Colleges in their communities:

a NIACE, 157 Group, AoC Commission of Inquiry

Mark Ravenhall

10th May 2011

niace
promoting adult learning

niace
promoting adult learning

Learning through Life

Recommends the revival of a local learning ecology involving local authorities, employer networks, cultural institutions, with FE colleges seen as an institutional backbone for local lifelong learning, with a predominantly local focus.

niace
promoting adult learning

The Commission

Baroness Margaret Sharp (Chair)

Representatives from AoC, 157 and NIACE

7 current college principals: range of types

TUC, Employers, local authorities

Observers from: BIS, SFA, Ofsted, LSIS, UKCES

Aim of the Inquiry

To report on the strategic role colleges can play, and the added public value they can bring, in leading adult learning and serving local communities

Remit

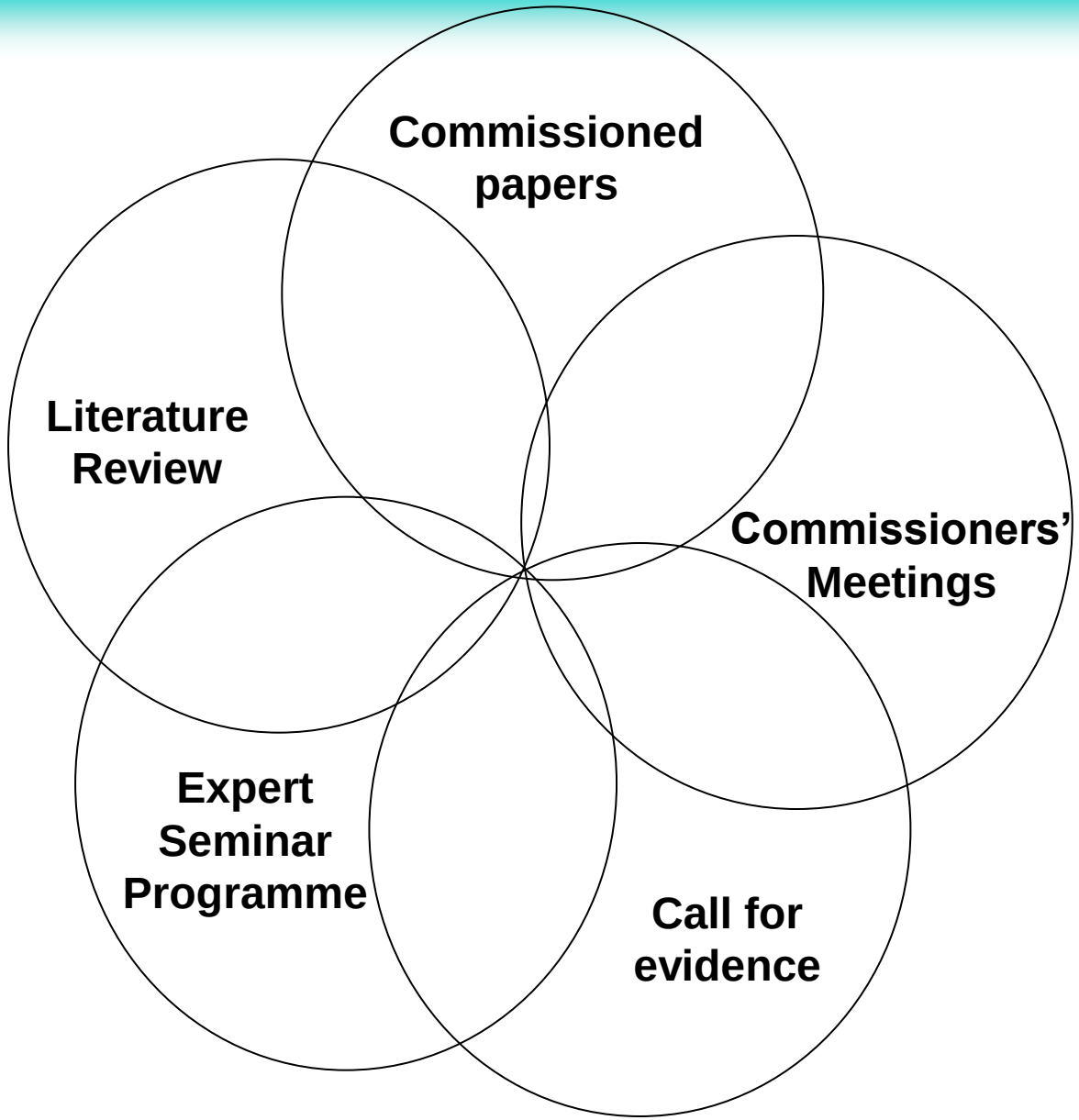
- Independent inquiry
- Review a wide range of evidence, both national and international
- Open discourse and inquiry through seminars, visits and discussion
- Identify a vision, framework & potential models of delivery
- Make recommendations to government and the FE sector

