

WEST OF ENGLAND COMBINED AUTHORITY: MULTIPLY PROGRAMME 2022-23 SPECIFICATION

1. The Multiply Programme

Multiply is the new national programme focused on improving adult numeracy skills. It is targeted at adults aged 19+ who don't already have a Level 2 qualification in maths and supports both the employed and the unemployed.

2. Regional Need

2.1. Our regional Multiply approach has been designed based on consultation and joint working with a wide range of organisations and stakeholders. Through this work we have compiled a range of evidence, information and intelligence to demonstrate our regional need. Key elements of this can be found in the accompanying Year 1 Priority Indicators document. Applicants will need detail how their proposed provision has considered this evidence (as well as any local, granular evidence/information that they have access to).

2.2. Due to the limited nature of our funding we will prioritise projects for funding which can demonstrate they respond strongly to the underpinning evidence for the programme including areas such as:

2.2.1. Focus on residents to engage and support

2.2.2. Focus on employees and employment sectors to support

2.2.3. Geographical spread and targeting of provision

3. Key Requirements

The following outlines the key requirements for year 1 of the West of England Multiply programme.

3.1. Provision: For year 1 we are seeking provision which engages with, and supports, residents with low levels of numeracy (below Level 2) who also experience barriers to addressing these skills (such as a fear/phobia or low confidence with numbers). We are seeking provision which breaks down multiple barriers and increases numeracy confidence, supporting adults to move closer towards and ultimately onto mainstream maths provision at Level 1 and Level 2. This includes using methods such as developing a growth mindset, learning by stealth and sequenced bite sized chunks of learning which will support individuals to ultimately improve their numeracy skills.

3.2. Once a participant has been supported to address the individual barriers they face and are ready and willing to engage with mainstream maths provision at Level 1 and Level 2, then the provider should support them to identify suitable pathways which they actually use to progress onto this further maths provision.

Published on 28/07/2022

3.3. Examples of this provision includes fully funded maths entitlement courses through the Adult Education Budget (AEB), or other government funded maths provision. Through Multiply we are not seeking to fund the delivery of the formal maths qualifications that participants will progress onto. This further provision can however be with the same provider, or another provider in the region with a focus on face-to-face learning.

3.4. Through the Multiply programme we will fund providers to prepare and progress participants on to further provision, maximising the likelihood that learners will actually go on to achieve these qualifications. Therefore the provider should have a high level of confidence in the provision they progress participants onto. As part of the programme we will seek to monitor participants (through their Unique Learner Number or other appropriate means) on the provision they progress on to. We may adjust the structure of payment for the programme for subsequent years if we consider this model is not delivering the desired outcomes for participants.

3.5. Delivery Models:

For the first year of our regional Multiply programme we are seeking two distinct, but complementary, forms of delivery:

3.5.1. Model 1: Delivery based in **community settings targeting both employed and unemployed individuals**. This provision should build upon models that are already being used effectively in the region such as Community Learning, Family Learning or other models which effectively engage and support the learning of hard-to-reach individuals and target groups which are the focus of multiply delivery (see below).

3.5.2. Model 2: Delivery based on **employer premises targeting employed individuals**. This should be delivered in conjunction with/be supported by the employers. Providers should demonstrate how the provision they are proposing will derive the outputs and outcomes we are seeking including wherever possible evidence of prior success.

3.6. Target Participants:

We wish to focus our investment on the individuals who would benefit most from the provision. We also want to ensure that clear progression pathways are available for those who take part in the programme. As such for the **first year of our regional Multiply delivery** we have defined the key target participants as:

3.6.1. **Unemployed/Economically Inactive and particularly those who meet one or more of the following:**

3.6.1.1. Have prior attainment for maths/numeracy below full Level 2 (this is mandatory)

3.6.1.2. Have had this status for six months or more

3.6.1.3. Live in the most deprived areas of our region (see associated Priority Indicators and Intelligence)

Published on 28/07/2022

3.6.2. Employed and particularly those who meet one or more of the following:

- 3.6.2.1. Have prior attainment for maths/numeracy below full Level 2 (this is mandatory)
- 3.6.2.2. Are employed within key identified sectors (see associated evidence base) where rates of low numeracy skills are highest
- 3.6.2.3. Are in insecure employment or have low pay
- 3.6.2.4. Live in the most deprived areas of our region (see associated Priority Indicators and Intelligence)

3.7. We are seeking the following approximate ratio of support for year 1:

3.7.1. 60% of provision supporting employed participants

3.7.2. 40% of provision supporting unemployed participants

Due to the limited nature of our funding we will prioritise projects for funding which target these individuals.

