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The Skills Escalator

AEB Commissioning Cycle Update for
Employment and Skills Board

2022/23 – 2026-27

PARMINDER SINGH GARCHA

SRO – ADULT EDUCATION





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Today's Update

- Commissioning Cycle for 2022/23 and beyond
 - Grant funded colleges and Institutes of Adult Learning
 - Procurement of Independent Training Providers (ITPs)
 - Multiply update
 - Commissioning approach for local Community organisations
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Background

Budget:

- Devolved Adult Education Budget – c£12m per annum
 - Level 3 - Free Courses for Jobs – c£0.9m for 2022/23
 - AEB Reserve - ‘recycled funds’ from previous years – c£2m
- Total for 2022/23 = c£15m
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Expect:

c£4m from Multiply (adult numeracy) for 2022 – 2025 (c£1.3m pa)

Plus:

c£4.9m Skills Bootcamps for 2022/23



What does Skills Escalator mean?

➤ Pre-work and formal education

Progression for 19-24 entitlement learners to HE and/or employment

A wider programme of study for young adults and the 'wrap-around' support

➤ Employer access to talent

Workforce development and progression to level 2, 3 and 4 in our growth and foundational sectors where there are skills shortages

➤ Life-wide and lifelong learning

Opportunities for learning online, in the workplace and or/in the community directed by the individual

Public and private investment in learning

Learning in the community for personal and social development, 'first-steps', health and wellbeing, community connection, sustainability and cohesion

Tacking the Basic Skills deficit (English, maths and essential digital skills) – esp. in the work-place

➤ Support into and between work

Enable more local people to access local opportunities

Skills support for those furthest from the labour market





Funding share



Assuming £3.5m is awarded to ITPs for the 2022/23 academic year, this takes potential grant allocations and contract awards to £14.3 from a projected £15m AEB & L3 budget

- £0.2m for in-year demand
- £0.5m (propose for community-based engagement)



Grant Funded Providers

- Approval from CA Board to enter into Plan-Led (3 year funding agreements)
- 2022/23 Plans approved and funding agreements being issued
- Further work to agree 2023/24 and 2024/25 Plans
- Alignment of Plans to Employment and Skills Strategy
- Progression pathways and increase in learning at level 3 (and some level 4)
- Wider outcomes of learning

Independent Training Providers



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Five-year Commissioning Cycle for 2022/23 for ITPs, with annual renewal

Doubled the budget available for ITPs from £1.8m to £3.5m

Expect to increase the number of providers

Minimum Contract Value of £100K

Procurement seeks to fill gaps or add value to Grant Funded 'mainstream' provision

Providers can submit one application across multiple tenders but initial award capped at £400K

Ensure Strategic fit to Employment and Skills Strategy



Five AEB and L3 Lots

The Youth Offer
(flexible programmes
of study for 19-24
year-olds) - £0.7m

Skills for jobs - £0.7m

Unlock with Level 3
(first and second level
3 courses) - £1m

Bespoke employer
programmes in
Growth Sectors –
£0.6m

Skills for Netzero -
£0.5m

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Procurement Timeline

Process	Expected Date	Status
Issue Supplier Selection Questionnaire	24 March 2022	Complete
Invitation to Tender	15 June 2022 - 13 July 2022	Underway
Evaluation	14 July – 3 August 2022	
Moderation	4 August – 5 August 2022	
Negotiations with providers	8 August – 12 August 2022	
Standstill	15 August – 25 August 2022	
Contract signatures	26 August – 2 September 2022	

Multiply



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Multiply – new adult numeracy programme starting in 2022-23 academic year

- £4m allocated from UK Shared Prosperity Fund for 3-year programme to C&P
- Investment plan submitted end of June setting out activities, spend and outcomes. Expect to hear in August with delivery in Sept
- Menu of interventions identified by DfE – not to duplicate or displace AEB
- Partnerships, outreach and employer engagement
- Working with National Numeracy UK - National Numeracy Day on 18 May
- We will commission via procurement and allocations process for existing grant providers.

**“Invest in
meaningful
participation that
boosts people’s
ability to use
maths in their
daily life”**

Menu of Options for delivery

	Menu of options for delivery
a	Courses designed to increase confidence with numbers for those needing the first steps, using best practice to engage new learners including a cross-agency approach and working with local employers
b	Courses designed to help people use numeracy to manage their money
c	Innovative numeracy programmes delivered together with employers – including courses designed to cover specific numeracy skills required in the workplace
d	Courses aimed at people who can't apply for certain jobs because of lack of numeracy skills and/or to encourage people to upskill in numeracy order to access a certain job/career.
e	New intensive and flexible numeracy courses targeted at people without Level 2 maths, leading to a Functional Skills Qualification
f	Courses for parents wanting to increase their numeracy skills in order to help their children, and help with their own progression
g	Numeracy courses aimed at prisoners, those recently released from prison or on temporary licenc
h	Numeracy courses aimed at those 19 or over that are leaving, or have just left, the care system
i	Numeracy activities, courses or provision developed in partnership with community organisations and other partners aimed at engaging the hardest to reach learners – for example, those not in the labour market or other groups identified locally as in need.
j	Additional relevant maths modules embedded into other vocational courses

Designing an approach for small Community Providers

Objective:

To 'level up' skills and opportunities, we need to:

- reach deeper to support neighbourhoods where there are lower levels of participation in adult learning and skills AND high levels of relative deprivation
- Direct bespoke support for communities of interest and/or under-represented groups to jobs and skills and/or wider outcomes of learning such as volunteering

Approach:

- Exploring different commissioning options in partnership with CVSs
- Looking to allocate c£0.5m, subject to Board approval for a 'different' approach
- Learning from approaches from other MCAs and funding bodies



Any
Questions?
