



SUPPLY CHAIN PARTNER MANAGEMENT AND FEE POLICY

JANUARY 2024

Aiming to improve the quality of life skills and employability of residents in the Borough, making Wandsworth a vibrant, prosperous learning community

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Content

Section	Page
1. Purpose	3
2. Learner Fees	4
3. Community and Accredited Learning Subcontractors	6
4. Classroom and Community Learning learner fees	6
5. 16-18 Apprenticeships Fees	6
6. 19+ Apprenticeships Fees	6
7. ESF Programme Fees	7
8. Traineeships Fees	7
9. Management fees to Subcontractors	7
10. Support on Offer to Subcontractors	7
11. Differences in Management Fees	8
12. Payment Terms	8
Appendix A: 2023/24 Classroom Accredited subcontracting	9
Appendix B: 2023/24- Community Learning Non-Accredited subcontracting arrangements	10
Appendix C: Actual supply chain fees and charges for Classroom Accredited learning for 2022/23	11
Appendix D: Actual supply chain fees and charges for Community Learning Non-Accredited for 2022/23	12

Note

If you are using a hard copy of this strategy/policy or looking at it on any website other than Wandsworth Lifelong Learning's website or the MIS SharePoint site, please ensure that you have the most recent copy. Check the version number of the copy you are looking at against that of the copy on the Wandsworth Lifelong Learning website.

www.wandsworthlifelonglearning.org.uk/policies-procedures/

Supply Chain Partner Management and Fee Policy 2023/24

1 | Purpose

The purpose of this document is to detail the fees policy for Wandsworth Lifelong Learning for the academic year 2023/24. The document details the fees to be paid by learners for any courses attended and the management fees Wandsworth Council Lifelong Learning (WCLL) applies to Subcontractors on various projects.

In addition, this policy ensures the effective management of Subcontractors and other supply chain partners, in order to reduce and mitigate potential risks to WCLL and other Funding Bodies.

Wandsworth Council Lifelong Learning works with a diverse supply chain across a number of government programmes to meet the needs of our clients and funders. By utilising various specialists and niche providers, we are better equipped to provide a specialist service that caters for the needs of the individual. We believe that this raises the standard of our provision and promotes social, economic, cultural and commercial development within the borough.

Through subcontracting arrangements, WCLL supports and builds the capacity of organisations, which result in desirable long-term benefits for both programme participants and partner organisations.

WCLL considers, above all, a subcontractor's ability to deliver specific outputs, and the added value of specialist partners in order to ensure value for money, compliance and quality of provision.

Through working with Subcontractors and partner organisations, we promote sustained businesses, the creation of jobs and boost the local economy.

Lifelong Learning Mission Statement

“All Wandsworth residents will have access to a wide range of high-quality learning opportunities in a safe learning environment. Provision will be responsive, flexible and held at times and in places designed to meet the needs of learners, employers and the local community. The Lifelong Learning team aims to improve the employment skills, career development, the quality of life and wellbeing of residents in the Borough, making Wandsworth a vibrant, prosperous learning community.”

Wandsworth Council Lifelong Learning currently delivers learning activities under the following funding streams:

- Adult Education Budget
 - Community Learning
 - Classroom
- 16-18 Apprenticeships
- 19+ Apprenticeships
- ESF Funded programmes
- UK Shared Prosperity Fund

If any organisation is interested in becoming a provider under any of the funding streams please see the Wandsworth Council Lifelong Learning web site (www.wandsworthlifelonglearning.org.uk) or call 020 8871 8478.

This document is communicated with current Subcontractors and updated with feedback, as requested, and is available on the WCLL website. Potential Subcontractors are also supplied with this document.

Providers may also wish to consult the Community Learning Key Priorities & Guidance document.

2 | Learner Fees

Pound Plus Strategy

The Pound Plus Strategy refers to additional income generated by providers over and above core income from the ESFA's Adult Education Budget. It is a term used to describe how learning providers can show how they are maximising the value of public investment. This is important because generating additional income and revenue is central to the objective of driving up participation within a very constrained public funding environment.

Those offering Community Learning are required to lever-in additional funding (e.g., through fee income, sponsorship, grants, funding from other government departments and/ or commercial sales) and to secure savings (e.g., from contributions in kind, volunteer activities, sharing services and/or pooling resources). This approach is known as "Pound Plus". The policy objective has been to widen participation in learning by ensuring as much funding as possible is targeted at enhancing opportunities for those experiencing social and/or economic disadvantage.

The responsibility for implementing Pound Plus policies lies with the Subcontractors directly, as well as the responsibility to ensure the money saved or created by these policies are used for the benefit of other learners, particularly priority groups and those who might otherwise not be able to engage in the learning activity.

