

# MAYOR OF LONDON

**Zack Polanski AM**

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Dear Zack,

Thank you for your enquiry regarding Local Essential Skills provision. I am sorry for the delay in responding.

I am committed to ensuring that Londoners can gain the skills they need to progress into better jobs, boost earnings and improve confidence and mental wellbeing. Since I was given control over adult skills in London in 2019, more than a million Londoners have received free skills education or training thanks to City Hall funding.

In February 2025, the Department for Education communicated that there would be reductions to the Greater London Authority (GLA) Adult Skills Fund (ASF) and Free Courses for Jobs budget from the academic year 2025/26 onwards of 3.3 per cent. Recognising the difficult situation as a result of the lower allocation next year, I have stepped in and provided an additional amount of £7.9m to ensure colleges and training providers can keep delivering courses to Londoners. This will help absorb some of the reduction for the academic year 2025/26.

You are right to point out the importance of English, Maths and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses for Londoners. That is why I continue to fund delivery of English, Maths and ESOL to the extent of £118.2m, and since August 2021, I have funded more than 295,000 Londoners to take these courses through the ASF.

I am committed to widening participation and access to skills for more Londoners, and that is why through my Community Outreach programme, I am funding community organisations to raise awareness of adult education and employment support opportunities.

My Deputy Mayor for Business and Growth and I will continue to work with Morley College and all our further education providers to protect learning opportunities for Londoners and ensure adult education and training continue to support inclusive economic growth.

Yours sincerely,



**Sir Sadiq Khan**

Mayor of London