



Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority

Adult Skills Fund devolution update webinar
30th July 2025




WELCOME

David Gent
Chair, HEY Skills Network



AGENDA

- HEYCA Adult Skills Fund devolution
 - Hull City Council ASF procurement (2025/26 academic year)
 - Q&A
- 




Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority

Adult Skills Fund devolution



HEYCA Executive Board

- HEYCA Executive Board – Wednesday 28th May 2025
 - Approved the Readiness Submission and general commissioning principles set out within it
 - Full details: [20250528_HEY_Combined_Authority.pdf](#)
 - Board Paper – Pages 21 – 35
 - Readiness “Self-Assessment” – Pages 37 – 45
 - DRAFT Adult Skills Fund Strategic Skills Plan – Pages 47 – 98
 - “Self-Assessment” Supplementary Evidence Pack – Pages 99 - 125
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HEYCA ASF Commissioning: General Principles (1)

- In year 1 (2026/27 academic year) – HEYCA will adopt existing DfE principles to minimise disruption and risk to providers and the wider system
- Specifically, these include:
 - Contract for Services:
[Contract_for_services_ESFA_adult_skills_fund.pdf](#)
 - Grant Contract - College:
[Accountability_agreement_2024_to_2025_colleges_.pdf](#)
 - Grant Contract – Local Authority:
[Accountability_agreement_2024_to_2025_local_authorities_.pdf](#)

HEYCA ASF Commissioning: General Principles (2)

- And:
 - Sub-contracting: [DfE subcontracting standard - GOV.UK](#)
 - Payments: guidance.submit-learner-data.service.gov.uk/24-25/data-collection-timetable
 - Funding rules and learner eligibility: [Adult skills fund: funding rules - GOV.UK](#)
 - Provider management - intervention and risk management: [College oversight support and intervention applies from 1 August 2024.pdf](#)
- It is expected that these will evolve in future years to capitalise on Combined Authority freedoms and flexibilities.

HEYCA Draft ASF Strategic Skills Plan

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Adult Skills Fund Strategic Skills Plan

Ver.12

FINAL DRAFT

Full document contained within HEYCA
Executive Board pack (link provided)

Contents

1. Introduction	3
2. Background	3
3. Hull and East Yorkshire Region	5
3.1 Local Landscape	5
3.2 Demographics	6
Age and gender	6
Population growth	7
Ethnicity	7
Health	7
Deprivation	8
3.3 Local Employment	9
Employment rate	9
Key employment sectors	9
Employment by occupation	11
Average earnings	11
Travel to work	11
Job vacancies and postings	12
Economic inactivity	12
Claimant Count	14
Youth unemployment	14
3.4 Local skills	14
Qualifications	14
3.5 Business and Productivity	15
3.6 Key Opportunities & Strengths	16
3.7 Key Challenges	17
3.8 Summary	17
4. Strategic Context	17
4.1 Hull and East Yorkshire Economic Framework	18
4.2 Hull and East Yorkshire Skills Framework	18
4.3 Humber Economic Strategy	19
4.4 National Industrial Strategy and Local Growth Plan	20

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5. Adult Skills Fund Strategic Priorities	22
6. Alignment of ASF with other funded programmes	24
7. Stakeholder engagement	25
7.1 Stakeholder engagement methodology	25
7.2 Key findings	26
7.3 Ongoing Stakeholder engagement	29
8. Profile of provision in 2023/24	31
8.1 Evidence base	31
8.2 Trends in provision (2023/24)	31
9. Adult Skills Fund Commissioning	44
9.1 Commissioning Principles	44
10. Strategic Approach	47
10.1 Sub-contracting	47
10.2 Distance learning	48
10.3 Cross border arrangements	48
11. Governance	49
11.1 Decision Makers	49
11.2 Skills Board	50
11.3 ASF team responsibilities	50
12. Monitoring, Review and Evaluation	51

