

Skills for Work

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PoundPlus and Fees Remission Community Learning

The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) requires providers to detail how they provide added value to their Community Learning Provision.

The objective is 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.

What is Community Learning? 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

Community Learning Courses fall under the following four strands:

- Personal and Community Development Learning - learning for personal and community development, cultural enrichment, intellectual or creative stimulation and for enjoyment (in most cases not leading to a formal qualification)
- Family English, Maths and Language - learning to improve the English, language and maths skills of parents, carers or guardians and their ability to help their children
- Wider Family Learning - learning to help different generations of family members to learn together how to support their children's learning
- Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities - supports local Voluntary and other third sector organisations to develop their capacity to deliver learning opportunities for the residents of disadvantaged neighbourhoods. Partnership working underpins the community learning objectives and is critical to developing and delivering an effective community learning offer in our locality.

Skills for Work will engage and work closely with a wide range of relevant partners and stakeholders in our local area to help shape our community learning offer. We will work strategically to reduce duplication of the community learning offer in our locality.

What is Pound Plus? The 'Pound' represents the public pound, that is the government funding received to support the delivery of community learning provision. The 'Plus' is everything else Skills for Work can generate to be used, in addition to the public funding, to deliver the provision, such as funding from other sources.

Skills for Work invest Pound Plus income/ savings for the people who most need, and can least afford, community learning provision and will signpost learners to other partners as and when appropriate.

Cost Savings:

Accommodation- Courses are held where possible in venues that are accessible to learners and which are free of charge across the city.

Shared Services enable a cost saving for support staff across the service.

Partnership Working - Through partnership working, additional provision and services are provided that aim to engage hard to reach learners that Skills for Work may find difficult to achieve.

Value for Money - By ensuring that the curriculum available is efficient and avoids duplication of provision.

Effectiveness of the curriculum – We provide courses that encourage participation which leads to increased and improved progression opportunities.

Local Fee Remission

Local fee remission requires individuals to pay a course/tuition/joining fee, but also sets out clear eligibility criteria for those individuals who, due to their circumstances, qualify for either partial or total fee remission

Learner Fees, for Community Learning courses there will be no charges made to our learners where the provision falls under one of the following strands:

- Family English, Maths and Language
- Wider Family Learning
- Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities

For some courses, there may be additional charges to cover materials. These may either be charged at the point of enrolment or require learners to provide their own resources each week, e.g. cookery and crafts, etc.

Learner Subsidies: as part of our 'Pound Plus' commitment Skills for Work will fully waive fees for evidenced unemployed people.

Grants: Skills for Work will seek opportunities to bid for any arising community grants that can support the widening of our community-learning programme.

Venue costs: Where delivery is off-site and partner-directed Skills for Work will request that any room hire costs are waived.

In Kind Resources

It is difficult to quantify the value of all in kind resources, the added value of the knowledge of partners over and above that of Skills for Work enhances the learner experience. Other examples of in-kind resources include staff in other departments who support learners to access and complete a course, or organisations across the district that advertise and promote courses for free.

Reviewed: 12/10/21

To be reviewed: 12/10/22