

# FUTURE-PROOFING ADULT LEARNING IN CITIES



## GREATER LONDON, United Kingdom

### Skills for Londoners Strategy

#### Key facts

London is among the leading OECD cities in recognising skills as a fundamental driver of economic growth and resilience. The Greater London Authority (GLA), the governing body of Greater London, has made adult learning a priority with the development of the Skills for Londoners Strategy. In addition, the GLA and London Councils have worked for several years on a skills devolution to London.

#### Timeframe and funding

The strategy for skills devolution to London has been ongoing since the first English devolution deal in 2014. The Skills for Londoners Strategy was launched in 2018.

#### City population

8,908,000

#### Governing body

Greater London Authority (GLA)

#### Link

[Date \(london.gov.uk\)](https://www.london.gov.uk)

[OECD iLibrary | Future-Proofing Adult Learning in London, United Kingdom \(oecd-ilibrary.org\)](https://oecd-ilibrary.org)

#### Main objectives

The Skills for Londoners strategy sets out the Mayor's vision to create a post-16 technical and vocational education and skills system that meets the needs of Londoners and local businesses, based on the devolution of the Adult Education Budget to London.

## Content and mode of delivery



Following the first English devolution deal in 2014, the GLA and London Councils proposed skills devolution to London. Their proposal consisted of a series of high-level outcomes sought for the London skills system by 2020 and suggestions on devolving skills funding, including the Adult Education Budget, London's share of advanced learner loans and a guaranteed 'proportionate return' to London from the apprenticeship levy. It also foresaw the creation of a Skills Commissioner for London. In 2016, the UK government announced that it would delegate the Adult Education Budget to London from 2019-20, subject to readiness conditions. To date, there has been no further skills devolution to London.

However, London has continued to develop and articulate its vision for adult learning and skills, and to use available resources to put this into place, including the Skills for Londoners Strategy. However, in 2019 Call for Action, argued that the combination of London's record of devolution to date, the Mayor's mandate and labour market intelligence, and the boroughs' reach into local communities meant that the London government is better placed than the UK government to tailor solutions to local communities. The plan also provides an overview of all the elements that an integrated local skills and employment system for London should contain

In 2018, London published a dedicated post-16 skills and adult education strategy – Skills for Londoners: A skills and adult education strategy for London. The strategy sets out a vision for “A city for all Londoners - making sure Londoners, employers and businesses get the skills they need to succeed in a fair, inclusive society and thriving economy”. Within the London skills strategy, the Mayor set out an ambition to seek significant devolution of skills funding for the capital – including careers information, advice and guidance, apprenticeships funding, and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund – in order to create “a single, integrated skills and adult education offer for London to deliver a more strategic, whole-system approach to post-16 skills.”

The Strategy identifies three priorities for action:

- Firstly, to enable all Londoners to access the education and skills needed to participate in society and progress in education and work – through the creation of an all-age careers offer, targeted employment and skills provision for the most disadvantaged groups, and devolution of the AEB.
- Secondly, to meet the needs of London's economy and employers, now and in the future – through the Mayor's Good Work Standard and Growth Hub, alongside a focus on developing apprenticeships and London's wider technical and vocational provision. A London Occupational Skills Board was also created to advice on aligning skills provision with skills needs in London.
- Thirdly, to deliver a strategic city-wide technical skills and adult education offer – through the creation of a new Skills and Employment Knowledge Hub, to work with sub-regional partnerships and others to create a more collaborative and strategic skills system..

## Stakeholders



To support the implementation of the strategy, the London City Hall, London's boroughs and central government work together with London's businesses, skills and education providers to address the skills gap in the city.

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