



Annual Report
1 August 2019 to 31 July 2020

Leicester Vaughan College Limited

Registered office: 54 Belvoir Street, Leicester LE1 6QL
www.vaughan.coop

A Community Benefit Society registered under the
Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 – Registration Number 7622

Co-operatives UK Membership Registration M045624

UK Register of Learning Providers UK Provider Reference Number UKPRN 10067087

Contents

1. The Objects of Leicester Vaughan College
2. Membership
3. Governance
4. Activities August 2019-July 2020
5. Finance Report

The objects of Leicester Vaughan College Community Benefit Society as set out the rules of Society:

“The objects of the Society shall be to carry on any business for the benefit of the community by providing flexible, university-level education which is aimed primarily at mature students, and delivered in an equitable and sustainable context for staff.

We, the Society members, believe in education as a public good: it benefits both society as a whole and its diverse communities by enabling self-improvement, mutual-improvement and civic participation.

The Society exists to provide those over 18 in Leicester and beyond with university-level education [Higher Education]. This education is centred on fully-accredited, face-to-face, part-time learning and is open to anyone who can benefit from it professionally, personally or intellectually. It offers individuals opportunities to develop, change or advance their lives and careers. It benefits communities through solidarity, co-operation and gaining the tools to address the challenges faced by society.

We will continue and expand the Vaughan tradition of providing adult learners in Leicester with high quality university-level education, which is compatible with the requirements of working and personal lives. We will secure the provision of this kind of education and opportunities for a broad range of students from diverse communities. We will support an equitable and sustainable working context for adult educators and all who work and learn as part of the College. We will ensure the courses we develop reflect local needs and our local and economic context. Through co-operation, we will provide an alternative, reproducible and sustainable model of Higher Education focused on the needs of students, staff and the wider community.

We will use these values and the ethics of co-operation to build an institution which prioritises education over profit.”

Membership

LVC membership reached 135 (including 3 founder members) in July 2020. Since then a further 5 members have joined.

Governance

The following is a list of the officers and directors who served on the Board of Directors during the 2019-2020 year:

Chair: Nalita James

Secretary: Thomas Swann

Treasurer: Robin Stevenson replacing Phil Slocombe at the AGM in 2019

Directors: Sue Waddington, Sally Birch, Lucy Faire, Kerry Gray, Sara Swire, Tina Holt and Shirley Munden.

All officers and directors served in an unpaid capacity. Malcolm Noble was employed part-time as Transition Manager and attended board meetings in a non-directorial role.

Activities for the year 1 August 2019 to 31 July 2020

Validation of degree programmes and partnerships– update

Withdrawal from federation with the Co-op College

At the last AGM, following a talk by Cilla Ross of the Co-operative College, it was agreed that LVC should work with the Co-operative College to offer part-time degrees in Leicester. In January 2020, the Board sadly had to make the decision to withdraw from any immediate prospect of a formal federation with the Co-op College and instead to pursue validation with an existing institution with Degree Awarding Powers (DAPs). The reasons behind the decision were anxieties about delays to the start of programmes, and concerns about the structures required to be compliant with the Office for Students (OfS), the regulatory body of universities, and the impact these requirements would have on the existence of Leicester Vaughan College and its tutors. The Board agreed that the withdrawal from the federation would be temporary and the hope is that LVC will re-join later. Due to disruption from coronavirus, the OfS stopped processing applications for new DAPs, and in late 2020, the Co-operative College's Board of Trustees decided not to continue applying for DAPs for a start in the academic year 2021-2022, due in part to restructuring and change at the Co-operative College. However, the long-term ambition is unaffected, and LVC is still represented on the group working towards federated co-operative higher education in the UK.

Current situation in relation to delivery of degrees

The Board has approached various institutions. Some were quickly ruled out and progress was slowed down considerably by COVID-19 as potential partner institutions were dealing with the impact of the pandemic and the transferral to online teaching. As result we decided to furlough our Transition Manager in April 2020.

Rebuilding links with University of Leicester

We made an approach to the University of Leicester after former colleagues in the Vaughan Centre met the new Vice Chancellor. A meeting subsequently took place in May 2020 during which various ways in which the two institutions could support each other were discussed. Library access of Vaughan students was high on the agenda. As yet no concrete proposals or agreements have emerged from the meeting, again largely a result of the pandemic situation.

Non-accredited courses

One Humanities and two Counselling courses were held before the March-June lockdown hit. As our non-accredited delivery is traditionally face to face, this prevented further planned modules being held. In June 2020, our counselling tutor delivered a Compassion Fatigue Course to Voluntary Action Leicestershire volunteers who were working on COVID-19-related issues. This was attended by a group of volunteers and the tutor fees were covered by a donation from an LVC member. We are now offering some online modules, with one on the country house starting in November 2020 and a creative writing course offered from February 2021.

