



Open Report on behalf of Glen Garrod, Executive Director – Adult Care & Community Wellbeing

Report to:	Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee
Date:	13 December 2022
Subject:	Multiply - Numeracy Programme Update

Summary:

This report provides an overview of the planned activity proposed under the 2022/23 Multiply programme.

A table outlining planned Multiply provision for 2022/23 is provided at Appendix A for committee members to comment on.

Actions Required:

Members of the Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee are invited to:

- (1) review and comment on progress made to deliver the Multiply Programme in 2022/23; and,
- (2) comment on the planned Multiply Programme for 2022/23 and highlight any additional areas for consideration to meet the needs of businesses and constituents to inform future planning.

1. Background

Multiply and Levelling Up

1.1 A key component of the Government's Levelling Up agenda is to ensure that by 2030 the number of people successfully completing high-quality skills training will have significantly increased in every area of England.

1.2 Accordingly, the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UK SPF) has allocated £559m to be spent on three components of Multiply:

- a) New local numeracy provision (270,434,517 in England)
- b) A national digital numeracy platform; and
- c) On testing new approaches to addressing barriers to participation

1.3 The programme has provided a needs-based allocation to Lincolnshire of £4,021,671 over the next 3 years to deliver adult (19/+) numeracy provision.

1.4 Lincolnshire's Multiply Investment Plan was submitted to Department for Education (DfE), in June 2022. Funding for Year 1, to 31st March 2023, equates to £1,215,854

The Multiply Programme in Lincolnshire

1.5 Extensive awareness raising and promotional work was carried out earlier in 2022 in advance of launching a 'Call for Projects' for Year 1, September 22 to 31st March 23.

1.6 Bids for 19 Multiply projects were received which were assessed and mapped against available funding and the approved Lincolnshire Investment Plan.

1.7 A key aspect of the Multiply funding is to be innovative and try out new ways of to recruit learners and deliver maths provision to widen participation and reach those learners that aren't being reached through more traditional methods. We were very impressed with the thought that has gone into this aspect of the bid and provide examples of some of the innovation included below:

- An expanded and innovative curriculum, delivered in community and employer venues across the county, at a time to suit the learner/employer, providing free refreshments and incentives linked to attainment, etc.
- Engagement workshops with employers that will provide a unique approach to learner recruitment in terms of promoting new opportunities as the primary goal rather than straight to a qualification aim.
- Fun, low risk, engagement sessions providing practical scenario-based learning
- Prizes and pathways for the learners to increase the fun and engagement element of the programme through light-hearted competition and rewards
- Innovatively delivered series of sessions in school on lunchbox challenges and the cost of Christmas alongside maths bingo and supermarket comparisons
- Supporting entrepreneurship through crafting. Learners will be supported to learn a craft and sell their products in host cafes. While learning a craft, learners will also benefit from learning vital self-employment skills, e.g. forecasting, budgeting, taking payments, exploring different ways to sell their goods online, e.g. Etsy.
- Careers-centred approach providing masterclasses based on specific numeracy skills required for:
 - Agri-Food & Manufacturing/Production
 - Health & Care
 - Warehousing & Logistics
 - Business Administration

1.8 Providers are encouraged to work in partnership to increase the reach of the programme. Partners listed in the applications include schools, employers,

community organisations, District Councils, Housing Associations, churches, local social services, children's centres, citizen's advice bureau, food banks, YMCA, Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), local libraries, Lincolnshire traveller initiative, Everyone Active (EA), Magna Vitae, Bishop Grosseteste University (BGU), University of Lincoln, International Institute for Rural Health, Shaw Trust.

1.9 A range of employers are planned to benefit from Multiply provision in Year 1. These include Lidl, Gousto, Butlins, Magna Vitae, Fantasy Island, Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, Bourne Salads, McCain Easton, Bakkavor Spalding, Turners Logistics, Libertas Spalding, Bluebird Care (across Lincolnshire), Lincolnshire NHS Trust (incorporating Lincolnshire wide GP practices and health clinics, Social Care (Domiciliary and Residential), Lincoln and Boston Hospitals, Mental Health NHS Trust and Community NHS Trust).

1.10 The Multiply Interventions approved for delivery across Lincolnshire are listed below, and mapped against delivery organisations and geographical areas in Appendix A:

- 1) Courses designed to **increase confidence** with numbers for those needing the first steps towards formal numeracy qualifications
- 2) Courses designed to help people use numeracy to **manage their money**
- 3) Innovative numeracy programmes delivered together **with employers** – including courses designed to cover specific numeracy skills required in the workplace
- 4) Courses aimed at people who can't apply for certain jobs because of lack of numeracy skills and/or to encourage people to upskill in numeracy in order to access a certain job/career (**supporting job skills**)
- 5) New intensive and flexible numeracy courses targeted at people without Level 2 maths, leading to a Functional Skills Qualification
- 6) **Courses for parents** wanting to increase their numeracy skills in order to help their children, and help with their own progression
- 7) Numeracy courses **aimed at prisoners**, those recently released from prison or on temporary licence
- 9) Numeracy activities, courses or provision developed in partnership with community organisations and other partners aimed at engaging the **hardest to reach** learners – for example, those not in the labour market or other groups identified locally as in need
- 10) Additional relevant maths modules embedded into other vocational courses (**modules for Vocational Courses**)

Intended impact of the programme

1.11 We know maths is really important in life. Having good maths skills means better employment chances, higher wages, and better wellbeing.

1.12 Good maths skills can make everyday life better, whether it's helping children with their homework, budgeting and money management, or understanding facts and information.

1.13 The intended programme will increase the opportunity for non-traditional learners to engage with numeracy.

1.14 For employers, the programme will help to tackle problems of low productivity and support entry into employment.

2. Conclusion

Members of the Committee are invited to note the progress made in delivering the Multiply provision and comment on the planned programme highlighting any additional areas for consideration to meet the needs of businesses and constituents to inform future planning.

3. Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

N/A

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	2022/23 Multiply Programme - Location of provision by delivery organisation

5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Thea Croxall, Adult Learning & Skills Manager, who can be contacted on 0778 998 2248 or Thea.croxall@lincolnshire.gov.uk.