

APPENDIX A

Curriculum Planning for POC

A brief guide to HACL's AEB grant funding of education for adults and a summary of the programme offer for 2021-22

As previously stated HACL is funded by the government to provide education for adults in the same way as colleges and is subject to the same rules and scrutiny through the Adult Education Budget (AEB).

The figures below summarise our income in 2018-19 since this was the last full year of education and funding prior to the interruptions brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Academic year 2018-19	Data	Notes
No of learners	2917	
No of enrolments	5,170	(93% Hillingdon residents)
Funding total (only ESFA in 18/19) of which qualifications of which non-qualifications	1,489,375 761,079 728,296	AEB devolved to GLA in Aug 2019. GLA funding this academic year is £1,524,877, plus ESFA funding 20-21 of £60,217
Adult Learning Loans	127,461	
Additional funding: Flexible Learning Fund Talk English project Strategic Investment Pot (SIP)	61,976 42,250 470,000	Year 2 of 2 Year 1 of 2
Local Authority income: Fee concession subsidy Early Years funding	70,000 20,000	20-21: £60k

In brief, these are the different types of provision we offer:

- Courses for Adults with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities (LDD)
- Community Engagement
- Emotional Health and Wellbeing
- English, Maths and ESOL
- Digital Skills, IT and Business
- Vocational Learning
- Courses for Personal Development

Brookfield in Uxbridge is our main centre, Harlington is our centre in the south, and we have two centres in Ruislip: South Ruislip and Ruislip Manor, both of which are shared with the Library Service. Courses are run in centres, online or as a blend of the two.

Details of our programme planning for the 2021-22 academic year are shown in the table below. The AEB funding for these programmes includes learning support and splits into two sections: qualification and non-qualification courses.

Funding for courses that lead to qualifications

The priorities for this funding are driven by improving the prospects of economic improvement for learners, i.e. increasing their qualifications to strengthen skills and CVs and lead into work/improved prospects. The ethos underpinning the funding rules is that learners should progress from beginners in their subjects (often English or maths) to qualified status in their chosen field (usually vocational) and preferably into employment or a new career.

These qualification courses attract fixed amounts of funding for each enrolment. Some qualifications are fully funded for all, so learners make no financial contributions, e.g. English, maths and digital skills up to and including level 2 (GCSE). Where this is the case, the full amount of funding is drawn from our grant.

Other qualifications are fully funded for the unemployed and those on a low wage (less than London living wage). Learners not in these categories are co-funded which means we can utilise our grant to pay up to 50% of course fees. 25% of the balance has historically been paid by the council in concessions and the learner contributes the rest. Each course has four Fee Bands attached and fees are paid according to means, for example, Band 1 is the fee for learners not in receipt of any benefits, whereas Band 3 is for the unemployed or low waged (below London Living Wage). By recruiting enough learners' we 'earn' our grant allocation for qualifications of £823k.

Although we can deliver any qualifications we wish, only those specifically listed on the Learning Aims Register attract funding, which influences our choices when designing our qualification programme offer.

Funding for courses that do not lead to qualifications

This is funded differently from qualifications. The priority for this funding is to engage those furthest away from learning and encourage them to improve their social and mental wellbeing and support their children's learning and development.

The underpinning ethos is that those who can pay should do so.

The 'Community Learning' funding breaks into two distinct types of provision.

a. Community Development courses rely on partnership work, often with the 3rd sector but also with schools, children's centres and libraries, and are targeted at the most disadvantaged residents and those in deprived areas who are least likely to see education as valuable or least likely to have the time or resources to attend classes.

Provision is delivered in partner premises across the borough. It is offered free, funded from the Community Learning funding stream, and is usually made up of shorter (e.g. 10 hour) courses that build up in duration and difficulty over time.

Target groups include:

- those with mental health issues;
- carers;
- parents who need to improve their own English and maths to support their children's education;
- families who would benefit from multi-generational learning to encourage cooperative interactions and strengthen relationships;
- those with long-term health issues, such as stroke, dementia, diabetes, obesity;
- those most isolated from the wider community, such as older members of minority ethnic groups who are most likely to stay within their own communities;
- asylum seekers who often need basic English skills to support their settlement;
- specific vulnerable groups, through work with partner organisations e.g. Hillingdon Women's Centre re domestic abuse; Hestia re modern slavery;
- those who are the lowest skilled/lowest paid who would not otherwise recognise or engage in learning as a means to enhancing their life chances.

