

Multiply Briefing

May 2023

Multiply



Adult Community Learning



SWINDON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Multiply started in the 2022/23 academic year and had three planned core delivery strands:

- A local approach to funding that will enable delivery of a range of bespoke and innovative adult numeracy programmes to meet local need
- Development of an evidence base on what works to improve adult numeracy
- A new national digital platform that will act as a 'front door' to the programme, provide a learning tool to fit around learning and work and allow users to work at their own pace and place - ***this is now on hold (budget of £100M)***

The Multiply programme plans to help **people** to develop their numeracy skills and confidence and:

- Support them into employment or move them closer to employment
- Help them gain confidence with tasks within their current job role and take on additional responsibilities for their employer
- Enable them to manage not only work-related numeracy-based tasks but also personal finances. With the cost of living increasing, this has become even more important to support people's wellbeing

It will also support **businesses** to:

- Develop their employees' numeracy confidence and skills, helping to boost productivity and increase profits
- Invest in their workforce/staff (i.e. as part of staff development programmes) being seen as an employer of choice
- Help employees to take on additional responsibilities as part of their development, thus supporting increased productivity

The local need

- One in four working-age adults in England have low literacy and/or numeracy skills (OECD adult skills survey).
- The 2021 Census indicates that 30% of adults in Swindon have no or low level qualifications (below level 2); this represents nearly 57,000 residents
- Wards with the greatest level of low essential skills include Penhill and Upper Stratton, Walcot and Park North, Liden, Eldene and Park South



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Our target groups

- **Swindon residents** who are over 19, are without maths at level 2 and who meet the [ESFA residency eligibility requirements](#)
 - Individuals in employment
 - Those who are unemployed or economically inactive
 - Parents
 - Young people 19-25
 - Care leavers
 - Our hardest to reach residents including those in priority wards

Multiply gives us the opportunity to:

- Engage **Swindon** residents to highlight the value of improving their maths skills and life long learning in general
- Explore innovative approaches to engaging our residents and increasing their skills
- Do things differently!
- Develop the capacity and capability of the adult learning workforce and the voluntary and community sector
- Support our residents to do more and know more!



Examples of engagement activities:

- Working in collaboration with our Live Well team to positively promote the value of maths and refer residents to the support available to them
- Providing Games Club kit boxes to community organisations. These kits include a wide range of games and resources that all incorporate an element of numeracy along with lots of fun supported by information about what to do next
- Funding Swindon Citizen's Advice to provide short 1:1 and small group support and information to residents
- Recruitment and training of volunteer and employed Maths Champions who positively promote the value of maths and the opportunities available in workplaces and community settings

Multiply

Here to help you
feel confident
with maths!



If you feel anxious when thinking about numbers,
or regularly say you are rubbish at maths you are not alone!

The Multiply programme offers eligible adults **free** courses that focus on practical maths skills, having fun with numbers and building confidence with maths.

What opportunities will be available in Swindon?

- Building your basic numeracy skills that reduce anxiety and increase confidence
- Counting on the future courses that will develop maths skills and confidence to help you progress into a new role or a qualification
- Bitesize financial literacy courses including practical solutions to budgeting and cost saving
- Work related numeracy courses
- Helping your child with maths courses

Our free Multiply numeracy courses are available for Swindon residents or people who work in Swindon who:

- Are over 19
- Do not have a maths GCSE grade C or above (or equivalent qualification)
- Have lived in the UK/EU for 3 years (*some exemptions apply – see overleaf)

multiply@swindon.gov.uk



Do you want to
find out what your
numeracy skills
are like?



Why not take part in the National Numeracy Challenge which aims to give you a picture of your everyday maths skills through a few online questions, you can even use a calculator or your phone!

<https://www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk/>



Once you have completed the challenge you will be given some really helpful suggestions to help you improve your numeracy skills. If you do not have access to the internet we can arrange for one of our Numeracy Champions to help you understand your maths skill level.

What next?

If you want to find out more about the Multiply opportunities that are available in Swindon or want to sign up for future updates please email multiply@swindon.gov.uk

To be * eligible to enrol on a free Multiply course you need to:

- be over 19 years old
- have lived in the UK or EU for at least the last three years, or:
 - be a refugee
 - be an asylum seeker and lived in the UK for at least 6 months
 - be a Home or Families for Ukraine visa holder
 - be an Afghan ARAP or ARAC visa holder
- not already hold a maths qualification at Level 2 (GCSE A-C/Grade 4 and above)

How we use your information

Swindon Borough Council have been made the local lead provider for Swindon the Multiply Project - Skills for Life, funded by UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Information regarding participation and achievement is used by the DfE to exercise functions under article 6(1)(e) of the UK GDPR and to meet our statutory responsibilities, including those under the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009. Your data has been collected so we can monitor the number of participants and achievements in our short programmes of 2 hours or less. Your information is used anonymously so you cannot be identified. We will not share your personal information. We will store your information securely for no longer than 7 years. If you have any concerns or questions about how we look after your personal information, contact the Council's Data Protection Officer, at DataProtection@swindon.gov.uk or by calling 01793 445500 and asking to speak to the Data Protection Officer.



Examples of planned substantive learning:

- Building basic numeracy skills, reducing maths anxiety and increasing confidence
- Counting on the future courses to develop maths skills and the confidence to move on to a qualification or access a specific job/career.
- Financial literacy courses including practical solutions to budgeting, loans and savings, pensions, payslips etc.
- Work related maths courses for example budgeting, Excel, understanding data, presenting data clearly, sector specific bespoke courses e.g. percentages and ratios in care
- Helping your child with maths courses
- Numeracy activities, courses or provision developed in partnership with communities

Examples of other activities:

- Working in partnership with National Numeracy
- Maths Mentors who will provide support to break down barriers to maths learning and work with those who are progressing and/or embarking on a maths qualification, but need extra support to keep on track and succeed. Maths mentors will also help identify and support those with distinct needs such as dyscalculia or dyslexia and those who are neurodivergent.
- Dyslexia and Dyscalculia assessment for adults who have participated in a screening assessment which indicates that may have one or both learning support needs.
- A Maths Friendly Employer Service; an audit and advice service for employers and charities, who are trying to improve the visibility and clarity of maths within the workplace and for their customers, along with improving numeracy skills.



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Year 1 challenges

- As predicted by the sector the very short lead in time and a 7 month Year 1 has presented significant challenges to deliver the project
- Due to the complexities of grant funding delivery started two months behind schedule
- Staff recruitment
- Overall our Year 1 engagement targets have been met but the substantive learning activity targets were not met
- Limited time to convert engaged residents onto substantive learning
- Our smaller grant funded organisations performed better against target than our larger ones
- We believe we now have the infrastructure in place to deliver the planned targets for 23-24

Thank you

www.swindon.gov.uk



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