

Enterprise M3 Programme Management Group

16th January 2020

**The Care Skills Training Centre – Guildford College
part of the Activate Learning Group – Item 6b**

Programme Management Group members are asked to:

AGREE that the LEP enter into a legal agreement with Guildford College part of the Activate Learning Group to deliver the Care Skills Training Centre project and allocate £424,400 from the Local Growth Fund for this project.

1 Summary

- 1.1 The LEP has established a process whereby promoters of schemes that have been provisionally allocated Local Growth Fund (LGF) should submit completed full business cases to the Programme Management Group (PMG) for further consideration. For schemes seeking less than £3m LGF, PMG has delegated authority to approve the allocation of this funding directly to projects.
- 1.2 Guildford College which is part of the Activate Learning Group submitted an Expression of Interest for the Care Skills Training Centre scheme in August 2019 and PMG agreed that it should be progressed to the due diligence stage. The total cost of the capital element of this scheme is £524,400 with Enterprise M3 funding of up to £424,400 sought. Activate Learning will cover the ongoing revenue costs associated with operating this facility.
- 1.3 The Care Skills Training Centre will deliver a flexible training area that creates a 6-bed hospital and social care setting with observation area and will enable students to practice in a clinical environment. The space will allow for technically enhanced simulations to take place e.g. road traffic accident and will deliver health and social care qualifications not previously delivered at this college.

2 The Care Skills Training Centre

- 2.1 This project is focussed on developing skills in one of our key sectors – health and social care and one that is highlighted in our data skills study as an area of skills need. Guildford College will create a flexible teaching space by remodelling 6 existing classrooms and storage areas (see attached) that will enable students to get experience of a clinical environment which has been designed in line with the Department of Health and Social Care's building notes. This space will also provide a base for the Royal Surrey NHS Trust to train staff and it is anticipated that the new facility will encourage new learner enrolment.
- 2.2 This project will be the first of its kind for our FE sector within the region. It is endorsed by the Royal Surrey NHS Trust who would like to utilise the resource for staff training ensuring that the investment is fully utilised. This model has been used by Activate Learning in Berkshire where they currently have 40 students on work placement with the Royal Berkshire Hospital and also piloted with Frimley Park NHS Trust. With the introduction of T Levels at the college from September 2021 this relationship will be vital for the success of the roll out of the Health and Social care qualification. A key success indicator will be the development and implementation of an Employer Advisory Board to oversee the healthcare curriculum at the college. This Board will lead new ideas and ways of working that will support the students to be work ready or enable them to meet the requirements of the HE sector. The College is also working closely with Healthcare employers to co-design the curriculum and create innovative models for delivery. This will have the advantage of developing local provider partnerships that can provide

work placement opportunities and encourage the development and upskilling of existing staff within these provider organisations.

- 2.3 The project will help to develop a local centre of excellence and raise the attainment levels of the College. It is anticipated that this project will provide opportunity for 585 new learners over a 3-year period and further detail can be seen in the table below. There will be a new Degree Apprenticeship course created as well as the development of Apprenticeship levels 2 and 3 in Health and Social Care. As the Royal Surrey NHS Trust are aiming to reduce their recruitment of overseas based nurses and concentrate on local recruitment and retention this facility is an opportunity to support this aspiration.

New Provision at Guildford College – New Learners:

Note - the years expressed below reflect academic years, so 2021/22 will start in September 2021 and finish in June/July 2022.

Qualifications	2021 / 22	2022 / 23	2023 / 24
Level 2 & 3 Adult Health & Social Care (part-time / adults in employment) ¹	25	35	45
Level 3 – T Level – Health ²	10	15	15
Access to HE – Paramedics ⁴	10	15	15
Level 2 / Level 3 healthcare apprenticeship ⁵	5	10	15
Level 5 Diploma in Assistant Practitioners – Apprenticeship ³	5	10	15
OSCE Training for The Royal Surrey NHS Trust nursing staff (120 in total)	40	40	40
Training for other Royal Surrey NHS Trust staff using the facility (Non OSCE training)	25	40	50
Additional health sector-based training undertaken by Health and Social Care providers for their own staff within the new facility (learner numbers)	25	35	45
Total New Learners (currently up to 585 new learners over the full first three-year period)	145	200	240

- 2.4 Activate Learning merged with Guildford College in April 2019. The college which comprises of 3 campuses has not benefited from an improvement programme and the basic fabric of many of the facilities require significant and immediate improvement to provide a learning experience to all students and to create stable enrolment going forward. Therefore, Activate Learning can only commit to £100,000 capital investment and £320,000 revenue investment which will also fund 2-3 teaching posts over the next 3 years. Activate Learning are committed to maintaining this facility which will be a multi-hospital collaborative project and therefore the facilities will need to be maintained and upgraded as appropriate to the requirements of the curriculum.

