*Dear …*

*Thank you for your feedback regarding the increased cost of the (insert name of course and course code).*

*We do acknowledge that this is a significant increase on the charge of the course compared to previous terms but we are no longer using our Skills Funding Agency grant to subsidise a number of courses offered in our Learning for Wellbeing programme. Unfortunately the course that you wish to undertake is amongst this number of courses.*

 *The Skills Funding Agency Funding Guidelines make clear that they expect the grant we are given to fund adult learning opportunities that support learners to take up a new interest at a subsidised fee rate, gain a good level of proficiency and in time use the skills to progress to a range of options: seek work, generate an additional income, become self employed, secure better employment, or access further training, Further or Higher Education.*

*Therefore the Adult Learning Service now offers, in addition to the subsidised courses, a number of courses which are designed as progression opportunities for learners who have already attained proficiency in a subject. As these courses aim to extend learning, rather than introduce learners to a new subject, they are unable to be funded by the Skills Funding Agency and so are therefore charged at full cost. The service has also developed a number of day courses focusing on learning for leisure and these are also not subsidised by the Skills Funding Agency.*

*We apologise for the disappointment this has caused. Please note that there is a bursary fund, funded by fee income, to alleviate hardship. The bursary fund is available for learners attending both subsidised and full cost courses. If you would like further information about this please contact* *al-bursarygrants@northamptonshire.gov.uk*

*This new strategy has been approved and ratified by Northamptonshire County Council. If you would like further information about the changes in the Adult Learning Service’s strategic direction we will be pleased to send you a copy of our Community Learning Strategy 2015 – 16.*