

Mayoral Combined Authority Board

18 October 2022

Education, Skills and Employability Board Programme Updates

Is the paper exempt from the press and public?	No
<i>Reason why exempt:</i>	Not applicable
Purpose of this report:	Discussion
Funding Stream:	Not applicable
Is this a Key Decision?	No
Has it been included on the Forward Plan?	No

Director Approving Submission of the Report:

Jim Dillon, Interim Executive Director of Business and Skills

Report Author(s):

Joseph Quinn, Innovation Project Director – Business & Skills

Joseph.Quinn@SouthYorkshire-CA.gov.uk

Executive Summary:

This report provides an update on the progress of the Multiply programme and seeks support to secure additional funding from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) to deliver Individual Placement and Support in Primary Care (IPSPC) in South Yorkshire. In addition, the board is asked to endorse clarification to the definition of our Adult Education Budget (AEB) grant funded provider base.

What does this mean for businesses, people, and places in South Yorkshire?

Residents and businesses across South Yorkshire face short and longer-term skills and employability challenges that affect their lives and ability to realise their potential. The challenges are the result of long-term trends that affect both existing skills base and the flow of new skills into the workforce. The ESEB works to put in place actions with the potential to transform the skills landscape and resolve for the long-term, barriers to progression into employment.

Recommendations:

1. That Members note the MCA's Lead Authority role and the progress of the Multiply programme.

2. That Members endorse the MCA's application to secure funding for the continuation of the South Yorkshire Working Win programme.
3. Members endorse the recommendation of the ESEB to clarify the definition of our Adult Education Budget (AEB) grant funded provider base.

Consideration by any other Board, Committee, Assurance or Advisory Panel

N/A

1. Background

- 1.1 In 2017 the MCA was contracted by Sheffield Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to deliver the health-led employment programme. This has supported 4,000 residents of South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw to either sustain or move into paid employment.
- 1.2 Devolution of the Adult Education Budget (AEB) presents the MCA with an opportunity to reshape the delivery of AEB to support local learners in ways that would not have been achieved via national control mechanisms, in particular to deliver better alignment to our local labour market.

2. Key Updates

2.1.1 Multiply Programme

'Multiply' is a programme offering adults who do not have a minimum of a GCSE grade C/4 in Maths, and need to improve their numeracy, free flexible courses that fit around their lives. The South Yorkshire allocation totals £7.2m and required the development of an investment plan to secure the funding. Members of the MCA delegated oversight of this activity to the Education, Skills and Employment Board.

- 2.1.2 The Multiply Investment Plan was submitted by the MCA on the 30th of June 2022 to Department for Education (DFE). Additional clarification activity was completed by the 12th of August 2022 and the DFE has now confirmed that no additional information is required, and the grant agreement has been received and returned to DFE.

- 2.1.3 Multiply activities will be delivered across the Spending Review period (financial year 2022-23 to 2024-25) with provision aiming to commence in the 2022/23 academic year. To ensure timely delivery, the MCA is currently drafting procurement specifications and is in the process of completing grant awards to Local Authorities. This will allow delivery to commence in late October/early November 2022.

2.2 Individual Placement and Support in Primary Care (IPSPC) in South Yorkshire

- 2.2.1 As part of the devolution proposition development, the MCA was offered the opportunity to develop a health-led employment trial to improve employment outcomes for individuals with health issues.

Since May 2017, the MCA has been contracted by Sheffield Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to deliver the health-led employment programme – Working Win, this was one of only two national pilots funded by the Work and

Health Unit, (a cross department unit jointly sponsored by the Department for Work and Pensions and the Department for Health and Social Care).

- 2.2.2 The pilot concluded in 2020, however provision has continued following a successful business case submission from the MCA for an extension. This has ensured we have been able to protect the expertise, relationships, and momentum of the service. Monitoring evidence shows that over 4,000 residents of South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw, with mild/moderate mental health and/or any physical health issues (e.g., neck and back problems) have been supported to move into paid work or sustain employment which was at risk because of their health issue.
- 2.2.3 The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and DHSC released a call to tender for a IPSPC contract, opening an opportunity for the MCA to extend the Working Win Provision. Grant funding will be provided direct to Authorities, instead of via Clinical Commissioning Groups.
- 2.2.4 The IPSPC initiative is aimed at working age individuals who have a common physical or mental health disability, as defined by the Equality Act 2010, to help them move into competitive employment providing the support they need to maintain that employment.

