



Policy/Procedure/Guideline Review

Policy/Procedure/Guideline:	Pound Plus Policy
Senior Manager Responsible:	Vice Principal
Author:	Assistant Principal – Performance and Planning
Approved By:	Senior Leadership Team
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Changes Made:	New Policy

POUND PLUS POLICY

1. What is Pound Plus?

- 1.1 Pound Plus refers to additional income generated by providers over and above core income from the ESFA's Adult Education Budget Community Learning funding. It is a term used to describe how learning providers can show how they are maximising the value of public investment. This is important because generating additional income and revenue is central to the objective of driving up participation within a very constrained public funding environment.
- 1.2 Pound Plus includes income generated or savings made through course fees, financial sponsorship, access to new learning spaces made available at no or reduced costs; use of volunteer workers; the use of shared resources; donations of equipment or consumable items; access to other funding sources or grants.

2. Introduction

- 2.1 This policy outlines Nelson and Colne College Group's position regarding the generation of Pound Plus as required by the ESFA's AEB Performance and Funding Rules.
- 2.2 We undertake a large volume of activity that contributes to the wider delivery of community learning and the generation of additional income is central to the objective of driving up participation in the community. The term 'Pound Plus' describes how we can demonstrate that we are maximising the value of public investment. It is used by the ESFA to describe the added value required to supplement the existing community learning income streams to benefit learners, particularly those who are disadvantaged and cannot afford to pay fees.

3. Generation of Pound Plus

- 3.1 Nelson and Colne College Group via Lancashire Adult Learning (LAL) offers a balanced programme of courses. This includes courses open to all adults as advertised in our promotional literature as well as provision designed to meet specific needs of learners and/or communities i.e. family learning, those recovering from mild to moderate mental health difficulties and those from deprived communities.
- 3.2 Courses are created and delivered out in the community in response to local and regional need, priorities and campaigns. Course design and learning outcomes are produced in partnership with local and regional partners.
- 3.3 Dedicated adult learning centres are supplemented by over 150 venues in the community and within local schools. This helps LAL to meet the needs of learners who otherwise may not participate in adult learning. A differentiated fees policy is in place which includes a mix of fee-paying public courses and free targeted provision. This ensures that all adults have the opportunity to access learning, including the most affluent and the most disadvantaged.
- 3.5 LAL generates additional income and savings over that of which we receive from the ESFA by:
- Fee income from learners
 - Curriculum efficiency – avoiding duplicate provision

- Curriculum planning – to ensure the course offer meets both the government priorities and the needs of the local communities. LAL also offers better progression opportunities leading to increased participation

4. Partnership Working

- 4.1 The ESFA contributes to the overall costs of delivering the programmes, but there is an expectation that we will add value to this funding by attracting extra income and reinvesting to widen the offer to disadvantaged learners. To meet this expectation, LAL works collaboratively with partners including Lancashire County Council, Jobcentre Plus, schools and voluntary and community sector organisations to ascertain local priorities, support recruitment and consider ways of securing added value and help shape our community learning offer to engage specific groups.

5. Local Fee Remission

- 5.1 Nelson and Colne College Group operates a fair and transparent local Fee Remission policy details of which are outlined in our Fees Policy.

6. Linked Policies

- Fees Policy 2022/23

7. Dissemination

This document will be available as follows:

- Nelson and Colne College Extranet
- Nelson and Colne College Website
- Lancashire Adult Learning Website
- Accrington and Rossendale College Intranet
- Accrington and Rossendale College Website

8. Monitoring and Review

- 8.1 The policy will be reviewed annually by the Assistant Principal for Adult Learning on behalf of the Vice Principal.

9. Management Responsibility

- 9.1 The Vice Principal has management responsibility for this policy across Nelson and Colne College Group.