

Learner Involvement Strategy

Bury College



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Learner Involvement Strategy

One of the Top Ten FE Colleges in the Country



- Developing Individual Potential
- Inspiring Excellence
- Promoting Prosperity Through Knowledge

Developing Individual Potential Inspiring Excellence Promoting Prosperity Through Knowledge

The Bury College Learner Charter is a statement of our endeavour to give you the highest quality service of education and training.

At Bury College we continually review our service to our learners and all other clients, in order to improve quality and responsiveness.



Lauran Chatburn
Principal

September 2008

* The full version of the Learner Involvement Strategy is available on the Staff Intranet Student VLE and the Bury College website

Revised September 2008

Z/Quality

Bury College undertakes to take all reasonable steps to provide the teaching, examination, assessment and other training services set out in its prospectus, Charter, course leaflets and Student Handbook. It does not, however, guarantee the provision of such educational services, programmes and facilities. Bury College reserves the right to amend, withdraw, cancel, alter or amalgamate any part of the programmes, locations, facilities and costs at any time. Should circumstances beyond the direct control of the College interfere with its ability to provide educational services, programmes and facilities, Bury College undertakes to use all reasonable steps to minimise the resultant disruption to those services, programmes and facilities.

- We invite you to be involved in new teacher interviews by attending and grading a “micro teaching” lesson as part of our selection procedure.

Representation

- We want you to represent your course teams and attend the weekly Student Action Group in order to report any student issues to the group and also to feed back information from the SAG to your group
- You can get be elected to be a Student Governor and report to the Curriculum and Quality Committee of the Governing Body and also play an active role in College Corporation meetings.
- You can be a course representative and attend course team meetings – ask your teacher how to do this!

Celebration

- Every year we hold a cross college student leavers presentation evening where we celebrate achievement and recognise excellent performance.
- We have specific end of year achievement awards evenings celebrating and recognising a wide range of achievements of learners.
- You could be nominated for the Student of the Month Award in three categories; Highest Achiever, Most Improved and Contribution to College Community. We publicise and reward learners on each centre.
- We want you to become involved in a range of social, charitable and multicultural activities e.g. Eid, Iftari, Carol Singing, end of term karaoke, fancy dress competitions, Pink Day etc.
- A Mentoring for Excellence Programme provides support and guidance by managers for high achieving learners.

WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE?

We want to involve all areas of the College in;

- Reviewing the systems in place for involving learners;
- Suggesting developments or improvements in current arrangements;
- Proposing new initiatives to increase the effectiveness of learner involvement.

Learner Involvement Strategy (Summary Version)*

“When learners participate in decisions affecting their learning experiences, they are likely to play a more active role in the providers quality improvement processes – a key level for quality improvement.”

Further Education: Raising skills, improving life chances (DfES 2006c)

WHY DO WE WANT TO INVOLVE LEARNERS?

Bury College believes that involving learners in the business of the college leads to quality improvements for all who study at the College.

We are committed to involving learners in all aspects of the organisation, including teaching, learning and assessment, facilities and support services.

The aim of creating a high quality learning experience is driven by the College Mission:

- Developing Individual Potential
- Inspiring Excellence
- Promoting Prosperity Through Knowledge

WHY DO WE HAVE A LEARNER INVOLVEMENT STRATEGY?

- The Further Education White Paper (2006) has instructed OFSTED to inspect each provider’s Learning Involvement Strategy, to see how it operates and measure its effectiveness.
- The College is committed to Every Child Matters and Youth Matters initiatives which impact upon our services to young people and vulnerable adults.
- The National Learner Panel was set up by the Secretary of State for Education in 2006 to ensure that the voice of the learner can influence what happens nationally and locally.
- The Foster Report in 2005 recommended that Further Education Colleges should collect learners’ views in a consistent and

systematic way as a key way of improving college provision and also consult learners on major issues which impact on their learning environment.

- The organisation that fund colleges, the Learning and Skills Council produced a document, "Improving Skills, Improving Life Chances: Giving Learners and Employers a Say". It states that providers are to actively encourage and seek the views of learners, potential learners and employers in connection with decisions affecting them and they are to ensure that individuals become more active in their own learning.
- Framework for Excellence "Responsiveness to Learners and Employers" sets out standards which aim to measure success and excellence in response to learners and employers.
- Detailed research and subsequent initiatives from the Government tell us that our thoughts on involving learners are correct. Therefore, everyone at Bury College is committed to collecting and listening to the views of our learners.

How we want to involve you

Bury College currently has procedures and structures in place to involve you in decision making, for generating and gathering feedback from you and using this information to help us plan and improve the quality of what we do.

We will also make sure this happens across all areas of the College which will support us in maintaining our Outstanding, Grade 1 status.

What we do to involve you

- Consultation – We consult you and ask for your views
- Participation– We encourage you to take part in activities
- Representation – We hear your views on college committees
- Celebration – We recognise and celebrate your achievements

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Consultation

- During Induction we make sure you are settling in and ask for your feedback written on Graffiti boards which we display in College.
- We ask you to complete the College Survey and then we analyse what you say and ask curriculum and support areas to

respond to this feedback and make changes to improve our services

- We encourage you to give feedback at any time during your course; it may be complaints, compliments or suggestions. We will respond, take action, check findings, and report to Governors on our actions.
- We use "Stop and Ask" during Induction to make sure you are receiving all necessary information and check that you are settling into College
- We conduct Early Leavers Telephone Surveys to find out why learners leave college and make improvements as a result of this feedback
- We consult parents and carers at Parents Evenings and Open Evenings to ask if they have any concerns
- The Marketing Department ask for feedback from prospective and current students on the design and layout of publicity documentation and whole college events.

Participation

- We want you to join in to a comprehensive programme of activities during induction Freshers' Week promoting equality, health and other issues related to the 5 Themes of Every Child Matters:
 - Be healthy
 - Stay Safe
 - Enjoy and achieve
 - Make a positive contribution
 - Economic well being
- We encourage you to sign up to a range of cross college enrichment activities offering social, cultural, sporting and volunteering opportunities which are available to all learners.
- Your course will provide specific enrichment opportunities to enhance your experience and provide essential knowledge and skills related to your course.
- We want you to join our vibrant and lively Student Action Group which meets on a weekly basis to organise events, activities and provide feedback on how the college operates.
- You can become a Student Leader and act as an ambassador of the college and participate in personal development activities.

HOW WILL WE CHECK HOW WE ARE DOING?

- The full version* of the Learner Involvement Strategy will be used to promote and encourage involvement of learners and staff.
- The strategy will be reviewed every three years and an annual progress report will be presented to the Student Action Group, staff and managers, LIS Steering Group and the Curriculum and Quality Committee. The strategy will be circulated to all managers, staff and students and will be available on the Bury College staff intranet, Student VLE and Bury College website. This summary version will also be available. The documents will be available in alternative formats to meet individual requirements.

Lynda Sinkinson

Executive Director Learning & Quality

September 2008

* The full version of the Learner Involvement Strategy is available on the Staff Intranet Student Moodle and the Bury College website