

Report following monitoring

Merthyr Tydfil ACL Partnership

**Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council,
Civic Centre,
Castle Street,
Merthyr Tydfil,
CF47 8AN**

Date of visit: July 2026

by

**Estyn, His Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and
Training in Wales**

This report is also available in Welsh

Outcome of visit

The provider is judged to have made sufficient progress in relation to the recommendations following the most recent core inspection.

As a result, His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales is removing the provider from the list of providers in follow-up.

Progress against recommendations from the core inspection

R1 Consolidate the partnership's commitment to joint working and a develop a clear strategic plan to shape the future of the partnership and processes to measure progress against the plan

The partnership has made strong progress against this recommendation. Since the core inspection, the partnership has developed a strategic group with representation from the three main delivery partners, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, The College Merthyr Tydfil and Adult Learning Wales. Senior leaders from each partner chair subgroups which feed into the strategic group. Senior leaders have shown commitment and worked well to 'reset' the partnership and develop momentum to drive improvement.

The partnership's strategic plan is structured around the inspection's recommendations, plus an additional priority related to workforce development. Mechanisms for governance and scrutiny of the partnership's progress are embedded appropriately, for example, through the council's scrutiny committee, the department's business improvement plan and the college's governing body.

The partnership has monitored its progress against the recommendations from the inspection report well and has a clear understanding of its strengths and areas for improvement. The partnership has made good use of the Learning and Work Institute's partnership effectiveness tool to triangulate its evaluations.

Senior leaders from the partnership's main delivery partners articulate a clear vision for the partnership's future development, including the involvement of new delivery and community partners and provision which leads to useful progression.

All partners were represented at the meetings during this visit, and previous monitoring visits, and expressed confidence in continued partnership working and their commitment to the partnership.

R2 Review the partnership's provision offer to ensure that it meet the needs of learners and potential learners and offers clear pathways for progression

The partnership has done much of the groundwork needed to develop a coherent provision for its communities. Partners have considered their provision and have produced a provision 'map' showing the offer from each partner. This is being used to help shape communication with learners and potential learners, progression planning, and to minimise unhelpful duplication of provision.

The partnership has carried out a range of useful engagement activities to listen to learners and potential learners and carried out an analysis of labour market intelligence to inform its strategic provision planning.

The outline provision plan for its core adult community learning grant funding for 2026-2027 is suitably focussed on developing learners' literacy, numeracy and digital skills, with the intention of supporting learners into progression pathways for employment, such as programmes in construction or teaching assistant qualifications offered by the college or Adult Learning Wales.

R3 Ensure that potential and existing learners can easily access an overview of the full partnership's course offer and progression pathways

The partnership has made sound progress in meeting this recommendation. It has developed a clear strategy that is well supported by all partners and is underpinned by a beneficial range of developments and activities to engage with potential learners, including a launch event, a 'family day' and a learner voice framework.

The partnership has strengthened its social media presence, with regular posts about the activities of the partnership, including community engagement events and courses. It has developed a new user-friendly website and prospectus that was launched in September 2025. The website allows learners and potential learners to see the range of provision available across the partnership and connect, via links, to other partners' websites.

The partnership also has a detailed paper-based prospectus that is available at key locations across the borough. The document contains clear information regarding the pathways available to potential learners and their progression routes.

The partnership is continuing to review the ways in which it engages with its community, through connections with other council services, community groups and local representatives.

R4 Increase the number of learners who enrol and benefit from the partnership's core adult learning in the community provision

Overall, the partnership has increased unique learner enrolments from the time of the core inspection, from 519 in 2024-2025 to 595 in 2025-2026, meeting the suitable incremental targets the partnership had set for itself.

The partnership recognises the need to sustain and increase learner enrolments, and this aspect remains a key focus in its overarching strategies. The partnership's continued focus on maintaining consistency and building on successful approaches across all partners is a key driver for their work in the coming years. The partnership's provision planning documents set clear and challenging learner recruitment targets for the coming year.

R5 Implement effective systems and processes across the partnership for recording and communicating learners' additional learning needs (ALN) and individual support requirements and for ensuring that these are supported

Partners have collaborated effectively to share expertise and implement improved systems for identifying and supporting learners with additional learning support needs. This has strengthened tutors' understanding of learners' requirements and enhanced their ability to tailor support effectively.

For example, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council has modified its additional learning support needs screening tool and developed new mechanisms for safely sharing support needs between tutors within their provision.

Tutors from across the partnership have taken part in shared professional learning activities which have focussed on teaching strategies for supporting learners with a diverse range of needs. Tutors report that this has been effective in equipping them with a wider range of teaching tools.

The partnership continues to maintain a focus on developing tutors' capacity in supporting learners' individual support needs.