**Multiply Products Market Engagement Event March Q&A**

**Event A**

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| **Question/Comment** | **Answer** |
| If the scope and nature of the training will be determined later, how can we budget for it? | A valid question. We will come back with more detail later, but our assumption is that you would provide limited training such as online training. It is likely that more comprehensive training would need to be agreed as part of the delivery of the trial for which further budget would need to be agreed. This could then be bolted on to the contract, though we will check this approach with commercial colleagues. |
| What is meant by a 'scheme of work'?  Is this an outline of the curriculum or full set of lessons?  (or something else?) | It is a full set of detailed lesson plans. The idea here is that we get a product that that can be uniformly delivered across the required number of intervention sites. And in order for it to be delivered uniformly, we're talking about detailed lesson plans. |
| The quality of the training that providers receive is absolutely key for an RCT. The investment needs to be in the product development and the training; rollout to scale is not expensive | We will clarify the training budget and how this will be handled |
| Would the product supplier be responsible for recruiting participants for the intervention/training? | No. The intention is that DfE will appoint a Managed Services Supplier who will be responsible for ensuring the required numbers of learners, providers, local areas are recruited to each trial. The products that we're talking about here will need to be delivered by some kind of provider that already is up and running and delivering adult learning products – the managed services supplier will recruit these providers. |
| How will you reach the people you’ll be wanting to target without Level 2 maths who may lack the confidence to attend a course? | We will work with local areas so they know what these extra courses might be that we're trying to trial and that they're encouraging people to go on to them as part of their wider outreach work. Job Centre Plus is another key partner for us as well to flag opportunities and bring people in. However, we don’t want to provide excessive amounts of support as this would not reflect delivery in the real world. We would anticipate the Managed Services Supplier seeking advice from product developers given their knowledge of the people they deliver to. These kind of conversations would happen at the IDEA meetings. |
| I’m wondering how big the scheme of work might be, in terms of hours of contact time. Will this be defined in the tender specification? | We're very much looking to the product developer and their expertise to suggest what's optimal. |
| The development of products is the easiest bit. It’s the training and correct delivery which is difficult | There’s an opportunity for product developers to say who you think needs to deliver the intervention: qualifications, training etc. Each trial will have an implementation and process evaluation (IPE) alongside it. As part of the IPE, our evaluators would ask teachers when they have deviated from what was supposed to be delivered as part of a particular scheme of work and we'd want to create an atmosphere where they were able to reflect and report back so we can understand fidelity to the original intervention design. We will talk to the team at CFEM and the University of Nottingham about the training they provided for their Mastery trial, and may refer to this directly in the ITT. |
| Family numeracy was a big part of the lot 2 specification last time around but there is no mention of it this time around. Are the DfE still open to proposals based around family learning products? | We are currently thinking of running a quasi-experimental trial to measure the impact of what is already happening in terms of parental engagement. We are looking to appoint a maths consultant who would set out what the trial should look like.  There have been internal discussions about whether Multiply funding can be used for anyone under the age of 19, so we would need to check with HMT whether we could fund this kind of intervention. |
| Family learning is currently funded through an adult learning stream, and it is the adults who are counted as learners. It comes through the AEB. We don't collect data on the children unless it's done in conjunction with the school. So there should be no issue around you funding the adult in a family learning program in most cases, and certainly the adult learning providers that we work with are funding the adult through their adult learning budget.  We actually ran some focus groups with family learning providers to start to shape the product and it was disappointing that it wasn't there because we've already got interest and we know what the product should look like from consultation. So it would be fantastic to see it there. And if there's anything that we can do to help in terms of internal discussions, we've just set up the National Centre for Family learning. We've got nearly 800 members in it. So we've got a lot of ability to reach out to people who are learning providers for that programme. | We'll take that away and understand that you would like family numeracy to be added to this procurement |
| What are the plans to procure the Managed Service Provider for the RCTs? | Managed services supplier procurement isn't yet complete so we can't provide an update on that yet. |

**Event B**

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| **Question/Comment** | **Answer** |
| Is the Systematic Review available? | The Systematic Review is published here: [Review of the evidence on numeracy skills interventions for adults - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/review-of-the-evidence-on-the-numeracy-skills-interventions-for-adults) |
| Do you mean any theory of change or a particular one as part of the deliverable? | It would be a specific theory of change for the product you developed. We'll append a template to the ITT. |
| Has the Mastery approach been tested through RCTs? | The mastery approach has been tested through RCTs with different populations. But as far as I know there haven't been randomised controlled trials of mastery approaches in maths with adults. DfE have run a trial on maths mastery with 16-18 year olds. The results aren't yet published but we understand there are indications of promise. |
| In what context will the RCTs be delivered? | We would want to take [product developer] advice. We had envisaged that with these five products they would be delivered in adult education colleges, but it may be that they would be more appropriately delivered in other spaces so if you had a strong rationale and there was underpinning evidence of why it should be delivered in another setting then let us know.  Bite sized learning could also be delivered in the workplace, prior to starting work for example. |
| Are these all the RCTs that are going to happen now through the Multiply programme or will there be more coming through? | There are two tranches of randomised controlled trials that we would like to commission as part of Multiply. These five sit in the first tranche, which is made up of up to 20 trials. Five of those have already been procured and there are additional one that we're developing internally. And there are another subset where we'll be looking for a maths consultant to advise on the specific activities to be tested. |
| Is there any work happening around family learning? | There is a family numeracy intervention we have been thinking about, and it may be slotted back into this procurement |
| It would be interesting to look at motivation and confidence in learning. | The five interventions that we successfully procured in the last procurement round focus more so on learner motivation. We are interested in those wider societal impacts of confidence, community engagement, well-being etc. |