



**Somerset
Council**

**Adult Community Education
Pound Plus Policy 2023/24**

Organisation	Somerset Council
Title	Adult Community Education Pound Plus Policy 2023/24
Author	
Owner	Melanie Roberts
Protective Marking	
Primary Legislation	Adult education budget: funding and performance management rules 2023 to 2024 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Somerset Council's Economy, Employment and Planning Service (the Council), from 1 August 2023, will receive Adult Education Budget (AEB) funding from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) to provide non-accredited learning opportunities for adults* living in Somerset *An adult is an individual aged 19 and over on 1st August of the given academic year.

In 2023/24 the Council will adopt Somerset Skills & Learning Pound Plus Policy as detailed in this document.

Who is this policy for?

This policy is for Somerset Council's Adult Community Education delivery and sub-contracted partners.

What is this policy for?

Pound Plus was developed in 2013 to help adult learning services across the country show how they add value to the money provided by government for community learning. It does this by looking at the additional investment (or savings made), which can be estimated in monetary terms and explaining how this is then used to support disadvantaged learners in Somerset.

Pound Plus shows how learning providers make the most of public funding. This is important because making the most of the income which supports community learning helps increase participation in adult learning at a time when government funding is reducing.

Pound Plus adds up various elements that contribute to adult learning, such as direct income, cost savings, value for money, "in-kind" contributions (including

volunteers and volunteer hours), match-funding, and fees. It also looks at how this income or saving is re-invested in the relevant programme area.

Pound Plus helps to show that the money provided by government can deliver learning over and above the amount of the initial investment. In other words, it can help prove that for every £1 of public funding, it creates additional investment to get more local residents into the learning that they need.

Somerset Council receives funding from the ESFA to run Community Learning in the county of Somerset. The ESFA; Funding and Performance Management Rules require all providers to publish a Pound Plus policy. This policy explains how Pound Plus fee income/savings are invested for the people who most need, and can least afford, the learning provision available through the funding.

Where does Pound Plus come from?

- **Additional funding** – this comes from:
 - Fee income
 - Bids for additional funding
 - Funding from other government departments (e.g. income from local authorities to deliver targeted programmes such as health, offenders; guidance interviews from the National Careers Service; public health funding)
- **Savings** – these come from:
 - ‘In-kind’ contributions (e.g. free publicity for courses, recruitment of learners, access to learning provider staff and time, reduced or free cost for hire of premises, use of equipment or consumables):
 - Volunteer activities (including learner support in the classroom or in other activities, learning champions, curriculum development, signposting, advice, infrastructure or delivery support).
- **Active partnerships** – these include:
 - Working with other learning providers to share expertise
 - Working with local people, services and organisations to create a joined-up approach to adult learning and wellbeing
 - Working with other agencies and council services
- **Efficiencies** – these include:
 - Sharing services (e.g. back office services, marketing, IT support,

- finance, HR)
- Sharing premises
- Pooling resources (e.g. with other adult learning services)
- Sharing professional training and development for staff and tutors
- More coordinated planning (e.g. with other council departments)
- Reviewing operational systems to minimise waste
- **Rationalisation** – this includes:
 - Improving and re-focusing of the curriculum offer
 - Better progression pathways
 - Reduced duplication of provision

What is Pound Plus savings and income used for:

All Pound Plus savings and income is used to help deliver SS&L's mission, vision, strategic aims and learning objectives, such as to:

- Increasing and supporting progressions into further learning;
- work with a range of organisations and partners to identify clear delivery objectives with measurable outcomes;
- support achievement and progression in order for individuals to gain new skills and confidence relevant to their personal circumstances and local priorities;
- support families in Somerset through a range of family learning and family support activities;
- engage a wide range of groups and individuals through learning activities relevant to their personal circumstances and local priorities;
- provide services and support for older learners, to encourage healthy and active life-styles and to combat loneliness;
- maximise public investment by generating additional Pound Plus income (or cost savings) through match funding and in-kind contributions;
- make a clear contribution to locally owned networks, strategic plans and priorities through financial input and capacity building
- promote and support the development of resilient and cohesive communities in Somerset.

How will Pound Plus be developed

Pound Plus will help to deliver more learning to more people in Somerset. To do this we will:

- Ask our subcontracted learning providers to build Pound Plus calculations into all their planning and delivery.
- Encourage financial contributions and donations from learners where they can afford it.
- Encourage financial contributions from employers where appropriate and feasible.
- Encourage financial and in-kind contributions from partner organisations.
- Increase the involvement of volunteers in the delivery of learning provision.
- Use annual data to create a set of baseline Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) relating to Pound Plus to evidence how additional income and/or efficiencies are adding to the ESFA funding.
- Use these KPIs to set appropriate targets for future years.
- Review and evaluate progress as part of the annual quality cycle against KPIs.
- Develop and strengthen our external partnerships across Somerset.
- Look to develop sponsorship, grants, tenders and bids for additional funding from central government departments, charities and trusts.
- Look for funding from other sources (including income from local authorities to deliver targeted programmes such as health, offenders; guidance interviews from the National Careers Service; public health funding).

Version History

Revision Date	Author	Version	Description of Revision
21 July 2023	Somerset Skills & Learning / Rebecca Brown	1	New Policy

Document Notification

Approval	Name	Date
Member Key Decision: Adult Community Education Programme		3 August 2023