Timescale

February 2011	March 2011	April 2011	May 2011
First meeting of Commission	Call for evidence. 2nd meeting of Commission.	Seminars to gather evidence: April - May Literature review and review of evidence submitted	Identification of models, draft papers Consultation during Adult Learners' Week. 3rd meeting

June 2011	July 2011	August 2011	September 2011
Interim report	Identify recommendations and conclusions. 4th meeting of Commission	Writing final report and appendices	Final meeting. Final report published; Launch of report at AoC in November.

niace
promoting adult learning

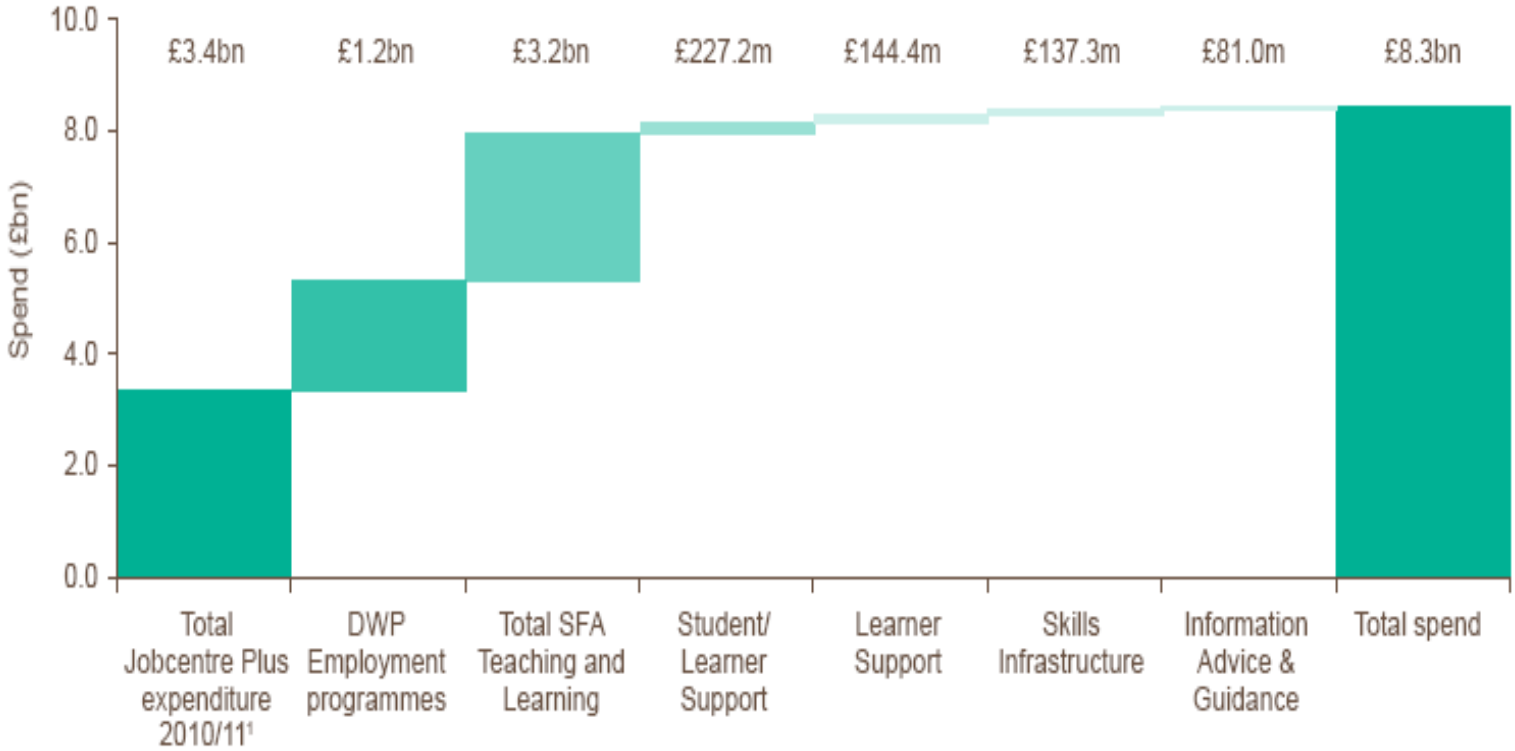


157 group Furthering Education & Skills

niace promoting adult learning

