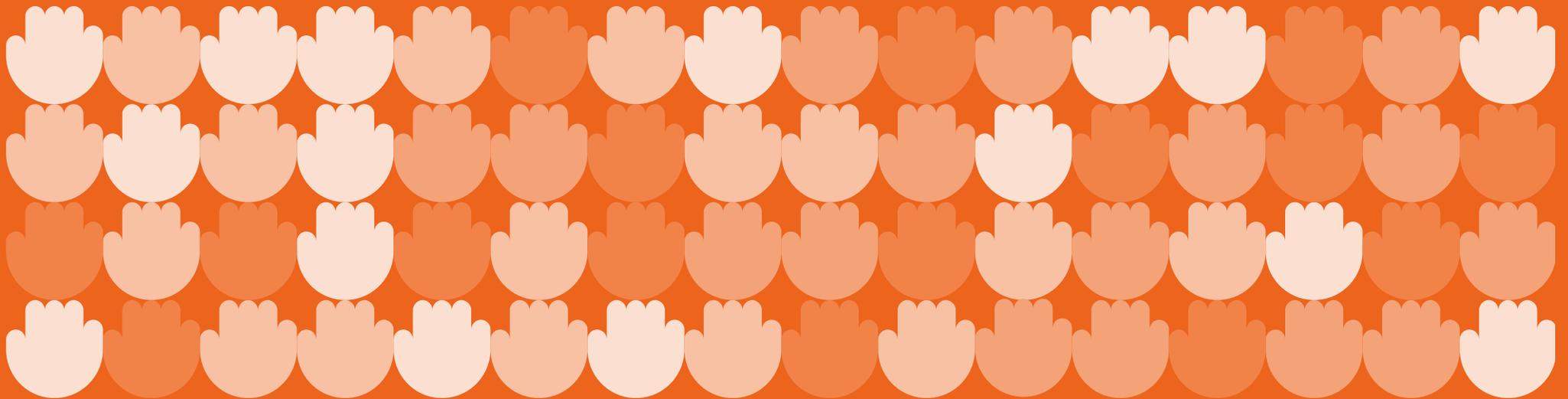


GM Devolved Adult Education Budget (AEB) Year 1 Update and Next Steps

Scrutiny Meeting 12th March 2021



AEB Year 1 Update and Next Steps

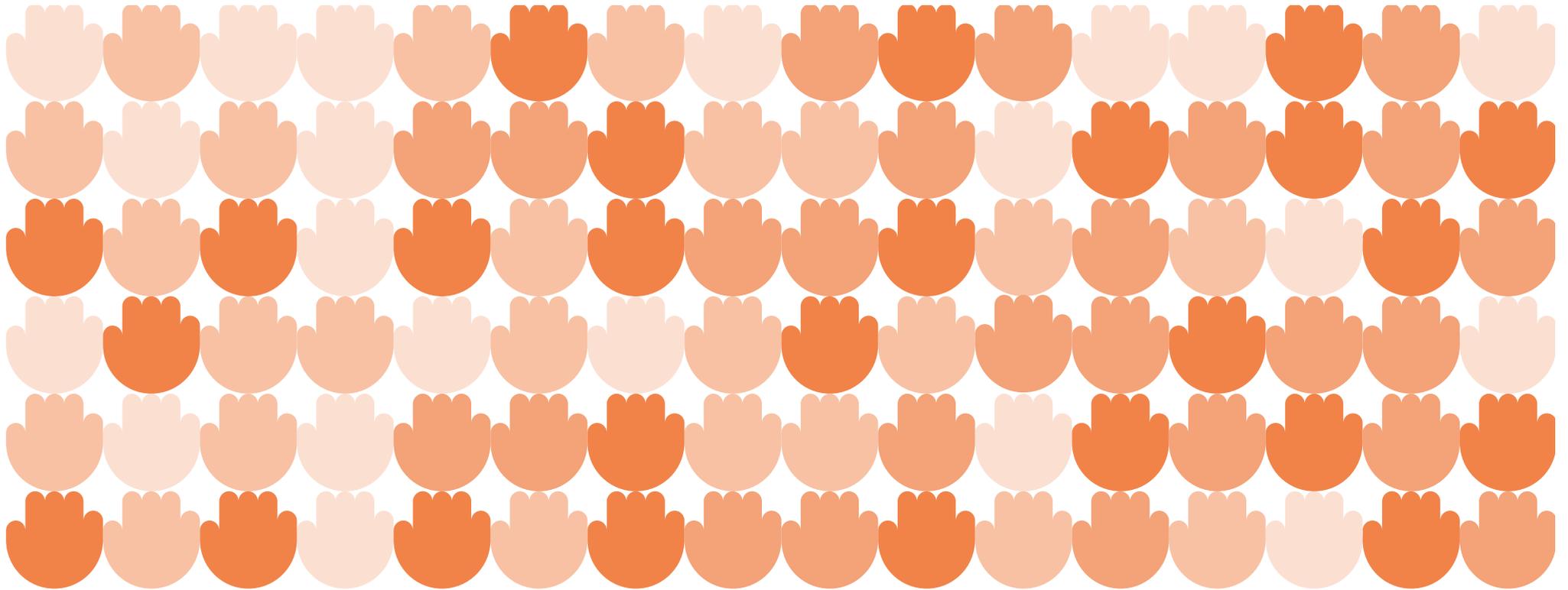
First Year of
Devolution

Progress in
Year 2

Level 3
Offer

Future
