

Community Education Fund Round 43



Deadline: 5pm, Friday, 29th May 2026

The Community Education Fund supports the development of lifelong learning opportunities that inspire and support the people of West Berkshire to improve their lives through learning.

Who can apply to the fund?

Any organisation that provides education and training opportunities in West Berkshire aimed at one or more of the target groups outlined below. This includes specialist community and voluntary organisations, training companies, colleges, academies, schools, nurseries and local authority services.

Target Groups

Our funding supports provision aimed at all adults, aged 19+, who live, work or volunteer within West Berkshire with particular focus on the following priority groups:

- Adults with disabilities and learning difficulties
- Vulnerable older adults
- Adults who are unemployed or under employed
- Adults with no qualifications or low levels of skills
- Adults with mental health issues
- Parents/families who need help to support children's learning and development
- Ex- offenders and probation clients
- Adults with or recovering from drug or alcohol dependency
- Adults suffering from domestic abuse
- Carers of vulnerable adults/children



Funded by
UK Government



Types of Courses

A wide variety of courses are supported under the following strands:

- **Adult Skills: Tailored Learning (non-accredited)**

Non-accredited or non-formal learning which is designed to support adults to re-connect with learning, develop health and wellbeing, gain employment, prepare for progression to formal courses, develop local communities or learn how to support their child's learning and development.

- **Adult Skills (accredited)**

Accredited learning relates to qualification based courses that are part of a regulated framework approved by the Department for Education. Applications are invited to deliver qualifications that support people without level 2 qualifications, including English and maths GCSE at below grade 4, and adults who are unemployed and on active benefits.

Is there a timeframe in which the activity has to be completed?

All funded courses and projects must be completed by 31st July 2027.

What are the stages of the bid process?

Stage 1 [Download the bid form and guidance notes](#) for submission by **5pm, Friday, 29 May 2026.**

Stage 2 Meeting of the Community Education Fund Panel to review projects and award funds.

Stage 3 Successful bids to be announced week commencing **Monday, 8th June 2026.**

Do I get help and advice?

The Community Learning Team is available to discuss ideas or provide support throughout the bid process. Contact: aclteam@westberks.gov.uk, 01635 519060.

Ofsted (November 2022)

- Learners enjoy their training. They value the support they receive from tutors, which helps them to develop their confidence.
- Leaders and managers continue to work highly effectively with partners.
- Learners develop new knowledge, skills and behaviours, which they apply confidently in their workplaces and their home lives.
- Leaders place a strong emphasis on working with local organisations as training delivery partners, which ensures learners can access training across West Berkshire.