

Response to Flexibilities Asks for GMCA AEB Providers – Covid Response 2020-2021

	What did providers request?	What has GMCA done?
1.	Extend the age range for learners who have turned 19 years old in the academic year, after 1 st September	The age range is set by the ESFA. GMCA are consulting with the ESFA on whether we could fund residents. Currently the ILR validation excludes these learners and GMCA needs ESFA approval to remove or not validation rules.
2.	Expansion of the Level 3 programme – Local and National Skills Offer	These are now referenced in the Adult Education Budget: Funding & Performance Management Rules 2020/2021 (paragraphs 2.53 to 2.59 and 2.97 to 2.100).
3.a	Full funding for all Level 2 qualifications, not just the ones on the Legal Entitlement list, where there is a clear pathway to Level 3 or Employment	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.
3.b	Full funding for all Level 2 qualifications, not just the ones on the Legal Entitlement list	GMCA will not authorise the use of the Level 2 flexibility to fund courses for 'Preparation for Life' and/or 'Employability' This flexibility is now included in the Addendum to the AEB Funding & Performance Management Rules due to Covid-19 Pandemic 2020/2021 (paragraph 8).
3.	Request for Learning Aims to deliver new curriculum to our residents, these include:- Mental Health; Home-schooling for Parents for Home-schooling; Licence to practise; Delivery of courses to Staff; First aid.	These flexibilities are now included in the Addendum to the AEB Funding & Performance Management Rules due to Covid-19 Pandemic 2020/2021 (paragraph 8).
4.	Links AEB and with Kickstart	This flexibility is now included in the Addendum to the AEB Funding & Performance Management Rules due to Covid-19 Pandemic 2020/2021 (paragraph 8).
5.	Delays in the authorisation of the Legal Entitlement qualifications for Digital	Providers can enrol learners onto Digital qualifications and utilising the local flexibilities to ensure full funding is drawn down. (DAM 7 and DAM 23).
6.	Economically Inactive	Providers can enrol learners who are not drawing benefits but who are looking for work by utilising the local flexibilities to ensure full funding is drawn down (DAM 22, DAM 23, Ind 11). This flexibility is now included in the Addendum to the AEB Funding & Performance Management Rules due to Covid-19 Pandemic 2020/2021 (paragraph 8).
7.	Not being able to get 'wet' signatures	Providers have been advised that digital signatures are allowable, as long as the correspondence is from the learner's personal email, social media, mobile. Tutors signatures on behalf of the learners is not acceptable.
8.	Move between Community Learning/Adult Skills Funding	Grant providers are able to moves allocations between different funding streams, in order to cover the demand on delivery.

9.	Returning learners	Providers can re-enrol learners for Legal Entitlement and ESOL qualifications, as long as the completion date is over 3 years from the date of the new start date. Learners can be re-enrolled within the 3 years but adjustments must be made for prior learning adjustment, for the 80% earnings already claimed.
10.	Multiple BILs	There is no limit to be number of times a learner can be placed on a Break In Learning, as long as the correct rules are followed as stated in the Funding & Performance Management Rules 2020/2021 (paragraphs 3.25 to 3.30).