



The college for women and men

WMC PRIORITIES 2011-14

CONSULTATION

SEEKING YOUR VIEWS

ON OUR FUTURE





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Financial context of consultation. We consult regularly on our priorities and last did so in 07-08. The continuing recession and changing government policy and funding priorities, mean we must ensure we remain financially able to achieve our mission (see over). WMC is a specialist designated college. Most of our funding is from the government, and has been £3m since 04-5, with no increase for inflation or anything. Now, for the same funding, we are required to deliver 30% more students. All the indications are that adult education funding will not increase at all, that in real terms it will decrease and that fees will increase significantly for all students.

Community cohesion We work with a full range of local community groups and employers to ensure our provision meets local need and supports individuals to achieve their goals - for employment, to support their families, to be more involved in their local and wider communities. We celebrate diversity, provide a safe and welcoming environment for all and actively support integration and dialogue between different communities.

Skills for Life. Providing the Skills for Life basic skills, including ESOL, for local people has been our key priority. It supports social cohesion. It especially meets the needs of those living in the wards nearest to the college which are the most deprived in Camden with low levels of literacy and numeracy, large numbers of non-English speakers and high unemployment rates.

Employability work We have significantly increased our work with employers and the unemployed. We offer work skills for the unemployed or recently redundant. We work with local people to support them in their workplace to ensure they retain their jobs and meet the new demands of a high skills economy as well as achieving their own aspirations and their employers' needs. Our key areas of activity are Business & Admin, Teaching Assistants, Childcare, plus Security, Customer Services and Software Training. We also deliver individually tailored courses to employers including the health service, education and Kings Cross.

Camden Arts We provide a wide range of arts courses for Camden. They are the most expensive courses to run and have the lowest level of government subsidy. We are funded for 450 enrolments but we deliver over 1200.

Costs & cross subsidy Increasingly, more and more of our work fails to cover its full costs. Enterprise and Camden Arts survive on marginal costing: income covers the costs of teaching and materials but not of running the building, support or administration. Camden Arts is delivered to our richest students. Enterprise programmes are delivered to some of the poorest students in Camden. But they are all subsidised by our mainstream work, which is predominantly ESOL (part of Skills for Life), delivered to the poorest students in Camden.

Fee income We are unable to increase our income by raising fees as our local communities do not have the means to pay fees at the increased levels the government expects, 70% of our students receive benefits and get concessionary fee rates of one sort or another. We provided the highest percentage of subsidised courses of all the adult education providers in London.

Working for 14-19 year olds. We plan to work with 14 to 19 year olds through Camden ITeC. This is a new area of activity and we are working with a range of schools in Camden and Islington, and Lambeth on Young Apprenticeships in Business Admin and associated activities. We hope to significantly develop this area over the next 3 years.

Working in Kings Cross We see working in Kings Cross as a critical area for us as this will be a significant source of employment for local people. It is our intention to ensure local people have the skills to access these employment opportunities.

We hope you will complete the questionnaire attached and RETURN BY 6 SEPTEMBER 2010

do use: the prepaid envelope

or mail to: WMC FREEPOST LON 12113, 44 Crowndale Road, NW1 1YU

You can also **email comments** to info@wmcollege.ac.uk

Satnam Gill
Principal
July 2010

Background re Working Men's College

WMC Mission

Working Men's College mission is to be a learner-centred college dedicated to widening access to education for all, that will provide opportunities for lifelong learning for the diverse range of London adults who may not be able to study full time, particularly those who have missed out on their initial education.

WMC students

- About 4,000 students plus over 8,000 enrolments
- About 66% live in Camden. About 50% are from local wards
- About 40% from non-white backgrounds
- About 33% men - a higher proportion than many other adult education colleges

WMC student ages

Currently almost all our students are over 19 years old. We plan to do some work with 14-19 year olds through Camden ITeC. At present we do not have the infrastructure to do any significant amounts of work for students under 19 years old. Providing such an infrastructure will involve a significant cost but it may give long term stability to the college.

WMC course areas

- 46% Skills for Life
- 28% Visual & Performing Arts, Digital Arts, Camden Arts
- 8% Computing and IT
- 12% Business, vocational and employability programmes
- 4% Languages
- 3% Other

On the basis of current funding, expansion of any course area will require reduction in another course area – unless the courses in the expansion area can be fully self-financing

WMC community

We work in about 30 schools and community centres and with about 25 different employers