Clear expectations regarding Pound Plus strategy formed part of the original specification issued to all potential Subcontractors and is re-iterated in meetings throughout the year.

2.2 What are Subcontractors Expected To Do?

Subcontractors are expected to demonstrate the following Pound Plus improvements:

- Increase in fee income
- Increase in commercial sponsorship and support via contributions in kind
- Increase in the use of volunteers
- Increased income from external bids
- Rationalisation, enhancing and re-focusing of the curriculum offer
- Improved efficiency using shared back-office services or sharing premises
- Greater social impact of learning on the wider community such as health, wellbeing, employability
- Other measurable indicators developed by the provider

Subcontractors must therefore be able to evidence answers to the following questions:

- What fee income can we generate?
- What other funding can we lever in?
- What resources in kind can we source?
- What about our funded partners?
- Based on this, what is our ambition for growth in pound plus value through the year?

2.3 Internal Delivery

Wandsworth Council Lifelong Learning's core curriculum is developed taking into consideration a number of elements including the [Skills Roadmap for London](#), local needs and demographics relating to both participants and businesses.

The purpose of Community Learning is to develop the skills, confidence, motivation and resilience of adults of different ages and backgrounds in order to:

- progress towards formal learning or employment and/or
- improve their health and well-being, including mental health and/or
- develop stronger communities

WCLL delivers a number of courses using either council employed staff or sessional tutors. Learners are not charged a fee for attending a course, as the vast majority of participants are unemployed or on a low income and attending either a Key Skills course (English, Maths, ESOL, Employability) or a Family Learning Course. Personal Development and Community Development Learning courses tend to be delivered by subcontractors and may attract a fee.

3 | Community and Accredited Learning Subcontractors

Wandsworth Council commissions various learning organisations that deliver a range of community and accredited learning courses within the GLA priority areas to fulfil the purpose of Community Learning (see paragraph 2.3 above). These learning organisations applied for funding through a Commissioning & Due Diligence Process and their applications are discussed and approved during various panel meetings within the Council. WCLL's Commissioning Process is outlined online in the Community Learning Key Priorities & Guidance document. All applications are approved by the Education and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The learning organisations set the fees they charge locally and independently, however annual rises in charges must be agreed at the regular review meetings held with the WCLL team. The providers are encouraged to offer discounts to those who are on benefit (in particular those seeking employment) and those who are over the age of retirement..

4 | Classroom and Community Learning Learner Fees

Wandsworth Council Lifelong learning delivers adult Community and Classroom learning activity through the Education and Skills Funding Agency's (ESFA) and the Greater London Authority's (GLA) Adult Education Budget (AEB) funding. Funding received from the ESFA and the GLA has no impact on learner fees – we do not charge learners any subsidy fees for ESFA and GLA funded programmes.

For subcontracted provision, decisions on fees are determined locally. The expectation is that fees are not charged for either Family Learning or widening participation courses (except for sundries).

5 | 16-18 Apprenticeships Fees

Fees are not charged to 16–18-year-olds on Apprenticeship programmes.

6 | 19+ Apprenticeships Fees

Fees are not charged to 19+ year olds on Apprenticeship programmes.

7 | ESF Programmes Fees

Fees are not charged to any participant on these programmes.

8 | Traineeships Fees

Fees are not charged to 19+ year olds on Apprenticeship programmes.

9 | Management Fees to Subcontractors

9.1 Community Learning

The maximum fee charged to subcontractors is 20% of the funding claimed. The funding provided to these organisations is determined by the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee, in the case of the main providers, or via the procurement process for the Community Learning fund providers.

9.2 Apprenticeships, Work-Based and Classroom-Based Learning

For organisations delivering apprenticeships, the maximum management fee is 20%.

For organisations delivering other work-based learning activities, the maximum management fee is 20%.

For organisations delivering accredited classroom-based learning activities, the maximum management fee is 20%.

10 | Support on Offer to Subcontractors

Wandsworth Council Lifelong Learning offers a multitude of services and support which Subcontractors will receive in return for the management fee charged.

Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Monthly performance reviews
- Monitoring reports
- Regular telephone updates
- Management information including funding/financial and enrolment performance
- Cleansing of enrolment data and highlighting and data issues that need to be resolved
- Training Sessions
- Formal PIP reviews, where required
- Referrals, both direct and between Subcontractors

- Quality and compliance visits
 - Observations
 - Audits
- PICS MIS system
- Caseload reviews
- Support with various accreditations

11 | Differences in Management Fees

See Appendices A – D. In instances of variance in management fees, a higher management fee may be applied where a Subcontractor is deemed to require a higher level of support and capacity build. We constantly review our management fees to ensure that they remain reasonable and proportionate at all times..