Plans

The First Year of AEB Devolution



Devolution of the Adult Education Budget

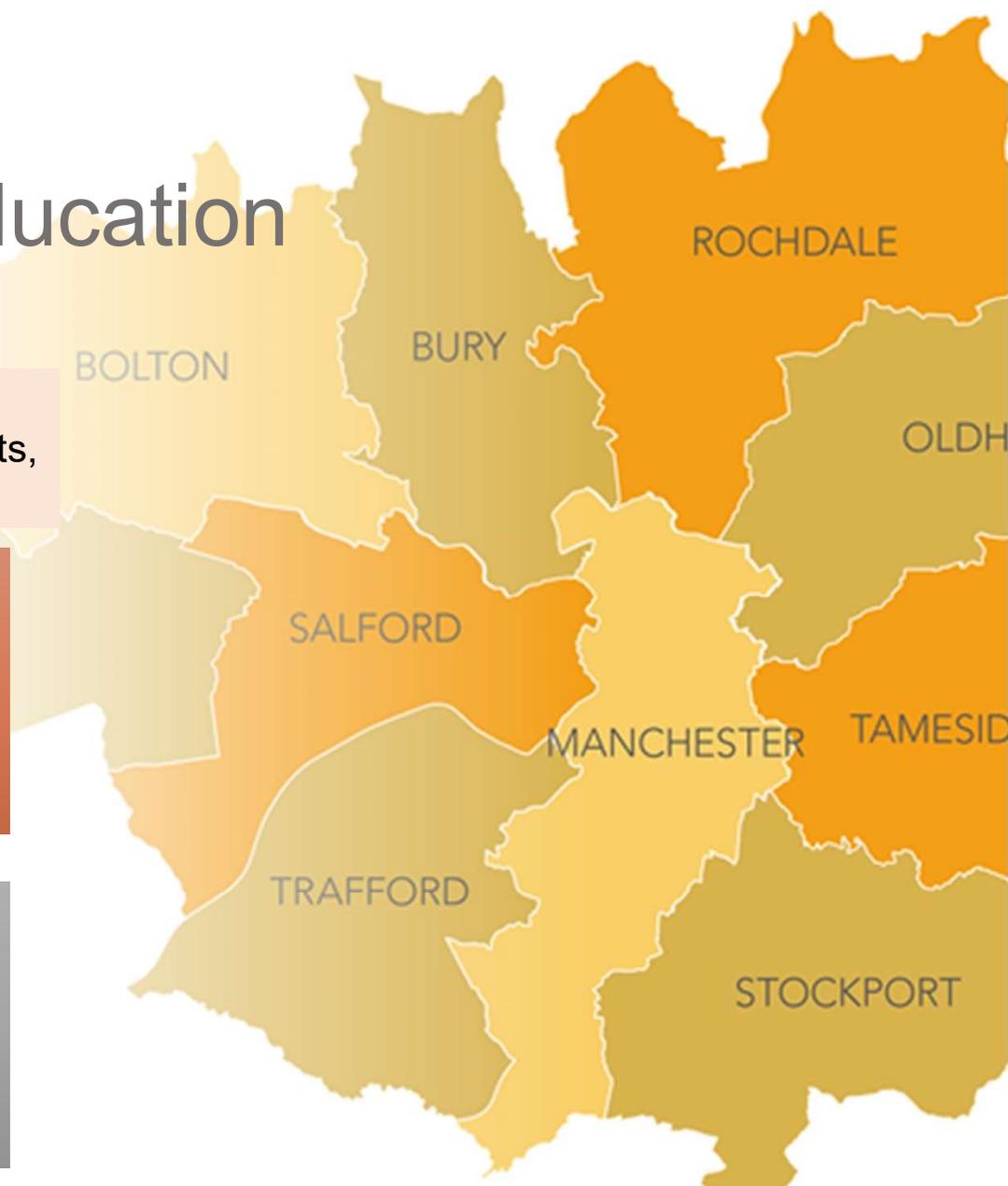
It is as a long-term journey of change for GM that will deliver positive outcomes for more of the region's residents, with AEB being the driver aimed to support:

