoring
- Third sector organisations supporting homelessness including YMCA and New Meaning Foundation
- Organisations and providers offering health and wellbeing support such as Cambridge University Hospitals Arts and East of England Culture, Health and Wellbeing Alliance
- Employers from across the ten growth sectors for the region: IT and digital (including creative industries) life sciences, manufacturing, logistics, agritech, education, professional services (legal and financial), construction, and tourism. This includes business networks such as Cambridge Ahead, Business in the Community, Cambridge Wireless, Cambridgeshire Chambers of Commerce, RSA Fellows, Agritech East, and individual businesses like PwC and KPMG
- Formal learning providers including ARU Cambridge and Peterborough campuses, Cambridge Regional College, City College Peterborough, The Open University, Cambridge Academy for Science and Technology, Trumpington Community College, Swavesey Village College
- Informal learning sector including Cambridgeshire Music, Cambridge Junction, Cambridgeshire Skills, Kettle's Yard, Fitzwilliam Museum, Corn Exchange, Library Presents, Cambridge Science Centre, Romsey Mill, Centre for Computing History, and core library hubs in Cambridge, Wisbech, March, Ely, St Neots, St Ives, Huntingdon, Bar Hill and Cambourne

Current position

The Council is working with its core direct delivery partners: [RSA](#), [Form the Future CIC](#), [Navigatr](#), [Shift Momentum](#), [Cambridgeshire Skills](#) and [Badge Nation](#) to enrol young people to the scheme, assess their needs, offer training and support, and develop digital badges and pathways that will become available from June 2022. The academic partnership and development of the data research platform has been delayed due to ongoing Covid support and reduced capacity of staff at County Council.