

Report

Report to:	Education Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	26 September 2023
Report by:	Executive Director (Education Resources) Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

Subject:	Youth, Family and Community Learning Service Multiply Adult Numeracy Initiative
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ advise Committee of allocated Multiply Funds for Youth, Family and Community Learning and of the planned delivery model and associated staffing requirements, including the need to have the appointments made early in the new term as a matter of urgency.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the requirement to have posts added to the established to meet the additionality purpose of the fund, be noted;
- (2) that the proposed additional posts detailed in para 6 and the financial costs in para 7 of the report be agreed and the posts temporarily added to the Youth, Family and Community Learning Service establishment to deliver the 'Numbers Count' project be approved; and
- (3) that the continued commitment to vulnerable learners and the actions to develop their skills and confidence, through Youth, Family and Community Learning Service activities is noted.

3. Background

3.1. The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is the UK Government's main intended replacement for European Union Structural Funds (EUS) and was announced in June 2021.

3.2. The UKSPF forms part of the UK Government's Levelling Up Strategy targeting funding, targeted at the areas identified as most in need. The UKSPF overall aim is levelling up economic opportunity across the UK wide regions and building "Pride of Place" through economic actions.

3.3. Within the overall budget, a sum of money is ringfenced to fund the 'Multiply' adult numeracy initiative. To meet the UK Government's priority of enhancing adult numeracy, each area is required to invest a ring-fenced amount to fund local Multiply interventions.

- 3.4. While there is flexibility on funding allocations around the 51 investment priorities of the wider UKSPF, there is no flexibility on Multiply funding allocations for delivery.
- 3.5. Youth, Family and Community Learning Service will deliver interventions to support the following priorities:-
 - ◆ **S43M:** Courses for parents wanting to increase their numeracy skills in order to help their children and help with their own progression
 - ◆ **S45M:** Courses designed to increase confidence with numbers for those needing the first steps towards formal qualifications
 - ◆ **S49M:** Courses designed to help people use numeracy to manage their money.
 - ◆ **S51M:** 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
- 3.6. Project start forms have been submitted providing details of the planned delivery and spend for the Youth, Family and Community Learning Service.

4. Youth, Family and Community Learning Service Planned Delivery of 'Numbers Count' Project

- 4.1. Youth, Family and Community Learning Service (YFCLS) will build on well established relationships with partners to engage the community in learning with numbers to meet their identified needs. The Project will utilise national campaigns, such as Maths Week, to promote and embed opportunities.
- 4.2. Learners will participate in functional numeracy courses that will build skills and enrich their lives. Classes will be delivered creatively to engage with everyday numerical tasks, build confidence and capacity to progress and this will be tracked.
- 4.3. Learning programmes will be tailored to meet the expressed needs of learners and will be underpinned using Group and Individual Learning Plans; programmes will be short term, medium term and longer term based on these needs. In addition to this, all programmes will be subject to existing quality management systems to ensure they are targeted appropriately and have the intended impact.
- 4.4. A key feature of the project will be the delivery of specific interventions to engage parents to support their own and their child's learning. YFCL will build on existing relationships with schools through its range of networks to ensure maximum impact is achieved.
- 4.5. Inputs will be designed to attract learners from SIMD areas into financial literacy programmes to better understand daily life challenges such as bills and how to seek out the best possible deals online. Using existing partnerships, such as the Financial Inclusion Network, YFCL will target provision where the need is greatest, and across partners to maximise knowledge and understanding of the provision.

5. Monitoring and Evaluation

- 5.1. All programmes will be monitored using agreed YFCLS and partnership measures.
- 5.2. Engagement and participation levels will be gathered using existing registration forms that capture demographics and key monitoring information.

- 5.3. Learner progress will be monitored through an existing suite of measures, including Individual Learning Plans, Group Learning Plans and learner surveys. Evaluation methodology will be tailored to meet the needs of the group and will be proportionate to the engagement level – short term, medium term, and longer-term inputs. Information gathered will be used to evidence impact.
- 5.4. Impact will be recorded through the existing suite of measures that have been agreed through the Community Learning and Development (CLD) 3-Year Strategic Plan 2021 - 2024. From the full suite of measures, the following measures are identified as specific impacts of the project's programmes:-
- ◆ B2 – Learners have improved their numeracy skills
 - ◆ B3 – Learners have improved their IT skills
 - ◆ B4 – Learners have improved their budgeting skills
 - ◆ D1 – Learners are better able to support their child's/family members learning in literacy and numeracy
 - ◆ D3 – Learners are better able to support their child's curricular learning

Any additional unintended impacts will be captured through the wider suite of 35 measures agreed by the CLD Partnership.

- 5.5. All necessary measures to ensure compliance will be reported through agreed reporting mechanisms for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

6. Employee Implications

- 6.1. 4 YFCL Officers (numeracy) will be in post for the duration of the funding, until March 2025. These team members will be embedded into the current Adult Literacy and Numeracy (ALAN) and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) teams, and will benefit from co-location with this team.
- 6.2. The Team Leader post will support development of the Multiply project, in addition to supporting the existing wider ALAN/ESOL delivery. Recent extension to the ALAN and ESOL team necessitates the need for this post to support the existing ALAN/ESOL Coordinator.
- 6.3. The proposal is for the following posts to be added to the establishment until 31 March 2025:

Post	Current No of posts	Proposed No of posts	Grade	SCP range	Hourly rate	Annual salary	Gross cost	Total cost
Team Leader	-	1	G3 L4	72-74	£22.07-£22.53	£40,275-£41,115	£52,479-£53,573	£52,479-£53,573
YFCL officer	-	4	G3 L2	63-65	£19.47-£20.00	£35,530-£36,498	£46,296-£47,557	£185,182-£190,228

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. The costs of YFCLS supporting the delivery of Multiply is £0.481m over 2023/24 and 2024/25 and this includes staffing of £0.368m to 31 March 2025 and equipment and other resources of £0.113m.
- 7.2. These costs will be covered by Shared Prosperity Funding for this project.

8. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

8.1. There are no climate change, sustainability or environmental implications in terms of the recommendations in this report.

9. Other Implications

9.1. There are no risk implications in terms of the recommendations in this report

10. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

10.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function of strategy and, therefore, no impact assessment is required.

10.2. Consultation on the programme will be carried out with all appropriate stakeholders including children, young people, families, staff and partners, to ensure that needs are identified and met.

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Executive Director (Education Resources Resources)

Paul Manning

Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

5 September 2023

Link(s) to Council Values/Priorities/Outcomes

- ◆ Education and learning: inspiring learners, transforming learning, strengthening partnerships
- ◆ Children and Young People: Our children and young people thrive

Previous References

None

List of Background Papers

None

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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