Much **closer work with the provider base** driving improved analysis of learner journeys, with a **focus on positive outcomes and progression**, and understanding how or if the activity **improves an individual's employability and quality of life**.

Create a more **place-based approach** to the delivery of adult skills, recognising that for all of the ten local authorities, the supply and demand for skills is different, and that a 'blanket approach' to providing education and skills provision will not achieve the ambitions for increased productivity and better outcomes for residents.

Working across local and internal stakeholders to **better respond to employer skills/talent needs**, specifically in the growth and foundation economy sectors outlined in the GM Local Industrial Strategy.

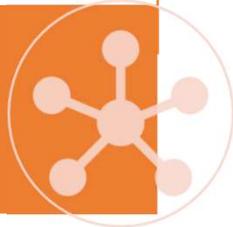
Gain a **better understanding of residents' barriers** to accessing adult education and skills provision and working collaboratively local **stakeholders and skills providers to respond directly** to local challenges and remove these barriers to learning.



Stronger Partnership Work Leading to Better Outcomes

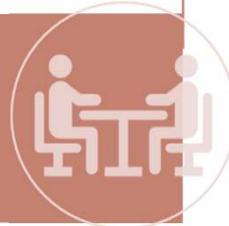
- **Local strategic partnership networks were set up in each local authority** to encourage closer working between LAs, providers and other stakeholders to respond directly to local need
- **3 Strategy and Partnership Managers recruited** to support the strategic ambitions of the 10 local authorities
- **Closer working between the AEB Team and Local Authorities** has led to changes in the AEB Funding Rules

Local
Authorities



- **Compliance visits were held with 35 out of 36 Prime Providers** prior to the COVID-19 lockdown
- **Prime Providers had a direct officer** allocated to look after their contract
- **Ofsted Inspections** held with 3 AEB-funded Providers pre COVID-19 which were all rated **Good or Outstanding**

AEB
Providers



- Wider stakeholders **attended AEB Partnership Meetings** to **share ideas and knowledge** of local skills challenges including: CVS, Probation Service, JETS, SES, Housing Associations, NCS, Connexions, and NHS
- **Partnership meetings set up with Job Centre Plus** to improve knowledge and better working and creation of Youth Hubs
- **Joint working with the Working Well Programme** to ensure a more holistic pathway for learners and Providers, including inclusion on the **WW Social Prescribing Platform**
- Cross-working with **Centre for Ageing Better and Humanly** to improve outcomes for Over-50s

Wider
Stakeholders



Impact of Covid19 on delivering AEB



Moving delivery online wherever possible.

Implementing an Addendum to the Funding & Performance Management Rules expanding eligibility for residents.

Developing a suite of programmes which responded to the skills challenges as a result of Covid-19. These programmes were:

