

Multiply



Education & Skills
Funding Agency



TEES VALLEY
COMBINED
AUTHORITY
TEES VALLEY MAYOR



HARTLEPOOL
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Multiply Programme

Specification for VCSE Delivery of Outreach Focussed/Bitesize Activities

Deadline: 5pm on Monday 22nd May 2023

Introduction

In December 2022, Hartlepool Borough Council was named by Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) as the Lead Body for the Tees Valley Multiply Programme (Community Led). The purpose of the programme is to enhance the numeracy skills of adults and the provision is being funded by Department for Education through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

The programme will support over 4,000 adults across Tees Valley in the period from to 31st March 2025. It should be noted that the partnership has already supported 1,463 individuals with Outreach Focussed/Bitesize Provision and 106 with Substantial Learning since formally commencing delivery in December 2022.

A key reason for the current success is due to the delivery over the last three months from organisations from the Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Sector who have worked in partnership with their relevant Local Authority across Tees Valley.

It is important that this funding benefits our residents and assists in improving the numeracy skills of adults which in turn will start to redress some of the deprivation imbalances we have within our communities. There are two elements of activity being delivered through the Multiply Programme:

- **Outreach Focussed/Bitesize Provision**
These are informal activities outside of a classroom which will introduce numeracy using exciting, fun and innovative themes such as using cooking, crafts, sports, film, fashion or money management. Each session will be less than two hours and will aim to engage adults from priority groups within local communities across Tees Valley.
- **Substantive Learning Provision**
These are more formal learning opportunities through which learners will measurably improve their functional numeracy. This substantial learning provision will be over two hours and can be accredited or non-accredited but will aim to progress adults to further learning through provision such as Learning for Inclusion and the wider Adult Education Budget.

To support our delivery of the programme, we are launching another grant opportunity to contract with a range of organisations from the Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Sector. This will initially be to 31st March 2024 and will be focused on delivery of the Outreach Focussed/Bitesize Provision.

This will ensure the continued involvement of VCSE Organisations who are an integral part of our delivery for the Multiply Programme (Community Led).

Background

The UK Government committed that the first priority of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund is the Multiply Programme which will be delivered across the United Kingdom including Tees Valley.

The provision was announced in 2021 by the Chancellor with the aim of supporting adults to understand and use maths within their daily lives, at home and in work. Whether that be through improved budgeting, helping children with homework, understanding energy costs or making more

sense of figures in bills. It is important that adults have the skills to live and work which is a key theme for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

To achieve this, the Multiply Programme will offer a range of options as we know that people who improve their numeracy skills are more likely to be in employment, have higher wages, and have better wellbeing. Gaining a maths qualification also unlocks the door for an individual to progress in their learning journey and achieve higher qualifications through the Adult Education Budget.

Through the Multiply Programme, there is the opportunity to make a real difference in our local community as, in 2021, there were 26,600 working age residents with no formal qualifications in Tees Valley. This programme therefore aims to engage as many of these adults as possible to improve their confidence with numeracy and to effectively achieve this ambition positive partnerships between organisations from the Public and VCSE Sectors.

Delivery Requirements

Hartlepool Borough Council are working with the other four Tees Valley Local Authorities to ensure coverage of the provision by VCSE Organisations across Tees Valley. We are seeking to contract with organisations who are established within a local community of Tees Valley and must meet the definition of being a VCSE Organisation. This is to ensure engagement with priority groups of adults as part of this Multiply Programme.

There will be a single payment of £120 for each adult supported to complete an eligible deliverable of Outreach Focussed/Bitesize Provision with payments made once evidence is submitted, checked and approved by the Lead Body. It is the responsibility of successful organisations to ensure that relevant adults are eligible for the programme and have not previously completed the same deliverable via the Multiply Programme.

Please note there are five bitesize deliverables as shown in Appendix 1 and you need to state which you will deliver against in your Application Form.

Our key target by 31st March 2024 is to engage 1,562 adults within Tees Valley including 1,300 participating in activities through Outreach Focussed/Bitesize Provision.

It is essential that delivery partners understand and meet all of the key requirements, policies and standards from HBC, TVCA and Department for Education. The key delivery requirements include:

- Delivery should be from established and accessible community-based venues which are located within Tees Valley (Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland or Stockton-On-Tees).
- Organisations must have the resources, expertise and capacity to deliver high-quality delivery in line with the Multiply Programme as all activities must be completed and evidence submitted by 31st March 2024.
- Engagement should prioritise those from priority communities and identified hard to reach groups such as long-term unemployed, those without qualifications, care leavers and those who are economically inactive.
- Adults need to be provided with impartial mentoring/guidance before and after accessing activities to improve their numeracy confidence and wider softer skills so that each person is positively supported and can move forward to the next stage of their journey.

- Provision needs to be aligned to the specific needs of the local community and be focused on the key priorities of the relevant Local Authority. This will ensure delivery adds value rather than duplicates any existing activities in place such as those funded by Local Authorities.
- Adults engaged should meet the eligibility requirements for Multiply Programme such as being aged 19+, meeting residency requirements, not already holding a maths qualification at Level 2 and currently living within Tees Valley.
- Organisations should link with specialist agencies to provide wrap around support for adults and their families such as Citizens Advice Bureau, Financial/Debt Advice, Childcare, Drug & Alcohol Support and Mental Health Support.
- Organisations need to support recruitment of Volunteer Numeracy Champions. This role is for adults in the local community who will act as mentors to support individuals to progress to the next stage of their learning or personal journey after completing Bitesize Activities.
- Adults should be actively supported to progress after completing the Outreach Focussed/Bitesize Provision including the substantial learning element of the Multiply Programme, Learning for Inclusion Provision by LA's or the wider Adult Education Budget.

