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| <b>AEB SUBCONTRACTING RATIONALE</b>                                |
| Approved by: Corporation Board                                     |
| Date approved: 12 July 2023  |
| Strategy/Policy Responsibility: Vice Principal Finance & Resources |
| Date reviewed: May 2023  |
| Next review due: July 2024   |

## **Croydon College Rationale for AEB Subcontracting – 2023/24**

This statement outlines the College's educational rationale for subcontracting and presents it in the context of the College's overall AEB curriculum intent.

The College intends to build its in-house delivery capacity to provide education and training in outer London area, with the purpose of enhancing our adult students' curriculum offer, and providing progression routes into other College Further Education, Apprenticeship and technical and Higher Education.

The Croydon area, thanks to its well-developed infrastructure (rail, tram and road links), enables many Surrey residents to easily commute to Croydon to access the breadth of employment opportunities that Greater London offers, providing the College with the opportunity to educate and upskill professionals from outside the London area.

The curriculum will have two key objectives:

- i. To reduce barriers for adults to participate in work through the delivery of short courses that are linked to employment or apprenticeship training
- ii. To increase opportunities for adults to gain higher skills through flexible on-line professional courses that improve employability prospects at higher positions

The College is therefore working hard at developing its capacity to deliver distance learning and professional courses and its online teaching ability for the purpose of educating and training adults outside the London area.

To enable us to develop our in-house capacity, we intend to continue to engage high quality external providers under subcontracting arrangements to deliver some of our ESFA funding, with a view of incorporating business-to-business knowledge transfer in current subcontracting arrangements. The College will do so by working with fellow Distance Learning delivery partners to strengthen the in-house College Distance Learning team through sharing best practice and on-line resources, with a view to the College gradually transitioning its Distance Learning offer from subcontracted provision to provision directly delivered by the College.

We have now implemented our intention to reduce the subcontracting of ESFA funding over a three-year period, in line with the March 2021 ESFA consultation and in line with the 2022/23 ESFA AEB Funding rules and Subcontracting funding rules for ESFA funded post-16 funding (excluding apprenticeships), and phase it out to no more than 25% of the AEB funding stream (headcount) by the start of the academic year 2022/23. Our intention for 2023/24 is to continue to develop our in-house provision and reduce subcontracting further, and in any event to maintain our levels of subcontracting below the 25% threshold.

The rationale for subcontracting arrangements, as outlined above, is therefore summarised as:

- a) to enhance the opportunities available to adult learners from outside London within 50 miles of the College, supporting better geographical access to Adult Education and Skills.
- b) provide better access to training facilities to adult learners by expanding the distance learning offer

- c) to provide non-Londoners with access to courses which will support them to progress into Apprenticeships, Further Education and Technical and Higher Education within Croydon College.

The statement above should be read in conjunction with our management fee structure and a list of our subcontracting partners, published as separate documents on our web page, in the Financial subsection of the Policies and Procedures section on the following link:

<https://croydon.ac.uk/the-college/policies-and-procedures/>

1. The management fee structure is outlined in our Supply Chain Fees and Charges policy, reviewed and published annually.
2. The list of our subcontracting partners is available in our “funding paid and retained” documents published annually on our website for the preceding funding year after the closure of R14.