

Pound Plus & Fee Remission Policy – 2021-2022

Background

Pound Plus is a term used to describe the additional ‘income’ generated by adult learning providers over and above their core funding allocation from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). It enables providers to demonstrate that they are maximising the value of public investment and are working with partners and communities to support the delivery of, and increase participation in, community learning. Pound Plus income and/or savings supplements the existing community learning funding to benefit those people who most need but can least afford to pay fees.

This income includes fees charged to learners, funding from other sources, resources in kind and other sources of revenue, sponsorship or volunteering.

The overall purpose of Blackburn with Darwen Adult Learning is to **“improve the work prospects and wellbeing of people and their communities”**. To support this, the majority of our courses are targeted at the most disadvantaged and hard-to-reach adults (19+) in the borough to help them re-engage in learning, build confidence, enhance their wellbeing and improve their skills and work prospects. This includes the publicly advertised programme. As such, course fees are only charged for learners who are completing an accredited programme and earn in excess of £17,374.50 per year.

To ensure that we deliver to the most disadvantaged groups we have close working links with local communities, Local Authorities, the Lancashire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), key local partners such as Jobcentre Plus, NHS Trusts, Public Health, schools and local service deliverers.

Pound Plus Categories

At Blackburn with Darwen Adult Learning, Pound Plus is categorised into the three main areas below:

Direct Income

- Fee income from learners (where appropriate)
- Commercial fee income
- Income generation through Learning Centres, including room hire and hospitality
- Additional grants and funding

Cost Savings

- Savings in room hire costs through partnership working
- Savings in staff costs through partnership working
- Use of volunteers and/or external learner support to support delivery and activities (where appropriate)

Value for Money

- Ensuring a cost-efficient curriculum offer which avoids duplication
- Ensure an effective curriculum offer which meets local and national priorities, the needs of the local community and has clearly identified progression routes
- Develop and support the sustainability of self-organised groups

Monitoring

This policy is monitored in line with our quality and self-assessment processes