3.8. Co-ordination and Progression:

3.8.1. A key focus of our approach is enabling **clear, and supported, progression for multiply participants** to AEB statutory entitlement and other fully funded maths provision. Applicants must demonstrate they have clearly identified the full range of regional numeracy progression pathways and how they will support Multiply participants to progress to Level 1 and Level 2 numeracy qualifications. Where a provider delivers this provision themselves, they can use internal progression for Multiply participants.

3.8.2. Projects should consider how they can co-locate with other relevant services to enable ease of access to support and progression. Examples include co-locating in community hubs (where they exist) and other venues.

3.9. Geographical Coverage: We are looking for a spread of provision across the full West of England geography which responds proportionately to the evidence of need included within our evidence base. This includes the following Local Authority areas.

- 3.9.1.1. Bath and North-East Somerset
- 3.9.1.2. City of Bristol
- 3.9.1.3. North Somerset
- 3.9.1.4. South Gloucestershire

3.10. Community based Multiply provision should be easily accessible to targeted participants. We will seek a balanced portfolio of delivery across the region including outside of our major urban areas to ensure an equality of access to all residents in the region.

3.11. Applications should also consider how they intend to engage participants with maths/numeracy instruction beyond the classroom. This

might be as simple as offering extension activities in the form of homework, or might offer homework hubs, where participants can catch and work through maths/numeracy problems together in an informal setting.

4. Participant Eligibility

4.1. A key requirement of the Multiply programme (as set by DfE) is that it cannot duplicate or destabilise AEB delivery. Therefore Multiply can only support participants who are not ready to engage with a Maths qualifications at Level 1 or 2.

4.2. Multiply participants must be eligible to access government funded education and skills provision.

4.3. Our Multiply provision should primarily support residents of the West of England

5. Multiply Providers

5.1. To extend their delivery reach, providers may wish to consider forming consortia to create a portfolio of provision (see geographic area, at 3.11). In this case we would expect a reduced need for multiple back-office functions.

5.2. It is for providers to demonstrate that the provision they propose will deliver the outputs and outcomes we are seeking. Providers should demonstrate a **strong track record** of delivering the type of provision, using the delivery methods, they are proposing. They should also demonstrate a strong track record of progressing participants onto other forms of training and/or employability support and how they monitor this.

5.3. We are not seeking to restrict providers to those who are solely based in the West of England. However before applying for funding potential providers should consider the following:

5.3.1. We are seeking providers that can demonstrate they understand our residents, communities, employers and economy at a local level. Therefore evidence of successful previous, and recent, delivery is likely to be a distinct advantage.

5.3.2. Providers will need to demonstrate they have in place, and are using, the necessary joint working and progression pathways with other provision in the region.

5.3.3. We are seeking provision that has a strong element of face-to-face support. We are not seeking online only models of delivery.

6. Multiply Programme Performance

6.1. The delivery for the West of England Multiply Programme should be designed with the following performance targets in mind:

Performance Measurement	
Participants addressing barriers to increasing numeracy skills and completing Multiply Provision	80%

Participants Progressing to Maths Qualifications at Level 1 or Level 2	60%
Participants achieving a Maths Qualification at Level 1 or Level 2	40%

7. Delivery Timescales:

7.1. Multiply is a three-year programme. Delivery dates are:

Year	Start Date	End Date
Year One	1 st April 2022	31 st March 2023
Year Two	1 st April 2023	31 st March 2024
Year Three	1 st April 2024	31 st March 2025

7.2. We are currently seeking projects for delivery in year one only. Due to restrictions on the funding we are unable to roll funding over financial year boundaries so **all year 1 direct Multiply delivery must be complete by 31st March 2023**. Providers should only apply if they can demonstrate they can deliver within the required timescales.

