

Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Addendum to Adult Education Budget: Funding & Performance Management Rules due to Covid-19 Pandemic

**For the 2020 to 2021 funding year
(1st August 2020 to 31st July 2021)**

*Of interest to all providers, delivering GMCA AEB funded
provision*

Version 1
March 2021



European Union
European Social Fund
Investing in jobs and skills

Background

1. We all recognise that, in light of the global coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, these are uniquely challenging times with potentially devastating impact on residents, communities and businesses, including those delivering education, training, employment support and other related programmes.

The Principles

2. The GMCA is adopting additional flexibilities to its Adult Education Budget: Funding and Performance Management Rules 2020 to 2021 in response to the current COVID-19 pandemic (the “**Event**”). These flexibilities are designed to support our residents, businesses and communities of Greater Manchester as emerging needs arise.
3. The period of these amendments from the GMCA to you as a Provider will commence on 1st August 2020 and will continue for the remainder of the current academic year to 31 July 2021. These flexibilities may be considered for the 2021–2022 academic year, subject to future confirmation.

Whom GMCA will Fund

4. In addition to residents included in paragraphs 2.16 to 2.39 of the GMCA AEB Funding and Performance Management Rules version 2, the devolved AEB can now be used to fully fund the following residents **for learning programmes starting by 31 July 2021**:
 - Unemployed and economically inactive residents seeking to gain skills in key sector areas as listed in paragraph 5;
 - Residents who are employed and who meet the GMCA AEB low wage threshold, currently working in key sector areas as listed in paragraph 5 but not employed in key sector roles, seeking in-work progression into key sector roles;
 - Furloughed workers that are now in receipt of a low-wage due to a reduction in their salary, up to the GMCA low wage threshold as stated in paragraphs 2.35 and 2.36 of the GMCA AEB Funding and Performance Management Rules version 2;
 - Furloughed workers looking to retrain from sectors affected by the impact of COVID-19 into sectors that will become a priority post COVID-19 as a new career pathway;
 - We will fully fund/co-fund as per the criteria stated in the existing Funding and Performance Management Rules, learning in the workplace on employer premises where the delivery conforms with the current PHE guidance relating to COVID-19 for social distancing.
 - We will continue to fund the current GMCA flexibilities with particular focus on offering all GM residents the opportunity to gain their first full level 2 qualification as stated in paragraphs 2.85 to 2.88 of the GMCA AEB

Funding and Performance Management Rules version 2 and expanding access to level 3 units as stated in paragraphs 2.93 to 2.95 to further promote in-work progression.

- We will agree to fund additional GMCA flexibilities, as agreed prior to commencement of any learning activity
5. Key sector workers are defined as those working in the following sector areas and are listed [here](#):
- Health and social care;
 - Education and childcare;
 - Key public services;
 - Local and national government;
 - Food and other necessary goods;
 - Public safety and national security;
 - Transport;
 - And Utilities, communication and financial services.
6. GMCA will take a pro-active approach to the flexible use of learner support funding to ensure residents are fully supported to continue their learning programmes. Providers may wish to re-visit the use of their AEB funding relating to Learning Support and Hardship as stated in paragraphs 2.119 to 2.124 in the GMCA AEB Funding and Performance Management Rules version 2.

Additional Flexibilities Requested

7. As a result of recent progress review meetings and to enable GMCA to continue to support the AEB providers, GMCA is implementing further flexibilities, to ensure residents continue to be engaged and are offered access to adult education provision, as well as recognising that the providers have put in place additional support for learners during this time.
8. Detailed below are the additional flexibilities GMCA has been able to put in place at this stage, and GMCA will continue to work with providers to identify other suitable flexibilities:
- Full funding for all Level 2 qualifications, outside of those included on the legal entitlement list: GMCA will consider individual requests from providers relating to certain circumstances. This will be to ensure qualifications requested have clear pathways, whether on to further education or progression into employment and they fit with GM's Local Industrial Strategy priorities.
 - Additional learning aims to support residents, particularly where these are in response to the impact the pandemic and restrictions have had on residents including:
 - Mental Health
 - Home-schooling for Parents for Home-schooling
 - Licence to practice

- Delivery of courses to Staff
- First aid
- Link to and support residents eligible to access the Kickstart programme, including fully funding learners where this is agreed with GMCA.
- Providers will be able to draw down a maximum of upto 10% percentage of their overall allocation for the year funding for 'Covid-19 Learner Support'. Examples of what this can relate to are:
 - Pastoral care
 - Support for additional hardship funds

This will be claimable via the Earnings Adjustment return. Funding will be limited up to the maximum grant agreement or contract for services value. No additional funds for over performance will be available if this additional support has been claimed.

- Providers who over deliver in 2020/2021, based on the actual ILR and Manual Claims at the end of the year final reconciliation, will be able to access the GMCA over performance tolerance. This will be a similar approach to the ESFA's 3% over delivery, which GMCA will confirm, prior to the year end.

Evidence and Data Collection

9. Providers will be expected to continue to submit data on the ILR. Any additional Devolved Area Monitoring (DAM) codes will be issued to identify these learners on the ILR and to understand the activities that providers are delivering and its impact. Further information will be released with all changes made to the Data Submission/ILR process will be detailed in Adult Education Budget: ILR Submission Guidance.