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Employment by occupation	11
Average earnings	11
Travel to work	11
Job vacancies and postings	12
Economic inactivity	12
Claimant Count	14
Youth unemployment	14
3.4 Local skills	14
Qualifications	14
3.5 Business and Productivity	15
3.6 Key Opportunities & Strengths	16
3.7 Key Challenges	17
3.8 Summary	17
4. Strategic Context	17
4.1 Hull and East Yorkshire Economic Framework	18
4.2 Hull and East Yorkshire Skills Framework	18
4.3 Humber Economic Strategy	19
4.4 National Industrial Strategy and Local Growth Plan	20

Page 1 of 51


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5. Adult Skills Fund Strategic Priorities	22
6. Alignment of ASF with other funded programmes	24
7. Stakeholder engagement	25
7.1 Stakeholder engagement methodology	25
7.2 Key findings	26
7.3 Ongoing Stakeholder engagement	29
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8.1 Evidence base	31
8.2 Trends in provision (2023/24)	31
9. Adult Skills Fund Commissioning	44
9.1 Commissioning Principles	44
10. Strategic Approach	47
10.1 Sub-contracting	47
10.2 Distance learning	48
10.3 Cross border arrangements	48
11. Governance	49
11.1 Decision Makers	49
11.2 Skills Board	50
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Considered and approved by the HEYCA
Executive Board on 28th May 2025


HEYCA ASF – Strategic Priorities

- HEYCA will commission the ASF against the strategic priorities detailed in the draft ASF Strategic Skills Plan which are:
 - Align skills with economic needs, priority sectors and key strategic plans e.g. LSIP to boost productivity and wellbeing of both residents and employers
 - Empower businesses to generate more and higher-paid sustainable jobs, creating better opportunities for individuals and sector growth
 - Minimise inequality and promote social mobility
 - Enhance wellbeing through education, personal development and/or employment improving healthy life expectancy and reducing inequalities, particularly in disadvantaged communities
 - Ensure an agile commissioning approach that adapts to changing local circumstances. This will align skills provision to business needs within job markets and emerging sectors
 - These priorities recognise legal entitlements, stakeholder feedback and employer & learner need.
- 


HEYCA ASF – Commissioning Principles

- HEYCA ASF Strategic Skills Plan – Section 9
- HEYCA will adopt the following approach to commissioning in year one (2026/27):
 - Grant Allocations – for providers that:
 - Can demonstrate they have an established place-based approach that supports Hull and East Yorkshire’s strategic priorities
 - Deliver significant volumes of activity within Hull and East Yorkshire
 - Contracts for Services
 - Remaining ASF will be allocated via open and competitive tendering processes
 - Procurement for the 2026/27 academic year will take place in Autumn / Winter of 2025 and will target the priorities identified in the ASF Strategic Skills Plan
- Full details provided on pages 44 – 47 of the Strategic Skills Plan


HEYCA ASF – Commissioning Principles – Grant Allocations

- Grant allocated by applying proportion of 2023/24 spent on HEYCA learners to 2026/27 allocation
 - Grant agreements issued for 1 year with the option to extend subject to provider performance and funding availability
 - Role of Specialist Designated Institutions who currently hold grant agreements to be assessed
 - Process to be put in place to engage with FE Colleges and LAs to determine scale and balance of provision (legal entitlements, range of provision, local priorities etc.)
 - Grant allocations to include delivery targets which will be monitored as part of provider management and audit arrangements (still to be developed)
 - HEYCA will hold performance management meetings (specifics to be determined) with providers. Under/over delivery and re-deployment/re-profiling of funding can be discussed
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HEYCA ASF – Commissioning Principles – Contracts for Services

- Remaining ASF will be allocated via open and competitive tendering process
 - Procurement that takes place in autumn/winter of 2025 will focus on:
 - Delivery of legal entitlements
 - Supporting unemployed and economically inactive to progress into jobs
 - Supporting in-work progression of those on low wages
 - Enabling employed adults to progress in the workplace
 - Testing and/or piloting innovative ways of addressing skills gaps or trialling new learning methods
 - Contracts for services will be issued for 1 year (August 2026 – July 2027) with the option to extend for further years subject to performance, skills policy and funding availability.
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HEYCA ASF – Commissioning Principles – For all provision (1)