Supporting Safe Returns to Work

Rise of the Keyworker

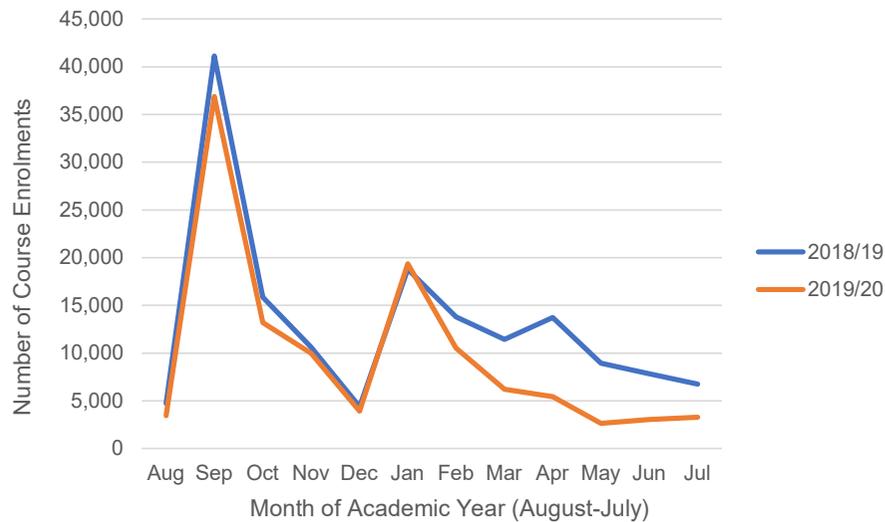
Short Retraining Programme

Providing financial support for all AEB skills providers

A Year in Numbers

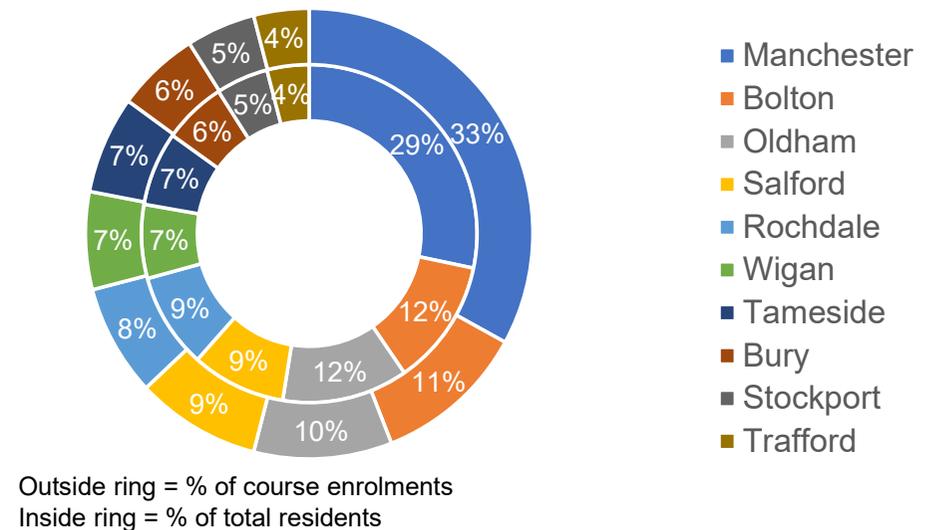
Over **51,000** learners accessed over **114,000** AEB-funded courses with 93,000 being completed during the first year of being devolved

