

Multiply and UK Shared Prosperity Fund: Learning and Work Institute Prospectus for Local Government

This prospectus sets out Learning and Work Institute's (L&W) support offer to local government for the development, implementation and evaluation of effective employment, learning and skills programmes delivered via the Multiply and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) programmes. L&W is an independent policy, research and development organisation dedicated to lifelong learning, full employment and inclusion.

Local government is being asked to produce investment plans for their indicative Multiply and UKSPF allocations. To maximise impact, plans need to be underpinned by clear analysis and firm evidence of need and demand, and provide evidence to support approaches to engagement and outreach, boosting participation and delivering outcomes.

How can Learning and Work Institute help?

L&W is able to offer immediate support to local and mayoral combined authorities in developing their investment plans. We are also interested in longer-term partnerships that support local and mayoral combined authorities with the subsequent delivery of Multiply adult numeracy initiatives, and employment and skills programmes delivered via the UKSPF.

Investment Plans Support

L&W can help with development of investment plans in two ways, drawing on our expertise in labour market and skills analysis, evaluation and understanding of the evidence base.

Our **analytical support** includes:

- **Multiply.** We have developed an essential skills model, which provides estimates of essential skills needs at local authority and ward level, and split between age groups (16-24 and 25+) and qualification levels (below level 3 and level 3+). We also have extensive experience in supporting local government in a range of projects mapping essential skills provision, including research and stakeholder engagement with the provider base.
- **UKSPF.** We can provide analysis of key labour market and skills variables across different geographies. We have completed a number of economic and labour market analyses for local authorities including Tower Hamlets, Islington and Birmingham City Council. This included sourcing and analysing data on economic activity, occupational structure and occupation types, skills levels, travel to work patterns, commuting data (origin and destination), job density, earnings and levels of worklessness.

Our support with **evidence use** includes:

- **Multiply.** L&W has published a 'what works' review of adult basic skills and can translate this into advice and tips for commissioners and providers. We have extensive experience of research and development in adult essential and basic skills provision, including aspects

of delivery such as the development of effective referral routes, partnership working with key stakeholders, workplace delivery and creating progression pathways.

- **UKSPF.** We have undertaken a wide range of robust evaluations of employment, skills and in-work progression support for different groups, and can advise on the key implications of this evidence for investment plans and commissioning approaches. For example, we worked with 19 social landlords to develop a Jobs-Plus model of evidence-based, community-led employment support for people on low incomes in disadvantaged areas.

Delivery Support: Innovation, Learning and Effective Practice

L&W is keen to explore the option to build in an **Innovation, Learning and Effective Practice (ILEP) network** into local investment plans, covering either Multiply or UKSPF programmes, or both.

L&W has worked in an evaluation and learning role in the development of numerous national skills initiatives, including the Department for Education's Cost and Outreach pilots to inform the National Retraining Scheme, and the NESTA CareerTech Challenge. We also have extensive experience in co-ordinating networks to share practice, including the Better Work Network and the Local Education Authority Forum for the Education of Adults (LEAFA).

We would welcome the opportunity to bring together local authorities in different areas, or within a combined authority area, to share practice and test approaches to innovation. We welcome further discussion on this to co-design the offer.

For an annual investment to be agreed with the local authority (and built into investment plans), ILEP network activity could include some or all of the following elements:

- an agreed number of **development support days** for commissioners and your contracted providers to understand challenges and explore evidence-based solutions;
- an agreed number of **online and/or in-person events** to share experiences, challenges and ideas between all participating local government areas each year, supported by access to an online platform collating useful resources and outputs from the events;
- an agreed number of **evaluation and learning support days**, focussing on approaches to testing innovation and measuring impact.

Further information

To discuss your support requirements with us, please contact Alex Stevenson, Head of Essential and Life Skills, at alex.stevenson@learningandwork.org.uk .