It is imperative that successful delivery partners work closely with their relevant Local Authority and the other VCSE Organisations who will form part of the Multiply Partnership.

A key element is the impact and difference being made to adults or their community through this provision and we want organisations to capture this important evidence using any suitable mechanism such as videos, recordings, creative writing, photographs and good news stories. This will be an essential requirement for organisations who are successful with this grant opportunity for the Multiply Programme (Community Led).

Key Priorities

The key objectives for the Multiply Programme are to:

- Increase adult numeracy across the population, beyond achieving qualifications, so adults can use maths skills within their daily lives.
- Support more adults to achieve maths qualifications up to, and including, Level 2 via GCSEs and Functional Skills Qualifications.
- Improve the soft skills of adults including their confidence, self-esteem and motivation so that we can make a difference across our communities.
- Enhance the digital skills of adults including supporting access to the Multiply Digital Numeracy Platform which is being developed nationally by Department for Education.
- Increase the employment rate and create an improved labour market with a reduction in the numeracy skills gaps identified by Employers.

All proposals should highlight how you are going to meet some or all of the above key priorities through the activities you aim to deliver within the Multiply Programme.

Submission Guidance

To apply for this opportunity through the Multiply Programme (Community Led), you must be an established VCSE organisation who is based within Tees Valley.

Please note that detailed information on delivery including paperwork and reporting/submission requirements will be provided to all successful applicants by Hartlepool Borough Council. This will be through a Delivery Partner Guidance Manual alongside regular Partnership Meetings and the manual will form part of your Service Level Agreement.

The following rules have been set to ensure the provision contracts with a suitable range of VCSE organisations for this grant opportunity through the Multiply Programme:

- Organisations must engage and deliver Outreach Focussed/Bitesize Provision to a minimum of 20 adults and maximum of 100 adults within Tees Valley by 31st March 2024.
- All organisations who are successful will need to meet due diligence requirements such as providing copies of Employers and Public Liability Insurance.
- Organisations must be recorded as 'Active' and not be overdue for accounts on the Companies House or Charity Commission Database.
- Organisations cannot be funded if it has passed a resolution (or the court has made an order) to wind up or liquidate the company, or administrators have been appointed by HMRC.
- Organisations will only be paid if the adult has not previously accessed the same deliverable as individuals can only be registered once on each deliverable across the whole period of the Multiply Programme from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2025.
- Organisations who have previously delivered activities through the Multiply Programme need to incorporate this within their applications which will then be used as part of the decision making process as part of this VCSE Opportunity.
- Second level subcontracting is not permitted i.e. you cannot subcontract any element of your delivery to another Company/Organisation.

All applications must be submitted to Multiply@hartlepool.gov.uk by 5pm on Monday 22nd May 2023 and any applications received after this deadline will be automatically rejected by Hartlepool Borough Council.

We aim to notify applicants of our decisions promptly and applications will be scored in line with the criteria within the attached Application Form. It is expected that successful organisations will then commence delivery from Monday 5th June 2023.

Appendix 1 – Bitesize/Outreach Focussed Deliverables

Activity	Description	Activity Targets – Year 2
1	<p>These will be face to face courses which will be up to 2 hours for each session delivered over a block of up to 6 weeks. The sessions should be focused on numeracy contextualised to everyday life such as using cooking, crafts, sports, film and fashion or money management to engage adults.</p> <p>These will be delivered in community settings and will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target adults who do not have any/low level qualifications both Employed and Unemployed; • Be delivered by or in partnership with local VCSE Organisations. 	Contracted Target – 360
2	<p>These will be face to face courses which will be up to 2 hours for each session delivered over a block of up to 6 weeks. The sessions should be aimed at improving parents/carers understanding of numeracy focused on improving their ability to support children and young people with their homework.</p> <p>The activities will target parents/carers and will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target adults who do not have any/low level qualifications both Employed and Unemployed; • Be delivered from community or school venues in partnership with local Primary/Secondary Schools. 	Contracted Target – 120
3	<p>These will be face to face courses lasting up to 2 hours for each session delivered over a block of up to 6 weeks. The sessions will build the numeracy confidence of adults through the use of digital technology by linking to themes such as money management apps, streaming or online shopping.</p> <p>These will be delivered in community settings and will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target adults with no qualifications, low skills, poor digital skills both Employed & Unemployed; • Support individuals to progress onto formal qualifications including Digital Functional Skills. 	Contracted Target – 420

4	<p>These will be face to face courses lasting up to 2 hours for each session delivered over a block of up to 6 weeks. The sessions should be focused on numeracy contextualised to everyday life such as using cooking, crafts, sports, film and fashion or money management to engage hard to reach adults across Tees Valley.</p> <p>These will be delivered in community settings and will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target adults hardest to reach such as long term unemployed, inactive, offenders and care leavers; • Be delivered by or in partnership with local VCSE Organisations. 	Contracted Target – 200
6	<p>These will be face to face courses which will be up to 2 hours for each session delivered over a block of up to 6 weeks. The sessions should be aimed at improving hard to reach parents/carers understanding of numeracy focused on improving their ability to support children and young people with their homework.</p> <p>The activities will target parents/carers and will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target adults hardest to reach adults such as long term unemployed, inactive and offenders; • Be delivered from community or school venues in partnership with local Primary/Secondary Schools. 	Contracted Target – 200