Chart 1: GM AEB Starts by Start Month, 2018/19 & 2019/20

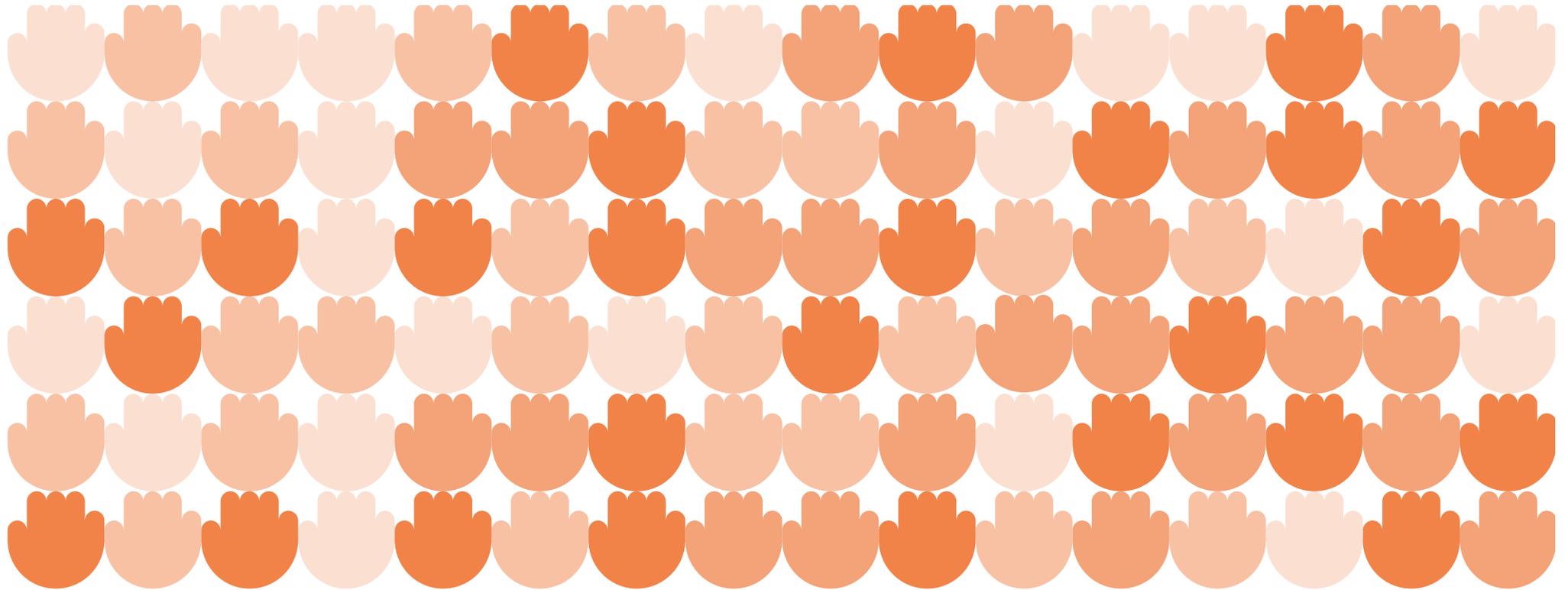


36 Prime Providers and their supply chain partners delivered skills and employment training across the 10 Local Authority Areas

Chart 2: GM AEB Residents & Course Enrolments by Local Authority Area 2019/20

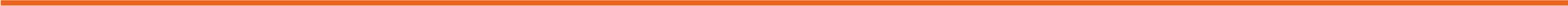
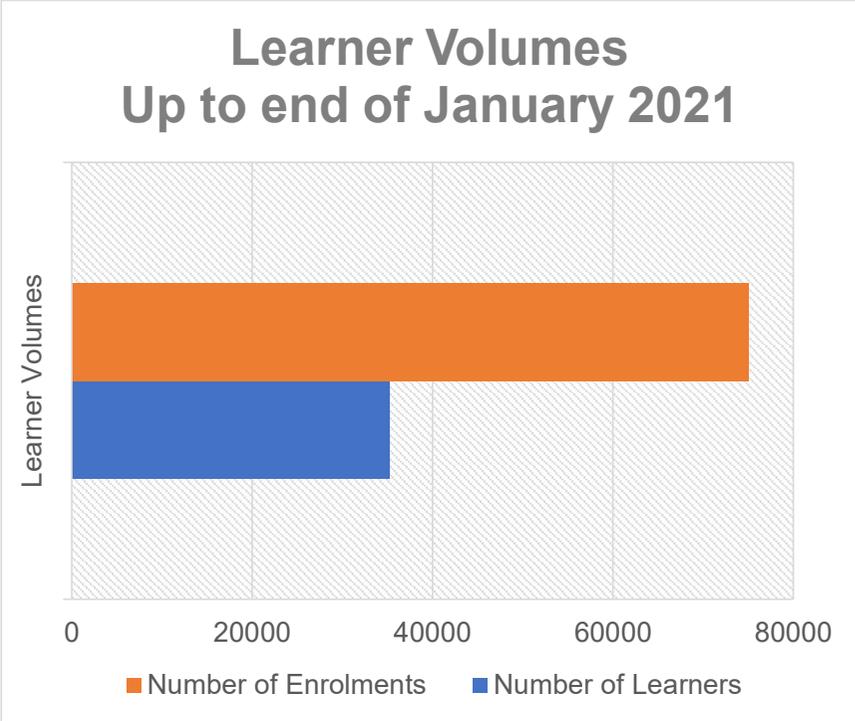


Year 2 – Progress so far: Still delivering in a Covid world: AEB has supported place, accessibility & provision



Learner Volumes

Learner Volumes
From the start of the 2020/2021 Academic Year and up to the end of **January 2021** there have been **35,247 learners** enrolled on to **75,048 Adult Education Budget-funded courses** across Greater Manchester