3 The Care Skills Training Centre – Scrutiny

- 3.1 AECOM reviewed the Expression of Interest and raised comments and questions with the scheme promoter who responded to some of these, both in writing and through meetings with the project team at Activate Learning.

- 3.2 AECOM have reviewed the project budget and have highlighted that the contingency in this budget is low. Activate Learning have been approached to confirm that they deliver the project as per the Expression of Interest and pick up any cost-overruns associated with it. This will also be a condition of the legal agreement between the Enterprise M3 LEP and Activate Learning. Activate Learning have given a written assurance that they will fund any overspend and fund greater contingency if required.
- 3.3 AECOM have recommended that the EM3 is satisfied with Activate Learning's success criteria. An email has been sent to Thames Valley Berkshire LEP to enquire about Activate Learning's success as a delivery partner. In addition, a lot of discussion has been held with Activate Learning regarding the outcomes for this project in terms of learner opportunity. The external relationships with providers including the Royal Surrey NHS Trust together with the current and publicised nursing shortage should ensure that learner applications to the college increase. In addition, the introduction of T Levels in 2021 for Health and Social Care will support students to engage in this industry alongside the introduction of a degree level apprenticeship programme. Activate Learning have stated that if the funding decision is made in January 2020 then the following timetable will be put into place.

Activity	Target Date
Project start	31/01/2020
Detailed design	03/02/2020 – 17/04/202
Procurement and tender period	20/04/2020 – 15/06/2020
Construction stage	16/06/20 – 18/12/20
Completion	January 2021

- 3.4 AECOM have recommended that Activate Learning produce a more detailed breakdown of costs to include a cashflow breakdown. This will be addressed as part of the legal agreement between the EM3 and Activate Learning.
- 3.5 AECOM have recommended that the EM3 seek details of the major project personnel. Whilst Activate have answered this in part, further information has been sought in particular the name of the name of the building surveyor. Activate Learning have confirmed that they will be working with Holybrook Estates who have extensive experience of working with this type of project.
- 3.6 AECOM have recommended that the EM3 seek the final letter of support from Frimley Health NHS Trust and this has been requested

4 Funding

- 4.1 The total cost of the scheme identified in the business case is £524,400 with LGF of up to £424,400 being sought.

£m	2020-21	2021-22	Total
Funded Scheme			524,400
EM3 LEP Funding	424,400		
Activate Match Funding	100,000		
Strategic Partner contributions			
Total			524,400

5 Conclusion and Recommendations

5.1 The independent scrutiny concluded that once the recommended actions have been undertaken that this project is viable and that a grant should be approved.

Criteria	Assessment	Comments
Strategic Fit	Good	This project will equip Activate Learning through Guildford College to deliver access to health and social care skills and increase upskilling and workforce development within this sector. This fits with the Enterprise SEP and the emerging skills action plan required by the Department of Education.
Low Carbon	Good	Activate Learning are implementing a low energy strategy to address carbon reduction. They aim to reduce poor systems, buildings and practice.
Digital	Very good	The facility will be equipped with a range of specialist digital equipment to facilitate the curriculum delivery and address employer skills requirements, including the use of enhanced simulations to enable greater learning opportunity.
Impact of the Scheme	Very Good	The project will deliver courses previously not taught at this college. With the expert support of partners such as the Royal Surrey NHS Trust it will enable students to gain a greater understanding of the health sector and gain entrance and higher-level qualifications to continue a journey within the health sector.
Percentage of Match Funding	Low	Activate Learning took responsibility for the Guildford College campus comprising of 3 sites in April 2019. The College has not benefited from an investment programme in the past and requires extensive investment to enable it to continue into the future. The revenue costs for this project are estimated at £320,000 and these will be the responsibility of Activate Learning.
Past Performance of Scheme Promoter	Unable to grade	Activate Learning are a new provider to the EM3 region, and this will be the first project that they take forward. They do, however, have projects in progress in Thames Valley Berkshire and Oxford.

5.2 The Programme Management Group is asked to **AGREE** that the LEP entering into a legal agreement with Basingstoke College of Technology and award the College £424,400 from the Local Growth Fund for this project.

Jeannie Satchell, Head of Skills
7th January 2020