AoC Association of Colleges promoting adult learning

Figure 1: Projected total spend on employment and skills services, 2011/12

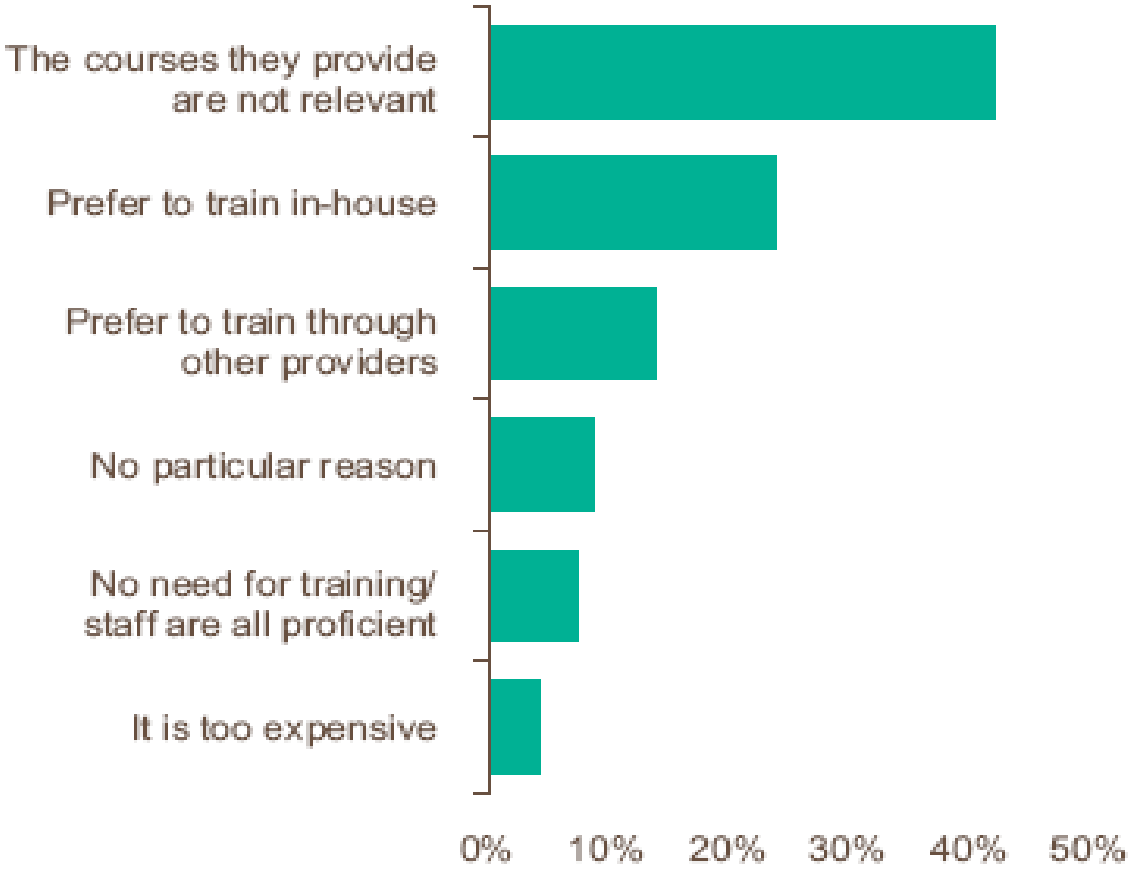


Source: DWP – Delivery Plan 2011-12, BIS – Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth

UKCES - Review of Employment and Skills, April 2011

niace
promoting adult learning

Figure 5: Reasons why employers do not use FE colleges



Source: UKCES National Employer Skills Survey 2009

UKCES Review of Employment and Skills, April 2011

niace promoting adult learning

Seminars

- **Learner Voice**, TUC, 4th April
- **Leadership**, Lambeth College, 4th May
- **Employer Voice**, UKCES, 6th May