Local Authority Grants Programme

- £1.5m was Invested in local authorities to support residents overcoming barriers to accessing Adult Learning
- An additional £500,000 from the Local Growth Fund (LGF) supported 10x Digital Kit & Connectivity Projects across the Local Authorities.
- Funding was ring-fenced for the following programmes: **Alleviating Barriers to Adult Education, Supporting Digital Inclusion, and ESOL**



3000

Residents in **Rochdale** will have access to connectivity via 2x MESH networks



26

New jobs created



1

Whole new Team!
*NEST Team in **Bolton***



1900+

Pieces of Digital Kit & Connectivity for residents

AEB Capital Grants Programme to support access due to impact of Covid: safe learning environments

- £2m of capital funding from the Local Growth Fund (LGF) was made available to the AEB Provider Base to support with delivery of online learning and making buildings Covid-19 secure at the start of the 2020-2021 Academic Year
- 81 AEB Providers submitted applications and benefited from programme funding

LTE Group

Built bicycle lock ups on their main campus to encourage staff and learners to cycle to College rather than use public transport, in order to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission

Oldham Lifelong Learning Service

Created a digital resource loan scheme so learners could continue their studies during lockdown, 350 students have benefited from the scheme so far

Think Employment

Bought digital equipment to film and put their courses online, including a Level 2 Teaching Assistant course which is a key worker profession



Additional Flexibilities to continually support residents and local need

Maintain flexibilities implemented in the first academic year

Use AEB to support key workers/foundational economy / essential services and volunteers, with training pathways in to these sectors.

Build on the GM model for unified public services flexing to tailor support to priority and marginalised groups e.g. offenders in the community, vulnerable and marginalised women and workers in GM's night-time economy

Create clear lines of sight and training pathways

Payment Proposals for 2020/2021

Planned Approach

GMCA continues to monitor the impact of the Pandemic on the delivery of adult education provision, with regular reviews with individual providers

Roadmap to ease lockdown restrictions

Adult learners will be able to return on site (staggered) from 8th March

- From **1st April 2021** GMCA will return to **aligning delivery to the Individualised Learner Record (ILR)** data system and the wider claims process Further flexibilities to the funding rules.
- Support to ensure both residents continue to be engaged and offered adult education.
- Providers are recognised for the different support they may have put in place and continue to need during key points throughout the Pandemic.
- Providers will be able to submit a business case to show actual cost and activity, up to the maximum of their funding allocation

Payments Proposal

- Grant funded providers (LAs/FE & Sixth Form Colleges) will not have their funds recovered in or after the year end.
- Grant funded providers will need to utilise any underspend in 2021/2022 to respond to the ongoing impacts and inequalities caused by Covid-19.
- Procured providers are paid for actual delivery and where full allocations have not been spent, these will need to be utilised in 2021/2022 to respond to the ongoing impacts and inequalities caused by Covid-19.
- GMCA will in addition to the above arrangements support those providers who over deliver in 2020/2021, by up to 3% over their agreed allocation, to be confirmed prior to the year end.