Key requirements of the IPSPC initiative are to:

- Support local economic growth through the employment of people with a mental or physical health condition or disability.
- Enable sustained employment of participants in employment but whose disability is impacting their ability to work.
- Develop a framework for effective, locally driven integrated employment support that can be sustained.
- Continue to build the evidence base for innovative employment interventions to facilitate a potential national proven approach.
- Improve participants general health and wellbeing, including support to help people recover more rapidly and effectively from their disability, which could include building strategies to manage their disability and barriers to work and gain financial independence.

- 2.2.5 The IPSPC grant application was submitted on the 31st of August 2022. The timeline for determination and completion of project activity is outlined below:

Application for results announced for all applicants	October 2022
5-month implementation period	2 November 2022
Activity delivery period	2022-2024

2.3 Adult Education Budget Grant Provider Definition

- 2.3.1 The South Yorkshire economy is being held back by skills and productivity challenges that are worse and more deeply engrained in our communities than almost anywhere else in England. Devolution of the Adult Education Budget has offered the MCA a critical opportunity to force a change in South Yorkshire's fortunes.

- 2.3.2 In addition to the grant allocations to Further Education Colleges and local authority providers, the MCA is proposing to add additional grant providers that can help close some important skills gaps. To undertake this activity, the MCA will require a clarification of the definition of our AEB grant funded provider base.
- 2.3.3 On July the 29th the ESEB recommended an amendment to our current definition. The amendment will state that in addition to current grant providers, the list will include 'such other providers with a base in South Yorkshire that are s.28 designated with a proven track record of delivery'. It should be noted that this amendment will not impact on the current funding levels of our currently commissioned grant providers.

3. Options Considered and Recommended Proposal

3.1 Option 1

Do not proceed with the IPSPC bid application and decline to adopt the recommended AEB grant provider definition.

3.2 Option 1 Risk

Not proceeding with the IPSPC bid application will result in the region having to rely upon the contracted DWP provision available within the current national Work and Health programme and through other small-scale programmes. Declining to amend the AEB grant provider definition will restrict the MCA's ability to respond to gaps in adult education skills provision.

3.3 Option 2

Agree to proceed with the IPSPC bid application and adopt the recommended AEB grant provider definition.

3.4 Option 1 Risk

Additional grant providers may duplicate or displace existing provision. Careful performance monitoring of additional grant providers will mitigate this risk.

3.5 Recommended Option

Option 2: Agree to proceed with the IPSPC bid application and adopt the recommended AEB grant provider definition.

4. Consultation on Proposal

- 4.1 To maximise impact and success, these projects have built in contributions and engagement with a range of internal and external partners. A detailed engagement plan will be developed following approval of the Multiply Investment Plan and IPSPC submission.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision:

- 5.1 The submission window for the IPSPC submission closed on the 31st of August 2022. The MCA expects to learn the outcome of both the Multiply and IPSPC submission in September 2022. The first payments to MCAs to commission, procure or directly deliver activity are expected to be made as early as October 2022.

6. Financial and Procurement Implications and Advice

We have received receipts for £3m to fund the current Working Win contract and £9,557,515 for the trial and extension. This includes a sum taken to fund the organisation's internal management and administration costs. The bid for the new programme will be designed with guidance and support from finance and will again include a sum for internal management and administration.

7. Legal Implications and Advice

The MCA has economic development functions that would allow it to participate in a IPSPC Project. Contractual and procurement arrangements with project partners will be established and implemented. Specialist legal resource may be required depending on the proposals developed. GDPR implications will be established and a full DPIA undertaken.

8. Human Resources Implications and Advice

Administering the requirements of a Lead Authority will require additional capability and capacity to deliver the fund and maximise the impact and uptake of the project. As part of the development of the Plan, a gap analysis will be undertaken to consider any risks or appointments required.

9. Equality and Diversity Implications and Advice

An equalities impact assessment was undertaken as part of the development of the Working Win trial. The trial has received approval by the Research Ethics Committee of the Medical Research Council and is delivered against a series of indicators within those values and judgements.

Devolved AEB funding supports many of the most disadvantaged residents across South Yorkshire. Effective commissioning will ensure that provision is in place for people with LDD, those from disadvantaged backgrounds and low skills and people who need English for Speakers of Other Languages.

10. Climate Change Implications and Advice

n/a

11. Information and Communication Technology Implications and Advice

It is expected that the functions of the Lead Authority can be contained within the current technology available to the MCA, e.g., the utilisation of VERTO for programme and project management. This will be monitored for sufficiency, and any gaps considered as part of the MCA Executive Business Planning process.

12. Communications and Marketing Implications and Advice

The UK Multiply prospectus and IPSPC project provides clear guidance on how projects should be branded and how communications should be made. This is usual for government funds and was closely monitored as part of the recent Local Growth Fund programme.