12 | Payment Terms

Providing that Subcontractors have fulfilled the terms of their Service Level Agreement, have submitted evidence appropriate to draw down funding and that Wandsworth Council Lifelong Learning has received payment, payment will be made to any Subcontractors within 30 days of receiving a valid claim for payment.

In most instances, an instruction to invoice will be issued to Subcontractors on a termly basis, relating to performance from the previous term. Where claims for payment are made monthly or otherwise, this will be reflected

Appendix A: 2023/24 Classroom Accredited subcontracting

Provider name	UKPRN	Start Date	End Date	Type of provision	Contract Funding value £ (MCV)	% Agreed to Subcontractor	% Retained by main contractor
Deaf First (Oak Lodge School)	10004829	01/08/2023	31/07/2024	19+ Classroom Learning (AEB)	£4,468.58	£3,574.86 (80%)	£893.72 (20%)
MIComput Solutions	10018328	01/08/2023	31/07/2024	19+ Classroom Learning (AEB)	£120,651.82	£96,521.46 (80%)	£24,130.36 (20%)
Ripe Learning	10039001	01/08/2023	31/07/2024	19+ Classroom Learning (AEB)	£75,302.40	£60,241.92 (80%)	£15,060.48 (20%)

Appendix B: 2023/24 Community Learning Non-Accredited subcontracting arrangements

Provider name	UKPRN	Start Date	End Date	Type of provision	Contract Funding value £ (MCV)	% Agreed to Subcontractor	% Retained by main contractor
Deaf First (Oak Lodge School)	10004829	01/08/2023	31/07/2024	19+ Community Learning (AEB)	£243,162.50	£194,530.00 (80%)	£48,632.50(20%)
Katherine Low Settlement	10065288	01/08/2023	31/07/2024	19+ Community Learning (AEB)	£46,720.90	£37,376.72 (80%)	£9,344.18 (20%)
MIComput Solutions	10018328	01/08/2023	31/07/2024	19+ Community Learning (AEB)	£87,500.00	£70,000.00 (80%)	£17,500.00 (20%)
Ripe Learning	10039001	01/08/2023	31/07/2024	19+ Community Learning (AEB)	£37,056.25	£29,645.00 (80%)	£7,411.25 (20%)
South Thames Colleges Group	10003674	01/08/2023	31/07/2024	19+ Community Learning (AEB)	£276,577.50	£221,262.00 (80%)	£55,315.50 (20%)

Appendix C: Actual supply chain fees and charges for Classroom Accredited learning for 2022/23

Provider name	UKPRN	Contract Start Date	Contract End Date	Type of provision	Funding paid to lead by the ESFA (in £)	Funding paid to subcontractor by the lead provider (in £)	Funding lead provider has retained (in £)
Deaf First (Oak Lodge School)	10004829	01/08/2022	31/07/2023	19+ Classroom Learning (AEB)	£9,644.28	£7,715.42	£1,928.86
MI ComputSolutions	10018328	01/08/2022	31/07/2023	19+ Classroom Learning (AEB)	£187,605.80	£150,084.64	£37,521.16
MI ComputSolutions	10018328	01/08/2022	31/07/2023	Free Courses for Jobs Level 3	£33,686.47	£26,949.18	£6,737.29
Ripe Learning	10039001	01/08/2022	31/07/2023	19+ Classroom Learning (AEB)	£70,099.96	£56,079.97	£14,019.99

Appendix D: Actual supply chain fees and charges for Community Learning Non-Accredited for 2022/23

Provider name	UKPRN	Contract Start Date	Contract End Date	Type of provision	Funding paid to subcontractor by the lead provider (in £)
Baked Bean Charity	10063240	01/08/2022	31/07/2023	19+ Community Learning (AEB)	£21,267.50
Deaf First (Oak Lodge School)	10004829	01/08/2022	31/07/2023	19+ Community Learning (AEB)	£153,911.27
Katherine Low Settlement	10065288	01/08/2022	31/07/2023	19+ Community Learning (AEB)	£14,359.67
MI ComputSolutions	10018328	01/08/2022	31/07/2023	19+ Community Learning (AEB)	£69,192.50
Ripe Learning	10039001	01/08/2022	31/07/2023	19+ Community Learning (AEB)	£13,210.00
South Thames Colleges Group	10003674	01/08/2022	31/07/2023	19+ Community Learning (AEB)	£201,796.80