- **Civil Society**, Hull College, 11th May
- **Curriculum**, Oxford and Cherwell Valley College, 23rd May
- **Local Social and Economic Planning**, Working Men's College, 25th May

niace
promoting adult learning

Learner and Employer Voice

- Understanding **relevance** is important: what are learners & employers really interested in
- Both find it hard to **navigate** the system
- Both do not always regard themselves as atomised **'consumers'** within the system
- How engagement is made should be **differentiated** by geography and interest
- **Engagement** and **enrichment** are linked

niace
promoting adult learning

Leicester Highcross Centre

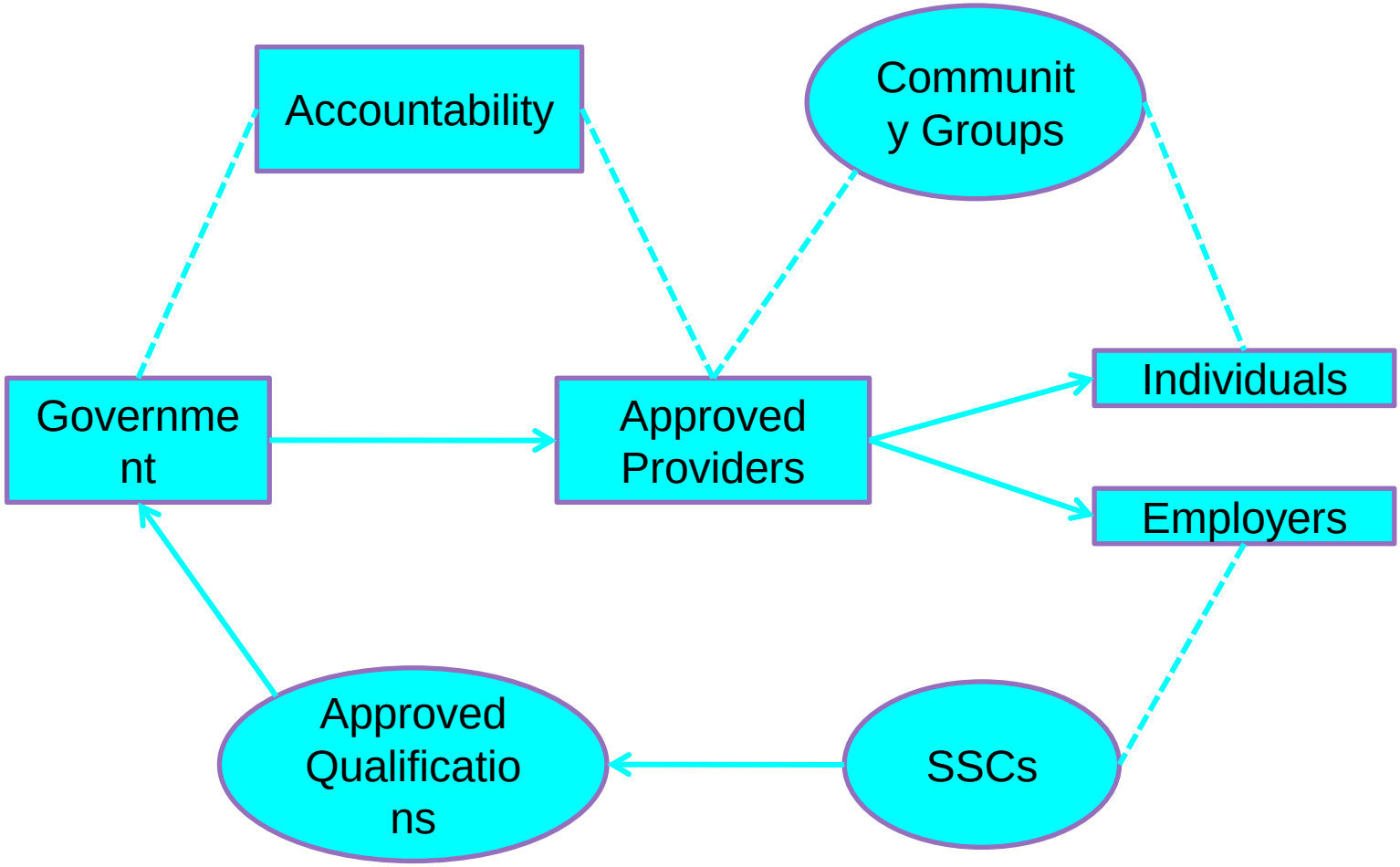
Photo by Cannongod (http://www.flickr.com/photos/cannongod/2835992209/)

