

## **Delegated Officer Report**

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	<b>Matthew Bulmer, Director of Education, Early Years and Skills</b>
<b>Date of Decision:</b>	<b>March 2024</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Care Leaver Multiply Grant Agreement</b>
<b>Report Author:</b>	<b>Amanda Youlden, Post 16 and Skills Lead</b>
<b>Ward (s):</b>	<b>All</b>

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**Reason for the decision:** Request for the attached grant agreement to be signed and funding accepted for the delivery of the Care Leaver Multiply Scheme.

**Summary:** Multiply is a UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) funded national programme, commissioned and delivered locally, to support adults who do not have GCSE/Level 2 maths or equivalent to gain skills in Maths/Numeracy.

The scheme aims to increase overall participation and achievement in Level 2 Maths, ultimately leading to wider skills, by supporting those who would not normally consider skills training within a college environment. Around 17 million adults in England – half of the working-age population – have the numeracy skills of primary school children. Poor numeracy skills can hold people back from having the confidence to get on in life and into work.

In November 2023, Oldham Council submitted an Expression of Interest to GMCA to receive additional Multiply funding for a bespoke programme for our Care Leavers.

The scheme will be delivered by our Lifelong Learning Service in close collaboration with our After Care Team to ensure the learners accessing the programme are successful.

The Grant Agreement has now been received in the Authority (19/3/24) and we seek permission to accept the funding and proceed with the programme.

***What are the alternative option(s) to be considered? Please give the reason(s) for recommendation(s):***

**Option 1:** We sign the agreement and accept the funding to deliver the scheme to our Care Leavers. This option provides additional support to our Care Leavers that would not normally be available.

**Option 2:** We don't sign the agreement and decline the funding to deliver the scheme to our Care Leavers. This option effectively removes provision, resource and support for Care Leavers who are an identified vulnerable group and we are risking not fulfilling our Corporate Parent duties in not delivering the scheme.

***Consultation: including any conflict of interest declared by relevant Cabinet Member consulted.***

No consultation required and no declared interests.

***Recommendation(s):***

Option 1

**Implications:**

***What are the financial implications?***

This report is seeking permission to receive the Grant Funding from GMCA for Level 2 Multiply funding for Oldham Council Care Leavers. This will be managed through the After Care Team and the course will be run through the Oldham Lifelong Learning Service.

The funding totals £49,158, received in a single lump sum, will cover the following:

Period	Part 1 – Outreach & Engagement		Part 2 – Multiply Skills Offer	
	23/24	24/25	23/24	24/25
Staffing (existing)	5,399.90	7,347.50	8,169.50	20,064.95
Printing	0	0	1,000.00	1,200.00
Subscriptions	0	0	250.00	500.00
Room Hire	0	0	608.72	1,217.43
Other Expenses	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	400.00
Total 23/24	£17,428.12			
Total 24/25	£31,729.88			

(Catherine Dunkerley – Accountant)

*What are the legal implications?*

What is intended here is to accept grant monies from the Greater Manchester Combined Authority in order to support the Care Leaver Multiply Scheme with financing under the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) national programme. 'Multiply' initiative funds have previously been received by the Council for support of other initiatives and additional monies are wanted for this Multiply funding in respect of a bespoke programme for care leavers.

GMCA have sent over a grant funding agreement to be entered into by the Council. It is 147 pages in length with the first 39 pages comprising the body of the agreement including cover pages whilst the remainder are schedules and appendices and a large number of embedded documents. Most of these embedded items are set out within the relevant schedule although a few have not been and are not capable of being opened because the grant funding agreement has been provided by GMCA in pdf format rather than as a 'Word' document with simply an icon image and not as an accessible document.

In usual circumstances the Legal Department would examine, assess and report upon the contents of the grant funding agreement. However, such exercises have not been undertaken in this instance because the operative department team reports that the grant funding agreement is in the same general format as several others previously received from GMCA and which have before now been the subject of review by various members of the legal team. From a practical standpoint the

operational team are familiar with the GMCA requirements and confident that these can be satisfied as with previous schemes.

It is reported that a number of similar schemes have progressed on the same documentary basis over the last three years or so and the operational team are content with the same agreement can be used in the case of this scheme without many hours further and unnecessary time being expended on the part of the Legal Department. In any event the grant funding agreement will be non-negotiable and not open to amendment as is generally the case with grants emanating either directly from central government or via another intermediate agency.

Here the value of the grant seems to be £49,158.00 and therefore under the Council's constitution there is no need to execute as a deed. However, that form of execution would appear to be a requirement on the part of GMCA and if indeed needed there is no reason why the Council seal should not be applied in the usual manner.

It is also reported by the operational team that this is a very low risk process and the Council is simply to receive funding for the care leaver arrangements. Within the Council's constitution there are little, if indeed any, provisions concerning the receipt of grants and therefore no list of criteria to be met.

(Mike Bentley – Consultant & Locum Solicitor, Commercial Team, Legal Department)

What are the **treasurers'** comments?

None

What are the **procurement** implications?

None

What are the **Human Resources** implications?

None

**Equality Impact** attached or not required because (please give reason)

Not required as the grant agreement is only for a specific cohort.

What are the **property** implications

None

**Risk assessments:**

None

**Co-operative implications**

The decision supports our co-operative agenda

in the following ways:

Fairness – option 1 is fair.

Openness – option 1 is a decision we will communicate openly

Responsibility – option 1 ensures we take responsibility for our corporate parent obligations.

Working together – option 1 shows collaboration between Council Services.

**IT implications**

None

**Environmental and Health and Safety implications**

None

**Community cohesions, including crime and disorder implications**

None

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Has the relevant Legal Officer confirmed that the recommendations within this report are lawful and comply with the Council's Constitution? Yes

Has the relevant Finance Officer confirmed that any expenditure referred to within this report is consistent with the Council's budget? Yes


Are any of the recommendations within this report contrary to the Policy Framework of the Council? No

**There are no background papers for this report.**

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<b>Report Author Sign-off:</b>	<i>Amanda Youlden</i>
<b>Date:</b>	23 April 2024

Please list and attach any appendices:-

<b>Appendix number or letter</b>	<b>Description</b>
1	Grant Agreement from GMCA  GMCA GM Multiply Scheme GFA with OI

In consultation with Deputy Chief Executive/Executive Director/ Director

Signed : \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_