The long-term aim for this provision is to help learners progress into the wider community, such as volunteering and/or progressing into formal qualifications through more demanding, stepping-stone courses. Along the way, most begin to build their social and emotional capital and see their own potential, increasing their self-esteem and allowing them to imagine a better future for themselves and their families.

b. Personal Development courses. Traditionally seen as 'leisure courses' learners report that their learning these new skills reduces isolation (especially for older learners), improves wellbeing and 'keeps the brain cells ticking over' for working and post-retirement learners. These learners use their disposable income to pay tuition fees and while they don't tend to progress into qualifications, they do go into volunteering, self-directed clubs and new social networks. Learners can spend years trying out new courses with the service, whether learning a language, developing arts and crafts skills or keeping fit through yoga classes. Courses run day and evening, usually in the north of the borough where demand is greatest.

Other funding

From April 2021, residents who are attempting their first full Level 3 qualification will be fully funded through the government's Lifetime Skills Guarantee; if they already have a full level 3 qualification (2 'A' Levels or equivalent), they may take out a student loan or pay their fees independently.

A long-standing partnership with the council's Early Years team allocates £20k pa to the service to provide initial training and CPD opportunities to the borough's childminders, which has raised standards of childcare in the borough. The service's

online Childminder's Forum has encouraged online learning, networking and peer support opportunities for these micro-businesses.

A pilot project working with Adult Social Care whilst utilising the Designated Schools Grant has funded us to provide bespoke courses for eight young people with learning difficulties and disabilities on Education, Health and Care plans or through the council's Education Support Allowance. This is currently being reviewed for next year.

External bids:

Strategic Investment Pot: £470k from April 2019-March 2021. This is about to end and will be presented at the next witness session.

GLA AEB Good Work for All: Supporting London's Recovery. We are currently working on a bid for this funding pot.

GLA grants to buy additional equipment required to support delivery due to Covid-19 adjustments: a) £25k; b) £77k.

Draft curriculum plan for academic year 2021-22

Provision type	Delivery plan	Funding stream
Courses for adults with learning difficulties and disabilities	Offer all learners 1 digital skills course + any two other choices (except repeats from previous a/y). Mostly centre-based delivery.	Qualification
Community Engagement through targeted outreach	Family English, Maths and Language (FEML): ESOL and English and Maths to help your Children Learn; partnership approach Multigenerational learning: range of subjects based on target group. Gardening together; Discovering Nature; Healthy Eating and Cooking; E-safety for Families... Targeted outreach in the community for disadvantaged adults; free. Short intro courses themed around supporting partner organisations; Health, e.g. obesity, diabetes, dementia, stroke Digital, e.g. carers, lone parents, asylum seekers Reducing isolation, e.g. older people, esp from ethnic minorities who may be reluctant to engage with the wider community EHW (see below)	Non-qualification <i>Outreach, small amount of online delivery</i>
Emotional health and wellbeing	Core programme of support courses, including: Boost your confidence and self esteem Managing anxiety and understanding depression Healthy mind, healthy body	Non-qualification

Childcare/H&SC (these courses can be used as CPD for professionals in the sector)	L1 Award in Safeguarding L2 Supporting individuals with Learning Disabilities Childminding quals and ongoing CPD in partnership with LA Early Years team L1 Award in Introduction to Health, Social Care and Children's and Young People's Settings L2 Understanding Working in the Health Sector L2 and L3 Diploma in Care; L2 and L3 Counselling qualifications L3 in Understanding Mental Health Plans to develop an Access to HE Diploma in Allied Health Professions during 21-22 a/y	<i>Mostly online; some subjects in centre, e.g. floristry in Brookfield and South Ruislip; horticulture at RAGC.</i>
Health and Social Care, incl Counselling	E3 Award in Creative Craft (Floristry) L1 Award in Creative Craft (Floristry) with E3 Employability Skills embedded L2 Certificate in Floristry (Year 1) L2 Diploma in Floristry (Year 2) L3 qualifications to be decided (research ongoing)	
Floristry	E3 Award in Occupational Studies (Horticulture) L1 Award in Occupational Studies (Horticulture) L2 Certificate in Practical Horticulture Skills and/or L2 RHS Certificate in the Principles of: Plant Growth Garden Planning Practical Horticulture (3-year course)	
Horticulture	Get Started with Floristry (3x 1-term courses) Flower Arranging History of Flower Arranging Contemporary Flower Arranging Get Ready for Winter/Spring/Summer Horticulture Therapy in Term 3 Workshops both subjects	Non-qualification
Personal development	French, Spanish and British Sign Language Arts and Crafts, e.g. calligraphy, yoga, creative writing, textiles, painting and drawing, sketching on location Return to Learn intro courses Photography Drama Flower arranging Online cookery (healthy eating) Links with Hillingdon Heritage and Archives teams	Non-qualification <i>Mixed delivery: some online, most in centres</i>