

TITLE OF REPORT: Department for Education- Multiply Funding

REPORT OF: Helen Fergusson, Strategic Director, Children's Social Care and Lifelong Learning

Purpose of the Report

1. To inform cabinet of the Department for Education Multiply funding of £1.169million and provide details on how this funding will be applied across Gateshead.

Background

2. Multiply is Department for Education funding that is being distributed to all upper tier/unitary authorities, Mayoral Combined Authorities across the UK, and the Greater London Authority. The aim of the funding is to improve the numeracy skills of adults who do not already have a level 2 maths qualification.
3. Multiply is ring-fenced funding as part of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, of which Cabinet was informed of in on 14th July 2022.
4. It total, £559 million of funding is being made available across the UK. Gateshead has been allocated £1,169,620.90 split across three financial years as follows: 2022-2023 £353,606.32; 2023-2024 £408,007.29; 2024-2025 £408.007.29. The first instalment will be paid in September 2022.
5. Funding was allocated based on three determinants of 1) local authority skills level, 2) population, and 3) area cost uplift. Funding must be ringfenced for Multiply and cannot be brought forward or reserved for future years.
6. An investment plan has been submitted that sets out how Gateshead Council will deliver and commit to the Multiply outcomes. It demonstrates how interventions will fit with the Government's wider ambitions, local strategies and coordinate with the wider UK Shared Prosperity Funds. Gateshead Council's Investment Plan was approved by the Department for Education on the 23rd August 2022.
7. Reporting will be completed monthly using the Individualised Learner Record (ILR) used for all post-16 education data collection and reporting. An annual progress report will be submitted at the end of year one and year two with a final report at the end of year 3.
8. The project will be evaluated throughout using the Social Return on Investment model This will demonstrate the difference the project will have made, provide intelligence throughout the project to inform continuous improvement, and enhance impact and value for money.

9. Outcomes and outputs will be measured against the DfE proposed indicators which include the number of people participating in a numeracy course, improved labour markets, and increased adult numeracy.

Proposal

10. It is proposed that Learning and Skills will lead the delivery and commissioning of all Multiply interventions, using their expertise in community learning and the FE sector to ensure it meets all the requirements set by the Department for Education.
11. These funds (over 3 years) will be allocated as follows (all approximate):
- £31,000 allocated to embedding maths into vocational learning provision
 - £56,000 allocated to improving the numeracy skills of those who are unemployed
 - £236,000 allocated to help residents manage their money
 - £81,000 to help people take the first steps towards a numeracy course
 - £66,000 for parents to increase their maths skills to help their children
 - £20,000 to help employed people improve maths skills needed in the workplace
 - £126,000 to develop a more flexible approach to achieving a functional skills qualification
 - £500,000 allocated in grants to the voluntary and community sector to develop innovative numeracy programmes with their service users
 - £45,000 to help young care leavers gain maths skills
 - £27,000 to provide whole of life maths assessments to identify individual needs
 - £47,000 to train people to become numeracy champions and teachers
12. An administration fee of £117,000 can be applied across the whole project which will be used to part-fund the Multiply team with 5 new members of staff recruited. A total of £31,000 will be allocated to marketing the project.

Recommendations

13. It is recommended that Cabinet:
- (i) Approves the management of Multiply to be led by Learning and Skills, utilising their expertise in community and further education.
 - (ii) Endorses the proposed allocation of funding as set out in appendices 2 and 3 to the report.

For the following reasons:

To enable sound delivery and reporting and the success of the project.

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APPENDIX 1

Policy Context

1. In Spring 2022, the Government published the Levelling Up White Paper which detailed their plans to support all parts of the UK. This highlighted a range of funding opportunities, including Multiply.
2. Multiply is the 'first priority' of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (reported to Cabinet on 19 July 2022), supporting the Levelling Up mission to ensure that by 2030, the number of people successfully completing high-quality skills training will have significantly increased in every area of the UK.
3. Improving maths skills means better employment, higher wages, and better wellbeing. It strategically fits with the Thrive Agenda, tackling inequality, supporting communities and investing in skills to improve employment opportunities. Having maths qualifications also opens up opportunities to study higher level qualifications or training. It also matters to businesses, boosting productivity, increasing profits, and improving employee retention.