Innovative and Responsive: Level 3 Offer

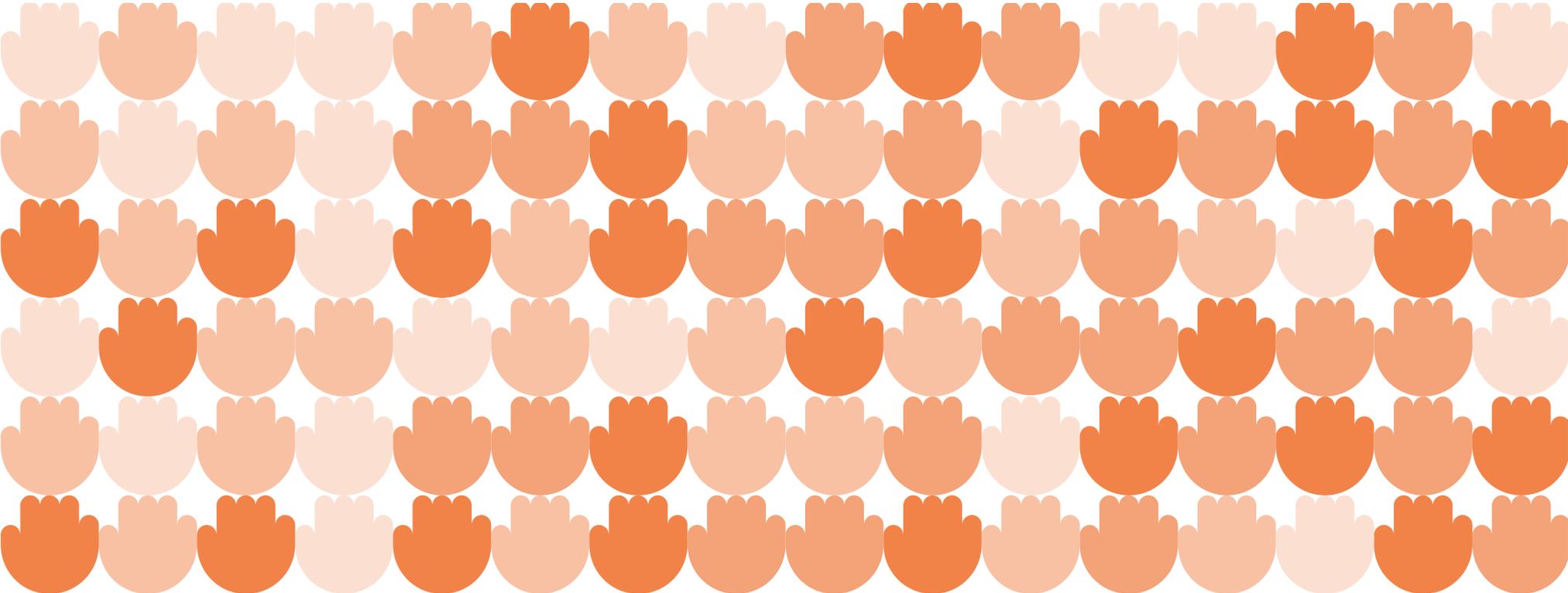
Greater Manchester Level 3 Qualification list

- The AEB team are **aligning adult skills provision at Level 3** with the GM's Local Industrial Strategy growth and foundation sectors
- With a **Greater Manchester Level 3 Qualification list** developed in conjunction with local skills providers and using evidence from the Skills Intelligence Team.
- Access to these **fully funded Level 3 qualifications**, will be available to a wider group of eligible GM residents.
- A initial minimum of **£1.7m of AEB funds** will be made available to fully fund these qualifications and support more residents in progressing their skills
- The list will be continually reviewed, as we understand more about the **skills demand** within each of the LIS sectors and take in to account **national policy changes**.

National Skills Fund Adult Level 3 Offer

- Government introduced its **Lifetime Skills Offer in December 2020** and as part of this approach GM has been allocated a further devolved **& ring-fenced £8.3million** (April 2021 to July 2022), to deliver and manage the **National Level 3 Adult offer** in GM
 - From April 2021, any adult aged 24 and over who wants to achieve their first full level 3 qualification, which is equivalent to an advanced technical certificate or diploma, or 2 full A levels, will be able to access a restricted list of fully funded courses.
 - 19- to 23-year-olds will continue to be eligible for their first full level 3 via the devolved AEB, and any additional qualifications made available through this offer.
 - This is a **shift away from making residents use the loan fund** for learning so should stimulate more demand for access to L3 qualifications which are crucial as set out in the LIS.
-

Future Plans



Future Plans: Long term journey of devolution...

Provider allocations for 2021/2022

- Propose to continue to support the AEB providers, with allocations remaining the same (in the majority)
- GMCA are working with a small number of providers as to whether a reduction or increase in their allocation would be applicable



Build on Test and Learn

AEB will continue to work alongside and with other local developments for example:

- ✓ Targeting support to build a place based approach for work and skills
- ✓ Supporting activity targeted to over 50s
- ✓ Working with GMCA's Justice Team to develop skills provision for offenders outside of prison.
- ✓ Supporting the foundational economy



Flexibilities

As we follow the Governments Roadmap out of lockdown, GM will continue to feel the impact of Covid19 and GMCA will continue to provide access to the flexibilities put in place since May 2020



- Aligning with FE Reform White paper; Plan for Jobs; Community Renewal Fund and other national and local programmes: Also critical to understand the impact on inequalities to help shape provision where applicable.