

WECA Adult Education Budget 2020/21

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## In Year Growth Funds

1. Allocation of additional funds will be looking to support a number of specific priorities as opposed to general growth such as:
  - 1.1. **DWP Sector Based Work Academy Programme (SWAP):** In support of the government 'Plan for Jobs' WECA will offer additional funding to support the expansion of the Department of Work and Pensions SWAP beyond the current level. Providers will need to demonstrate that they have secured the commitment from an employer to offer both work experience placements and guaranteed interviews to learners, providers will also need to offer a package of learning. As DWP lead this programme WECA will only release funds in support of proposals approved by DWP and will take their lead if prioritisation / selection is needed.
    - 1.1.1. WECAs investment in SWAP is limited to the pre-employment training component. All other elements are funded / supported by DWP.
    - 1.1.2. Providers may not utilise the new learning aims created by WECA to support CEIAG, Initial Assessment and Work Experience within a SWAP programme as these do not form part of the pre-employment training component and are supported through other means.
  - 1.2. **The WECA Recruitment Pipeline:** WECA are creating a new programme within AEB which is intended to compliment the DWP Sector Based Work Academy programme. The WECA Recruitment Pipeline will draw upon an identical delivery model (i.e. a package of training, a work experience placement and a guaranteed interview) but will focus on supporting progression into slightly higher-level employment opportunities that require a slightly higher level of skill.
    - 1.2.1. The primary target group for the WECA Recruitment Pipeline is residents who are unemployed for at least 6 months, on current benefits with less than a full Level 3 qualification and may have a slightly higher level of work experience and qualification than those traditionally supported by sector based work academies but would benefit from retraining in order to broaden their employment prospects. WECA are willing to consider proposals that support any employer who is willing to offer the requisite work experience placements and guaranteed interviews.
    - 1.2.2. WECA will consider proposals based around the relevant qualifications that are considered by DfE to be [High Value Courses](#).

**1.3. Re-establishing Support for Priority residents:** One of WECA most significant concerns emerging from the COVID-19 crisis has been the near collapse of provision intended to support residents who are either long-term unemployed or are both unemployed and have no or low levels of prior attainment. This is to support residents with low or no prior attainment extends beyond those who are already unemployed to cover those who are in insecure employment who are at risk of becoming unemployed, such residents may be supported through the Low Wage Pilot. The priority residents are as follows:

- 1.3.1. Residents who have been either unemployed or economically inactive for 6 months or more.
- 1.3.2. Residents who are either unemployed or economically inactive, with prior attainment below full level 2.
- 1.3.3. Residents who are employed in jobs which are either low pay or at risk of redundancy, with prior attainment below full level 2.

**1.4. Digital: Stimulating Demand, Improving Access and Increasing Confidence:** In order to broaden access to learning through digital means to equip residents with the skills and confidence to access learning in this manner. WECA priority is to support disadvantaged residents who are eligible for Learners Support Funding or have levels of prior attainment below level 2.

- 1.4.1. Digital provision will be subject to normal AEB rules and reported via the ILR.
- 1.4.2. Digital Access will be subject to the learner support rules (as updated in Sept to accommodate IT equipment loans)
- 1.4.3. Stimulating demand is essentially marketing and will therefore not be linked to an individual learner and therefore can't be reported via the ILR. The MCR is a sensible alternative but we need to find a mechanism through which to confirm that this is AEB spend within national reporting. The EAS is a possibility but there may be other options.

**1.5. National Skill Fund (The Targeted Level 3 Entitlement)**

- 1.5.1. The additional funds allocated may only be used to fund the delivery of [eligible qualification](#).
- 1.5.2. When qualifications are added to the funding eligibility list, they will become eligible for funding from the publication date, and not be backdated to the start of the Level 3 Adult Offer (1 April 2021).
- 1.5.3. The additional funds will be subject to additional funding rules. We anticipate that these will be confirmed by DfE and adopted by WECA before the end of March 2020. We anticipate that these funding rules may include details concerning how the uplift payment may be utilised and a mechanism to potentially offer additional funds to support over-delivery up to 150% of the additional allocation value.
- 1.5.4. Further details can be found within the [AEB Performance Management Funding Rules for 20/21](#).



2. WECA will seek out to distribute the available budget in a manner that best targets local need, support collaborative planning and establishes an appropriate distribution across WECA constituent authorities.

### **Conditions of Funding**

3. The funding may only be utilised in support of the specific purposes for which it was granted, as such each individual element of recommended growth funding is a ring-fenced allocation. You may not vire funds between priorities or between growth funding and your core AEB allocation. You may however deliver more provision in support of our growth priorities from within your core AEB allocation if you have the capacity to do so.
4. Any growth funding variation must be agreed in advance by WECA and confirmed through a variation to the grant funding agreement.
5. All provision must be properly coded within the ILR in order to enable effective monitoring. We have developed a technical note to indicate what coding to apply in relation to each growth priority.
6. In addition to this, providers must ensure that the 'PriorLevel', 'EmpStat' and 'EmploymentStatusMonitoring' fields are completed in their ILR return for all learners. We expect that the usage of the 'unknown' coding will be limited to exceptional circumstances only and that these fields will be fully and accurately completed for the overwhelming majority of learners.
7. All funding must be fully utilised within the 2020/21 academic year.

### **Application Process / Approval Process**

8. Information on In Year Growth – Any application submitted would be speculative in nature and subject to affordability. WECA will consider applications as part of mid-year review process and will allocate funds to support approved allocations immediately after this process.
9. When submitting a In Year Growth application, your Curriculum and Delivery Plan will need to be updated in line with your application to be put forward for formal approval of the WECA CEO Group.