Background

4. Local authorities have the flexibility to determine what provision is needed to deliver high quality, innovative numeracy interventions that meet the needs of local people and the national aims for Multiply. Some of these interventions will lead to attainment of a qualification, but non-qualification provision should also be developed where more appropriate.
5. The Department for Education have designed a menu of interventions which should be used when making decisions about the provision. These interventions should be for adults aged 19 and over.
6. The interventions are:
 - Courses designed to increase confidence with numbers for those needing the first steps towards formal numeracy qualifications
 - Courses designed to help people use numeracy to manage their money
 - Innovative numeracy programmes delivered together with employers- including courses designed to cover specific numeracy skills required in the workplace
 - Courses aimed at people who can't apply for certain jobs because of lack of numeracy skills and/or encourage people to upskill in numeracy in order to access a certain job/career
 - New intensive and flexible numeracy courses targeted at people without level 2 maths, leading to a functional skills qualification
 - Courses for parents wanting to increase their numeracy skills in order to help their children, and help their own progression
 - Numeracy courses aimed at prisoners, those recently released from prison or on temporary licence
 - Numeracy courses aimed at those 19 or over that are leaving, or have just left, the care system

- Numeracy activities, courses or provision developed in partnership with community organisations and other partners aimed at engaging the hardest to reach learners
- Additional relevant maths modules embedded into other vocational courses

Consultation

19. All Cabinet Members have been consulted on the content of this report.

Alternative Options

20. If the Council does not accept this award then the funding outlined in Appendix 2 will not proceed or deliver any interventions in Gateshead.

Implications of Recommended Option

21. **Resources:**

- a) **Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital confirms there will be no impact on any capital or revenue budgets. Spend is claimed against actuals on a monthly basis in arrears. If the project aims are not met and funding returned, all costs will be met within Learning and Skills Education Funding Agency and Education Skills Funding Agency budgets.
- b) **Human Resources Implications** – Up to 5 additional new members of staff will be recruited to the project, which will be completed as a phased approach to monitor demand. Two existing members of staff have been appointed to manage the project, making savings to Learning and Skills.
- c) **Property Implications** - There are no property implications arising directly from this report.

22. **Risk Management Implication** - There is very limited risk relating to the financial element of the project. However, all expenditure will be reimbursed by the Department for Education up to the maximum value of the project.

23. **Equality and Diversity Implications** – This project will have a positive impact on the residents of Gateshead, particularly those who have low-level skills, qualifications below level 2, and those in low-paid jobs. There will be a positive impact for young people leaving care, ex-offenders, residents claiming work and non work-related benefits, parents with school age children.

24. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising as a result of this report

25. **Health Implications** – The project will have a positive impact on the health and well-being of project participants through:

- Improved financial security
- Increased contact with others through learning activities
- Access to better jobs and education

26. **Climate Emergency and Sustainability Implications** - There are no direct climate energy and sustainability implications arising as a result of this report.
27. **Human Rights Implications** - There are no direct human rights implications arising as a result of this report.
28. **Ward Implications** – There will be positive implications for all wards of Gateshead. However, the following wards, who have the lowest numeracy skills levels in Gateshead, will see the most significant and direct impact through targeted delivery:
- Felling
 - High Fell
 - Deckham
 - Lobley Hill and Bensham
 - Windy Nook and Whitehills
 - Bridges
 - Lamesley
 - Dunston and Teams

Background Information

29. The following background papers have been used to inform this report:
- [Multiply Investment Prospectus \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/106422/multiply-investment-prospectus.pdf)
 - [Multiply Technical Guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/106423/multiply-technical-guidance.pdf)
 - [Multiply investment template.odt \(live.com\)](https://live.com/multiply-investment-template.odt)
 - [Multiply investment plan template section A question 2 corrected May 2022.ods \(live.com\)](https://live.com/multiply-investment-plan-template-section-A-question-2-corrected-May-2022.ods)
 - [Indicative allocations for local areas - GOV.UK \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/106424/indicative-allocations-for-local-areas.pdf)

Appendix 2: Investment Plan

Appendix 3: Interventions