Vaughan Open Research Forum

These monthly talks, workshops and interactive sessions are free to attend and are open to anyone who is curious and wants to find out more. The forums provide opportunities for academics at all stages of their careers to share current research with a wider audience. Themes for sessions relate to our core teaching topics, arts, humanities, social sciences and counselling, and also discuss adult education and co-operative issues. Six forums were held during the year in the Leicester Adult Education College, and from May 2020, three were hosted remotely by Zoom. Numbers attending online forums have usually exceeded the face to face forums and we have had people attending from around the country and beyond (India, Netherlands, North America). Upcoming forums can be found at www.vaughan.coop/research/research-forum/

Forums held during 2019-2020:

Dr Diana Pinto of University of Leicester: 'Is Trauma Always Bad for Us? A positive Psychology perspective from a lifelong learner'

Deborah Lawrence, therapist in private practice: 'The Cassandra Syndrome'

Prof Robert Colls of De Montfort University: "'... a permanent national necessity": The 1919 Report on Adult Education'

Dr Sarah Seaton of University of Leicester: 'When will my baby go home? Lessons from neonatal research'

Dr Miriam Gill of Leicester Vaughan College: 'Womanly Wickedness in West Midland Medieval Wall Paintings'

Dr Malcolm Noble of Leicester Vaughan College: 'Bodice-rippers and Chained Books: The History of the Book'

Yaron Golan of Manchester Metropolitan University: 'The Lost Ideas of 19th-Century Radical Socialist Education'

Josh Patel of University of Warwick: 'Higher Education Policy and the Robbins Report (1961-1963)'
Dr Denise McHugh of Open University and Dr Lucy Faire of Leicester Vaughan College: 'Urban Thrills? People's experiences of British city and town centres, 1930s-1970s'

Community Explorers Project

This was a Leicester Ageing Together project in which LVC provided support and training for community researchers. The research elements of the project ended with a November 2019 Festival of Learning. In 2020 Malcolm Noble and Ann Stones, who led the project for LVC, produced a report, 'LEARNING TOGETHER: The LAT Community Explorers Project', published by LVC, which is available to download from www.vaughan.coop/research/community-explorers-project/
Printed copies are also available – we simply ask that you pay the postage.

Financial report

Until LVC can offer accredited degree courses there is very limited scope for any substantial income. As a result the assets of the college have been reducing whilst accreditation is put in place. The pandemic situation put that process on temporary hold, and the government furlough scheme was invaluable in reducing the impact of that. The possibility of accredited teaching by January 2021 had to be abandoned and a government-backed 'Bounce Back Loan' has been applied for to provide much-needed cash flow. LVC continues to be very grateful to all the members who donate monthly or have given donations to the Society over the last year.

An unaudited summary of the 2019-2020 accounts is given on pp.5-6.

INCOME & EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2020

This is an un-audited summary of the accounts presented for general information only. The accounts are to be audited professionally, and the firm of Fortus is to carry out this task in time to submit them to Companies House.

	Year Ended 31 July 2020	Year Ended 31 July 2019	Period 1 Nov 2017 to 31 July 2018
	£	£	£
Income			
Donation from Leicester Adult School Union	-	-	34,000
Community Explorers Project	9,450	18,750	-
Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society	-	900	-
Other donations and standing orders	2,703	1,100	2,107
Fee income	125	3,725	2,700
Membership	5	14	105
Overhead cost recoveries from projects	360	420	-
Other grants (Furlough, Co-op Community Fund)	3,118	-	1,000
	14,099	24,909	39,912
Expenses			
Wages	16,019	14,763	-
Course costs	170	3,087	-
Office rental	3,000	4,500	1,500
Room bookings for classes & research forum	739	1,004	669
Fee reimbursements for cancelled courses	365	805	635
Printer	-	-	390
Co-operative UK and Co-operative College Membership Fees	240	-	360
Public and employer liability insurance	305	465	305
Publicity: Non-accredited programme brochures	46	-	290
Consumables: printer paper and ink	-	-	279
Merchandise: pin badges	-	-	248
IT, payroll, Web hosting for email and website	5,125	5,117	30
Accountancy	900	900	-
Affiliations & subscriptions	-	187	-
Events & conferences	1,264	548	-
Other (Blinkbright/CASE Consultancy fee)	2,100	2,245	-
	(30,273)	(33,621)	(4,707)
Net (loss)/ profit for the year	(16,174)	(8,712)	35,205

Total Balances for the year 2019-20

Opening Account balance	27,920
Total income	14,099
Total Expenditure	30,273
Account balance at 31 July 2019	11,746

Balances in Restricted funds

Grant from Central England Co-op

161

Community Explorers Project	7,237
Grant from Leicester Archaeological and Historical Society Transactions	900