



Final

SGS College Pound Plus Policy in support of the Community Development Learning Programme

2023/24

Introduction

Pound Plus refers to additional income generated by providers over and above core income from the ESFA and WECA Adult Education Budgets. 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.

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; donations of equipment or consumable items; and access to other funding sources or grants.

Background

SGS College undertakes 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 and WECA 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.

SGS College – application of the Pound Plus Policy

SGS College offers a balanced programme of courses. This includes courses open to all adults as advertised in our prospectus brochure as well as provision designed to meet specific needs of learners and/or communities i.e. learners with learning-difficulties/disabilities, family learning, those recovering from mild to moderate mental health difficulties and those from deprived communities.

Courses are created and delivered out in the community in response to local need.

Dedicated adult learning centres are supplemented by venues in the community. This helps SGS College 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.

The ESFA and WECA 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, cutting costs and reinvesting to widen the offer to disadvantaged learners. To meet this expectation, SGS College works collaboratively with partners to ascertain local priorities and consider ways of securing added value.

SGS College generates additional income and savings over that of which we receive from the ESFA and WECA by:

- ∞ Fee income from learners
- ∞ Income from room hire to local community groups and businesses
- ∞ Use of volunteers to support learning
- ∞ Curriculum efficiency – avoiding duplicate provision
- ∞ Curriculum planning – to ensure the course offer meets both the government priorities and the needs of the local communities. SGS College also offers better progression opportunities leading to increased participation
- ∞ Use of external venues at no charge.

Monitoring of Pound Plus Income and effectiveness of the Policy

SGS College will monitor the Pound Plus revenue and savings generated through its CDL Programme on a termly basis. The effectiveness of the Policy will be considered for inclusion in the college's SAR process on an annual basis.

Annex A – Extract from the WECA FUNDING AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT RULES 2023/2024.

N.B. The guidance in Annex A applies only to funding utilised for Learners who are resident in the WECA area.

WECA only - Pound Plus and local fee remission policy

Pound Plus and local fee remission policy

281. You must have in place a ‘Pound Plus’ policy - the ‘Pound’ represents the public pound, and the ‘Plus’ is everything else you can generate in addition to non-formula community learning funding allocation. This includes fee income, funding from other sources, resources in kind and other sources of revenue/sponsorship/volunteering. You must invest Pound Plus fee income and/or savings for those who are most in need of, and can least afford, community-learning provision.

282. You must also have in place, and operate, a fair and transparent community learning local fee remission policy that requires individuals to pay a course/ tuition/ joining fee, but also sets out clear eligibility criteria for those who, due to their circumstances, qualify for either partial or total fee remission.

283. Your Pound Plus and Local Fee remission policies must be available on your website and/or in the venues you deliver community learning to eligible learners. If requested, your Local Fee Remission Policy should also be shared with your Combined Authority AEB Relationship Manager.

Partnership working

284. Partnership working underpins the community learning objectives and is critical to developing and delivering an effective community-learning offer in a given locality.

285. You must engage and work closely with a wide range of relevant partners, the Combined Authority, and stakeholders in your local area to help shape your community learning offer to engage specific groups. These could include specialist partners and voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations.

286. We expect you to work with other providers in your local area, who may be in receipt of non-formula community funding. We expect you to develop a strategic, efficient community-learning offer to reduce duplication of courses in a locality, and signpost learners to other partners as and when appropriate.