



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
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Devolved Adult Education Budget (AEB) External Evaluation Headlines

The First Three Years

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AEB Evaluation

- To evaluate effectiveness & to help inform improvements
- Full year data period 2019/20 to 2021/22.
- Undertaken in 2023, so conclusions are current
- Methodology
 - Desk-based research
 - Online learner survey (725 responses)
 - In-person and online workshops
 - 60+ interviews



What the Adult Education Budget is for

- Fully devolved – c£12m funding p.a.
- Adult Skills
- Community Learning
- Ages 19+
- Up-skilling, re-skilling
- Into, within, & between work
- Life-long learning & wellbeing
- Regional flexibility



Devolution Context

- CPCA one of eight MCAs to receive AEB.
- CPCA by far the lowest allocation. (North of Tyne 197%) and (Tees Valley (255%) next smallest.
- Other areas have significantly more resources with which to manage their programmes.
- CPCA 3.4% management fee = £380k.
GMCA 1.8% management fee = £1.7m.



Covid Impact



- Lockdowns/ restrictions affected all three years
- Learner numbers significantly affected
- Providers needed to:
 - Adapt premises.
 - Rapidly increase on-line delivery.
 - Develop new methods to attract and retain learners

Learning Providers

- 176 providers delivered learning (2016/17)
 - The 10 largest attracted 84% of funding
 - 90% based 10 miles or more outside CPCA area.
 - 61% had 10 or fewer learners from CPCA area.
 - 41% of learning was subcontracted
- Fewer, bigger, better
 - Reduced to 17 providers (2019/20)
 - Based in the CPCA area - or with substantial site within 10-mile radius (12 providers)
 - 5 commercial Training Providers selected by tender



Regional Flexibilities

“The CPCA has introduced a wide range of funding flexibilities to drive provision, and an Innovation Fund to encourage new and exciting delivery methodologies”

Including:

- Full funding for learners who take their first Level 2 (equivalent to GCSE) and Level 3 (equivalent to A Level) qualifications.
- Fully funded ESOL training (English for Speakers of Other Languages).
- The Care Leavers’ Bursary and extended support for care leavers progressing into further education



Number of Learners

Learners	Adult Skills	Community Learning	Total
2018/19	8,607	7,315	15,146
2019/20	6,954	1,763	8,421
2020/21	6,884	2,402	8,674
2021/22	8,269	2,059	9,709

In 2019/20

- Total learners 56% of 2018/19
- 76% drop in community learning

By 2021/22

- Adult Skills almost returned to 2018/19
- Community Learning 28% of 2018/19

Spend

- Funding per year = c£12m
- Spend by year has increased significantly (up 42% over three years)
- Adult Skills up by 1/3
- Community Learning almost doubled
- Community Learning % total is variable (15%, 24%, 18%)

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Total	£7.84m	£9.5m	£11.2m
Adult Skills	£6.36m	£6.87m	£8.6m
Community Learning	£977k	£2.2m	£1.9m
EAS/ Learner Support	£501k	£460k	£625k

Geography

2021/22	AEB Learners	% 16+ Population
Cambridge	1,407	1.13%
East Cambs	608	0.85%
Fenland	1,318	1.55%
Hunts	1,379	0.93%
P'Boro	3,695	2.21%
S. Cambs	1,305	1%
TOTAL	9,712	1.34%

- Peterborough has 23% of total residents, 38% of all AEB learners and 43% of AEB budget.
- But Fenland, East Cambridge and Huntingdonshire (areas with lower educational attainment) are underrepresented
- Appointment of place-based Partnership Managers in 2023 will help to improve geographic focus

Diversity

Learner Ethnicity	CPCA Region	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22
Arab	<1%	1%	2%	1%	1%
Asian	8%	8%	11%	9%	11%
Black	2%	3%	5%	5%	6%
Mixed/ Multiple	3%	2%	4%	4%	4%
White	86%	80%	75%	73%	74%
Other Ethnic	1%	1%	2%	2%	3%
Not Given		6%	3%	6%	2%
Disability/ Learning difficulty		14%	19%	19%	20%

- 14% of CPCA population are from black and minority groups
- % learners in 2021/22 from black and minority groups was 24% compared to 14% in 2018/19.
- % learners with a learning difficulty/ disability has increased from 14% in 18/19 to 20% in 21/22

Sector Focus

- CPCA has defined a number of Growth & Priority Sectors
- 34% of total learners were in Priority Sectors (2021/22)
- 24% were in the Health Sector (2021/22)
- 5% are in Growth Sectors (2021/22)

Growth Sectors	Priority Sectors
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adv. Manufacturing• Agri-tech• Digital & A.I.• Life Sciences	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Construction• Education• Health• Hospitality & Leisure• Retail• Transport/ wider manufacturing

Key points



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- **Positive evidence of ‘buying better’ using our flexibilities**
- **Performance increasing in terms of both volumes and spend,**
- **Learner diversity is strong**
- **High Growth and Priority Sectors need more focus**
- **Shift in % spent on Community Learning vs. Adult Skills**
- **Peterborough learner numbers doing well – need more in Fenland, East Cambs, and Hunts**

Next Steps

- Continue to 'buy better' and also 'buy-best'
- Strategic commissioning – more focus on High Growth and other Priority sectors
- Strengthen geographical focus – impact in areas of deprivation
- Review Community Learning Strategy
- Investigate innovation in other MCA areas
- Robust Contract Management





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