niace
promoting adult learning

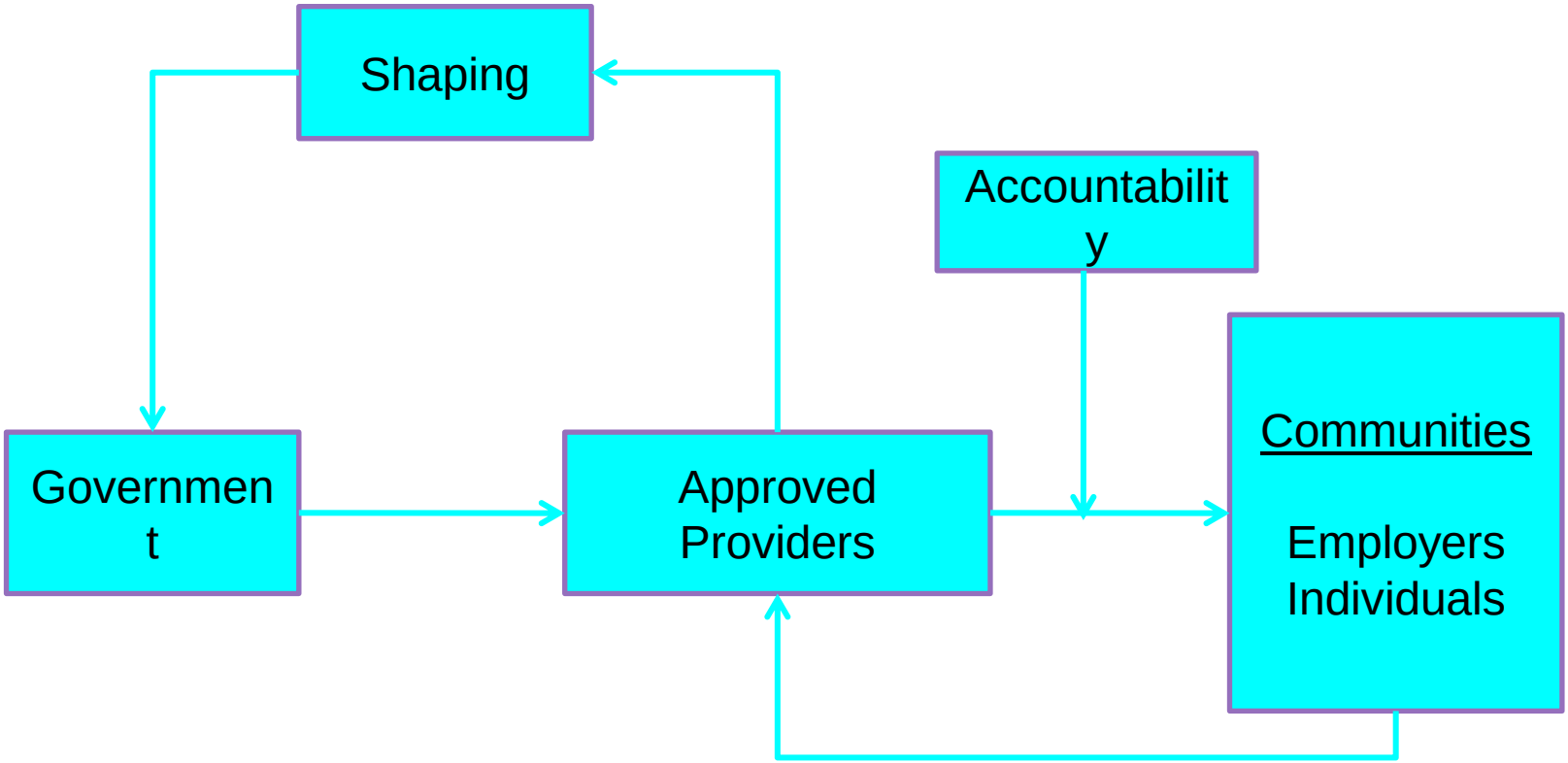
Leadership

- The **leadership challenge** does not only apply to providers... Policy makers too
- Culture of **compliance** and **scepticism**
- High **dependency** of skills of Principal
- Leaders spends time **managing the system** not their customers' needs (directly)
- **Working through** community groups / Chambers of Commerce is important
- Changing nature of (**dispersed**) leadership

niace
promoting adult learning



niace
promoting adult learning



niace
promoting adult learning

Contact details

For further information about the inquiry please contact:

mark.ravenhall@niace.org.uk

For more on the work of NIACE go to:

http://www.niace.org.uk/current-work/colleges-in-their-communities-inquiry

niace
promoting adult learning