8. Available Funding:

8.1. The overall funding available for year 1 delivery of the West of England Multiply Programme is **£1,209,645**. Of this we are seeking to fund:

8.1.1. Community Based Provision: **£967,716 (80% of available funding)**

8.1.2. Employer Based provision: **£241,929 (20% of available funding)**

8.2. We have split the available funding (as shown in 8.1.1 and 8.1.2) because we believe community-based provision can be mobilised most swiftly based on a strong track record of current delivery. With a limited amount of time available for spend in year 1 this will reduce the risk of underspend and claw back of funding.

8.3. In years 2 and year 3 we plan to rebalance the proportion of funds used for community-based delivery versus employer-based delivery.

8.4. All providers will need to demonstrate they can successfully mobilise and complete delivery within the timescale available to be awarded funding. If a provider can demonstrate they can mobilise employer-based delivery beyond the amount stated above, then we will consider their application.

9. Delivery Volumes:

9.1. For the funding we have available (year 1 only) as a minimum we expect to engage with the following volume of participants across the whole programme of activity:

	Total Funding	Participants to be Engaged
Delivery based in the community	£967,716	806
Delivery based on employer premises	£241,929	202

9.2. The ratio above would be adjusted if an applicant can demonstrate that they can mobilise employer-based delivery quickly, and above the level stated in section 8.

9.3. We have based our delivery numbers on an average figure of £1,200 per head/learner (including wrap-around progression support).

10. Monitoring Requirements:

10.1. As stated above the ultimate aim of our regional Multiply programme is that participants who were previously unable to engage with, and achieve, a Maths qualification at Level 1 and Level 2 are able to do so. We recognise that some Multiply learners may need to overcome a number of barriers to improve their numeracy skills. Therefore our monitoring requirements for each project will cover some, or all, of the following areas:

10.1.1. Number of participants engaging with Multiply provision in the region.

10.1.2. Number of participants reporting increased confidence/ability and reduced fear of maths.

10.1.3. Number of participants reporting they are able, and want to, progress to Maths qualifications at Level 1 and Level 2

10.1.4. Number of participants successfully completing Multiply provision in the region

10.1.5. Number of participants successfully progressing to Maths provision at Level 1 and Level 2

10.1.6. Number of participants successfully achieving a Maths qualification at Level 1 and Level 2

10.2. In addition we are also very keen to understand how the regional programme:

10.2.1. Supports participants to progress towards other forms of support including employability and/or other forms of training

10.2.2. Supports participants to progress within work (current role) or into more secure work (new role)

10.2.3. Supports referrals between locally funded/delivered programmes and services (e.g. Local Authority One Front Door Services, Future Bright, Community Support Fund, DWP Programmes etc.)

10.3. Providers will need to demonstrate their ability and methodology for collecting the programme monitoring requirements.

11. Reporting Requirements:

11.1. The core monitoring information about each Multiply participant will be collected via the Individualised Learner Record (ILR). It will be the responsibility of each provider to ensure every participant has completed an ILR.

Published on 28/07/2022

- 11.2. All providers will need to demonstrate that they already use and submit the ILR or that they have the technical ability to do so. If a provider does not currently submit the ILR they will need to be onboarded into the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) systems. If a provider has to be onboarded, they must demonstrate they can still successfully deliver the required provision within the year 1 timeframe.
- 11.3. We may also ask providers to submit the ILR for Multiply participants directly to the Combined Authority.
- 11.4. Monitoring for aspects of delivery that cannot be reported via the ILR will be completed via a direct information return to the Combined Authority.
- 11.5. Financial reporting for the programme will be completed via direct information returns to the Combined Authority.
- 11.6. DfE wish to measure the impact of the Multiply programme overall. Therefore surveys, with some follow up interviews, will be conducted by a DfE research team.

Any further questions about the West of England Multiply Programme can be directed to: skills@westofengland-ca.gov.uk