- Learning organisations will be expected to complete an Annual Delivery Plan and Accountability Statement
 - HEYCA can utilise the Annual Accountability Statements produced by learning organisations for the DfE to assess their contributions to the strategic aims of the Strategic Skills Plan objectives
 - A performance management framework can be introduced to ensure funding is spent in line with delivery plans, performance/reconciliation points and will enable HEYCA to monitor under and over-performance
 - HEYCA can agree its approach to under-performance at a later date but reserves the right to rebase providers allocations in future years. Where providers have identified and worked with HEYCA to manage under-performance, the requirement for rebasing may be discussed. Where providers do not declare underperformance HEYCA could rebase allocations automatically.
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HEYCA ASF – Commissioning Principles – For all provision (2)

- For providers with under-delivery between 97% and 100% of their allocation at the end of the funding year it is proposed that HEYCA will reduce providers baseline to actual delivery in line with DfE guidance for 2025/26
 - For providers that over-deliver, when calculating their baseline allocation for academic year 2026/27, HEYCA will take into account over-delivery from 2025/26 up to 10%. HEYCA proposes that annual growth requests will be available subject to provider performance and funding availability
- 

HEYCA ASF – Sub-contracting

- HEYCA ASF Strategic Skills Plan – Section 10.1
 - Sub-contracting is permitted
 - 2nd tier sub-contracting is not permitted
 - Sub-contracting must enhance provision and learner experience
 - Providers should ensure that sub-contracted provision meets the HEYCA's strategic aims and enhances the quality of their learner offer
 - It must not be used to meet short-term funding objectives
 - Providers will be required to identify any sub-contracting arrangements in Annual Delivery Plans, supported by a rationale
 - Sub-contracting will be monitored by the HEYCA
- Full details provided on page 48 of the Strategic Skills Plan

HEYCA ASF – Distance & Blended Learning

- HEYCA ASF Strategic Skills Plan – Section 10.2
 - Distance & Blended Learning is permitted
 - HEYCA recognises the importance of distance and blended learning in supporting learners to engage
 - Creating flexible learning opportunities make skills attainment more inclusive helping to address barriers to learning
 - Providers will be required to identify where they plan to deliver provision through distance learning in their Delivery Plans
 - The HEYCA will closely monitor the quality of distance learning
 - Full details provided on page 48 of the Strategic Skills Plan
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HEYCA ASF – Cross Border Arrangements

- HEYCA ASF Strategic Skills Plan – Section 10.3
 - To accommodate scenarios where a HEYCA resident needs to access learning outside of Hull and East Yorkshire, the HEYCA may allocate funding to providers outside the area who either:
 - Are part of a group who have a member that has a fixed delivery site within Hull and East Yorkshire
 - Has a fixed delivery site that shares a border with Hull and East Yorkshire
 - Has a fixed delivery site that belongs to a Combined authority that shares a border with the Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority
- Full details provided on pages 48 – 49 of the Strategic Skills Plan




Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority

**Hull City Council ASF procurement
(2025/26 academic year)**



Hull City Council ASF procurement (2025/26 academic year)

- Received a significant number of bids
 - Moderating bids and carrying out due diligence
 - Awarding bids in near future
 - All bids awarded will be aligned to the LSIP
 - Working in close partnership with the East Riding to minimise duplication and agree cross border funding
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Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority

Q & A



Q & A

- A Q&A section will be added to the HEYCA website listing all stakeholder questions raised in engagement sessions
 - This approach allows the HEYCA to prepare accurate responses which can be accessed by all stakeholders equitably and ensures consistency of information
 - To submit a question, please use the MS365 Form – link provided in the chat
 - The same form can also be used to request information at future updates and provide feedback on the sessions
 - Slides with active links will be available from w/c 4th August from the HEYCA website – link also provided in the chat
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END

