

**Committee/Board Name and Date of Meeting:**  
Education Skills and Employability Board

**Meeting Date:**  
26 October 2022

**Report Title**  
Shared Prosperity Fund – Multiply Programme

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

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**Executive Summary**

This paper updates Board members on work done to implement South Yorkshire's investment plan for Multiply – the Government's adult numeracy programme and the initial skills priority of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. The paper seeks the Board's approval for the procurement of activities; based on the key themes to be submitted as part of our investment plan for bespoke adult numeracy programmes. Activities to be delivered 2022-25, which will address low levels of confidence in numeracy and will boost people's ability to use maths in their daily life, at home and work.

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

Poor numeracy skills have an impact on people's ability to function in life and work, as well as their ability to perform domestic and work-based tasks with accuracy and confidence, such as the ability for parents with low skills to support their children with homework. The purpose of the Multiply programme is to increase adult numeracy skills; by supporting people to improve their understanding and use of maths in their daily lives, at home and at work and improve labour

market outcomes for residents and employers within South Yorkshire. Improvement in these skills should have a positive impact on family lives and on productivity at work.

## **Recommendations**

The Board to consider and approve the procurement of activities based on the key themes for the Investment Plan.

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

None.

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 Multiply is the new Department for Education (DfE) adult numeracy initiative and is UK Government's first priority for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Funds will be invested at local level in meaningful participation that boosts people's ability to use maths in their daily life, at home and work – and enable adults to achieve formal qualification that can open doors for them (such as into a job, progression in a job, or progression to further study).
- 1.2 DfE awarded South Yorkshire MCA an allocation of £7,256,308.56 for activities over the next three years to:
  - deliver bespoke adult numeracy interventions from the 22-23 financial year to eligible adults (those age 19+ that don't already have a Level 2 maths qualification).
  - To help people learn at their own place and pace, to sign up for personalised free online tutorials, to help build confidence and take the stepping stones towards a maths qualification.
  - Test innovative approaches to reducing adult learning barriers to build the evidence base on 'what works' in improving functional adult numeracy – helping inform approach to Years 2 and 3
- 1.3 Interventions delivered with Multiply funding need to be additional to and differentiated from AEB delivery and should not displace that provision. DfE have emphasised the need for innovation in Multiply delivery, to test and learn best ways to engage and support the hardest people to reach.
- 1.4 **Timescale**  
The South Yorkshire investment plan was reviewed and resubmitted following feedback in August. Grant offer was made in September 2022 for the full three-year UKSPF funding allocation.  
With funding secured, procurement of activities has commenced with the aim to mobilise and start delivery November/December 2022.  
SYMCA is required to submit a further investment plan in January 2023, based on the performance of the first years activities. If accepted, this will in turn prompt a grant to be issued in March 2023 for 2023–24 financial year.
- 1.5 **What does success look like?**  
These are the Multiply national success measures:
  - More adults achieving maths qualifications in numeracy courses and an increase in participation in these courses.

- Improved labour market outcomes e.g. fewer numeracy skills gaps reported by employers, and an increase in the proportion of adults that progress into sustained employment and / or education.
- Increased adult numeracy across the population

## 1.6 Delivery Strategy

Following confirmation of the grant award, SYMCA is now in a position to commence activities. SYMCA has had multiple meaningful workshops and engagement sessions with all the partner local authority (LA) employment, skills and adult education leads and other key stakeholders, to produce an agreed set of priorities for South Yorkshire based on the national menu of interventions. The intention is to Grant award each local authority based on an individual costed business case. This will be as devolved local delivery for each LA and enable localised place shaping, aiming to align with Social Prosperity Fund.

1.7 Each LA will have the opportunity to choose their mix of activities from the agreed menu of interventions and that best suits their area; adding value to and complementing local AEB delivery. Interventions delivered with Multiply funding need to be additional to and differentiated from AEB delivery and should not displace that provision.

1.8 SYMCA will procure additional provision from the same list of interventions in conjunction with the LA grant activities. To underpin the delivery across South Yorkshire, the intention is to procure overarching, capacity building support which will aid the standardisation of numeracy delivery as well as provide continuing professional development for the tutors. Specially tailored learning resources, web portal and assessment methods will form a region wide resource for all providers and a legacy for the programme.

1.9 Given the short period left for delivery within the first year which ends April 2023, a 3 year profile will be requested and continuation for each year will be dependent on speed of mobilisation, recruitment and performance. The delivery period 2023-24 will allow for more robust performance information and data gathered from the ILR to identify areas to increase investment and those to change or discontinue activities.

## 2. Procurement

2.1 Below are the agreed set of priorities for South Yorkshire based on the national menu of interventions, to be the focus for procurement activities.

