

**The Financial Impact of COVID-19**

Our survey ran from 17th April to 21st April and so we have a snapshot of the financial impact of COVID-19. We asked how many learners organisation could not work with because of the current crisis and how much it would cost to enable them to do so.

**Number of learners not in provision who might otherwise have been.**

15 organisations responded to our survey. From the 15 respondents they record over 800 learners that are currently not taking part in adult learning that would have been had the crisis not occurred.

**The costs of reaching those not in provision who might otherwise have been**

Out of those responding, five organisations did not require additional funding or were not in a position to identify the funding they required. For example, one respondent wrote:

Currently I have no idea [about additional funding]. We are trying to explore different ways to work with learners.

Another respondent was unable to comment as funding is controlled elsewhere in the organisation.

The other respondents identified a combination of sums, totalling approximately £30,000. They need this to reach those they are currently unable to work with because of the current crisis.

They identified that they required more staff to meet the need and that access to digital technology and internet is an issue for learners.

For example, respondents noted:

* Clients need access to data vouchers for mobile phones in order to access online services & resources. Some workers need laptops and phones. Some smartphones for clients who don't have them would also be very useful
* It is the learners who need the funding. Many do not have internet or a PC at home and keeping in touch and sending work is very difficult with no face to face element.
* Learners are unable to access online supports primarily due to not having access to a computer or laptop at home. Those who do have access to ICT equipment are often not confident about how to navigate sign-up and log-in pages without support. Increasing digital skill and confidence will form a large part of our strategy in future.

Respondents also identified that they required funding for mental health support:

* Some learners who receive literacy and numeracy support are isolated and struggling with their mental health during the lockdown. Employing the tutors who are known to them and who understands their learning needs is vital to learning from a distance.
* Many adult literacies learners can’t access online learning as they don’t have Wi-Fi or access to laptop or tablet at home, the costs may be prohibitive.
* One organisation supports adults who use mental health services. Many of their learners find it difficult to access the internet and as a result prefer contact by post. Costs would involve employing tutors to prepare materials, printing and postage.
* Many tutors don't have work laptops or phones, or work emails.