Theme	Programme
Numeracy for Work	<b>In work numeracy development</b> Numeracy based programmes to be delivered in the workplace in partnership with employers
Numeracy for Work	<b>In work numeracy through ESOL</b> Programme to support numeracy development for those in work whose first language is not English

	and whose success at work is held back through poor skills.
Numeracy for Work	<b>Preparation for work – sector-based programmes</b> Sector focused contextualised programmes to those who are seeking to move into jobs such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• health and care</li> <li>• construction</li> <li>• retail</li> <li>• hospitality</li> </ul>
Numeracy for Work	<b>Preparation for work – disadvantaged residents</b> Programmes targeting residents facing additional and significant barriers to employment e.g. Learning Difficulties or Disabilities.
Economically inactive	<b>Numeracy life skills</b> Activities that work in concert with existing engagement activities i.e. ESF Pathways, Working Win, Health Champions, for people who are economically inactive.
Community	<b>Family Learning</b> School-based delivery of programmes to give parents, grandparents and other carers the numeracy skills needed to inspire children’s interest and to support their learning.
Capacity Building	<b>Capacity Building</b> Development of numeracy resource materials and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) packages to support numeracy teaching staff. Resources to help identify potential learners and a screening tool. Development of network of numeracy community champions Barrier busting capacity to address learner barrier issues e.g. transport, childcare, resource access etc

2.4 SYMCA will prioritise the LA grant award funded activities and the capacity building support, followed by additional procurement through the open market to allow for diversification and other innovative options to be explored.

2.4 It is recommended that the board:

- Approve the procurement of the South Yorkshire Multiply investment plan activities and capacity building support, through open market competition.
- Approve grant awarding each South Yorkshire local authority based on their individual costed plan and business case.

### 3. Options Considered and Recommended Proposal

#### 3.1 Option 1

Do not approve the recommendation and procurement plan

### 3.4 Option 1 Risks and Mitigations:

<b>Risk description, causes and impact</b>	<b>Initial risk rating (R,A,G)</b>	<b>Planned Mitigations</b>	<b>Post Mitigation risk rating (R,A,G)</b>
Delay to the procurement process will pose a risk to Multiply programme delivery for year 2022-23, with a knock-on effect for the following years funding security.	R	Engage with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DfE to identify options and any consequences</li> <li>• SYMCA procurement team to ensure the best options for commissioning are identified within the timeframe set.</li> <li>• local authorities and training providers to keep informed of any timescales and funding changes.</li> </ul>	A
Risk of reputational damage to the Authority, with DfE and other key stakeholders such as local authorities, employers and training providers, if it does not deliver on this offer.	R	Engage with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DfE to identify options and any consequences</li> <li>• local authorities and training providers to keep informed of any timescales and funding changes.</li> </ul>	R

### 3.5 Option 2

Approve the recommendation and support the procurement activity

### 3.8 Option 2 Risks and Mitigations:

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<b>Risk description, causes and impact</b>	<b>Initial risk rating (R,A,G)</b>	<b>Planned Mitigations</b>	<b>Post Mitigation risk rating (R,A,G)</b>
Inability to deliver programme within timescales	R	Engage local authorities and training providers. Identify cohorts of learners that are start ready.	A
Low take-up and referrals	A	Developed Marketing & Comms plan in collaboration with local authority partners. Joined up communications and marketing strategies between the SYMCA, Local Authorities, Provider and Employer.	G

Poor participant retention rate on programme	A	Use data and monitoring within the first year to ensure the following years focus on the successful interventions	G
Delays to procurement	R	Engage with SYMCA procurement team and prepare in advance to ensure the best options for commissioning are identified within the timeframe set.	A
Poor provider response to the procurement	A	Discussions have taken place already with the Provider Network and the College Group to make them aware of Multiply. MCA officers will continue to engage with potential providers to raise awareness.	G

### 3.13 Recommended Option Option 2

## 4. Consultation on Proposal:

- 4.1 A number of stakeholders have been consulted to develop the proposal so far, including:
- Local authority employment and skills leads and adult education leads have been engaged as our strategic partners in developing the plan
  - Voluntary and community sector organisations across South Yorkshire
  - Provider Network and the South Yorkshire College Group
  - Employers

Additional opportunities for providers, employers and residents to submit views were provided through a link on the SYMCA website.

## 5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

Investment plan submitted	30 <sup>th</sup> June 2022 deadline
Grant determination by DfE (section 31 grant)	September 2022
SYMCA procurement	October 2022
Programme delivery starts	November/December 2022
2 <sup>nd</sup> Investment plan submitted	January 2023

## 6. Financial and Procurement Implications and Advice:

- 6.1 The indicative allocation of £2,193,768 has been identified as part of the 2022/23 budget. As part of this allocation, a budget of 10% has been identified for management and administration of the programme. This will be retained internally within the MCA.

**7. Legal Implications and Advice:**

7.1 The MCA has adult education functions that would facilitate the delivery of this

**8. Human Resources Implications and Advice**

8.1 No implications at this stage

**9. Equality and Diversity Implications and Advice**

9.1 EIA to be completed

**10. Climate Change Implications and Advice**

10.1 There are no climate change implications

**11. Information and Communication Technology Implications and Advice**

11.1 None at this stage

**12. Communications and Marketing Implications and Advice:**

12.1 None at this stage.

**List of Appendices Included**

None.

**Background Papers**

None.