

Sub-contracting Fees & Charges Policy

2021/2022

Review Cycle:	Annually
Next Review Date:	August 2022
Person Responsible:	Executive Director of Finance and Resources
Approving Body:	Board of Governors

1 Introduction

1.1 This policy applies to all supply chain activity supported with funds provided by the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). It sets out a robust framework for the selection and payment of sub-contractors and delivery partners to support the College in achieving its wider strategic goals, specifically:

- to be known as a leading provider of high-quality teaching and learning; and
- to be a major contributor to meeting the skills needs identified by local employers.

1.2 The ESFA defines a sub-contractor as an organisation that is engaged in a contractual and legally binding arrangement with a lead provider to deliver provision ultimately funded by the ESFA.

1.3 Wakefield College seeks to work with sub-contractors who:

- can demonstrate consistent delivery of the highest quality teaching and learning;
- can facilitate a high level of progression into employment or higher learning for our students. (We are particularly keen to work with sub-contractors that can deliver student progression onto apprenticeship, further or higher education courses at Wakefield College);
- are financially secure and can enter a sustainable relationship with Wakefield College;
- have robust quality assurance processes that complement those in place at Wakefield College;
- facilitate the engagement of employers within the Wakefield District and the wider Yorkshire & Humberside region; and
- are of strategic value to the College and the Wakefield District.

1.4 This policy will be published on the Wakefield College website and must be provided to any potential subcontractor and delivery partner prior to the issue of any Provider Delivery Contract.

2 Contracting Arrangements

2.1 All sub-contractors and delivery partners engaged by Wakefield College will be issued with a Provider Delivery Contract.

2.2 The Provider Delivery Contract will set out the maximum amount of funding that is available to the subcontractor. Wakefield College will agree a fee structure with each subcontractor that recognises the

full extent of the subcontracted provision, the risks presented by this, and the costs of contract management and risk mitigation.

Wakefield College will agree with the subcontractor the total contract value and monthly profile amount that they are expected to achieve. Wakefield College will manage the subcontractor period allocation within the context of the whole Wakefield College prime contract and if necessary, vary the profile to meet the requirements of the ESFA funding rules and the published ESFA performance management rules that currently apply. Where a subcontractor does not achieve the contracted profile, Wakefield College may adjust the remaining profiles within the subcontractor whole contract.

The standard college management fee is 20% of all funding drawn down in respect of the provision delivered by the subcontractor. This figure represents a reasonable contribution towards the cost that the College incurs in effectively identifying, selecting and managing sub-contracted provision that is determined to be low risk. This fee rate is designed to cover the appropriate amount of quality assurance activity that Wakefield College would attach to the lowest possible risk sub-contracted partner.

Further charges to cover additional costs may be added to the base 20% fee to cover the cost to Wakefield College of any additional support that the College deems necessary to ensure the quality of teaching and learning and the success rates of any sub-contracted provision.

Additional costs will be re-negotiated each year at contract renewal, giving sub-contractors the opportunity to reduce their fees through continuous improvement. This approach will allow Wakefield College to focus support where and when it is needed.

Where Wakefield College is required to support a subcontractor beyond normal administration processes or deliver a part of a qualification or Apprenticeship framework an agreed fee will be charged.

The subcontractor will submit an invoice to Wakefield College upon request for all learners on programme within the invoiced month. All subcontractors will be paid within 30 days of receipt of a valid invoice, properly authorised in line with Wakefield College Financial Regulations.

Funding Element Retained for Sub-Contractor Management			
Volume	Low Risk	Medium Risk	High Risk
Under £50,000	25%	25%	30%
£50,000 -£100,000	25%	25%	30%
Over £100,000	20%	25%	30%

The following activities are included in the standard contract management and covered by the retained funding element:

Activity	Number/Frequency included in standard retained funding element
Pre-Contract Processes	
Due diligence desk top checks	1 at set-up

Due diligence visit	1 per site, up to 3 sites
Annual due diligence	1 per year
Issuing standard sub-contract agreement	1 per year

Registry & MIS Processes	
Issuing Wakefield College document templates and forms to be used by the subcontractor	As and when amended
Agreeing use of sub-contractor templates and forms (if at least as good as the Wakefield College documents)	1 per year
Entering learner data and amendments onto ILR	Min 12 per year
Entering attendance data and reconciling with ILR	Min 12 per year
Calculating fees due and processing payments received	Min 12 per year
Data-match checks with other main contractors with whom the subcontractor works	Various

Quality Assurance Processes	
Quality assurance visits and lesson/assessor observations	Min 3 per year
SAR meetings 2 per year	2 per year
Annual survey of learners	1 per year
Annual survey of employers (if applicable)	1 per year
Annual audit of MIS data including enrolment forms and attendance records	1 per year
Review of learner documents including tracking records, reviews and ILPs	Min 3 per year
Annual review of the sub-contractor provision within the college self-assessment process and Quality Improvement Plan	1 per year
Incorporate the sub-contractor provision within the College system for all Apprenticeship programs of delivery and where applicable for AEB and Traineeships	Extract and sample data input 4 per year
Sub-contractor staff to attend college CPD activity	As agreed

The sub-contractor will incur the following charges if additional activity is required to address poor performance or reduce risk:

Activity	Cost to sub-contractor
Pre-Contract Processes	
Additional due diligence investigation, e.g. to investigate financial records or take additional references	£100 per hour
Produce action plan as a result of unsatisfactory due diligence checks or visits	£200 per hour
Additional due diligence visit to monitor improvements	£200 per hour
Additional due diligence visit to additional delivery locations	£200 per hour plus transport costs

MIS Processes	
Returning enrolment forms or other documents due to incorrect completion (10% threshold)	Normally no charge but continued non-compliance will incur non-compliance letter charge
Non-compliance letter for Sub-contracting requiring improvement	£200

Quality Assurance Processes	
Self-assessment report support (if not produced to satisfactory standard by sub-contractor)	£200 per hour
Quality Improvement Plan support (if not produced to a satisfactory standard by sub-contractor)	£200 per hour
Quality assurance – site visits	£100 per hour plus transport costs
Quality assurance – remote (desk top review)	£100 per hour
Contract Management review meetings	£100 per hour
Additional survey of learners	£500 + external survey costs
Additional survey of employers (if applicable)	£500 + external survey costs
Providing consultancy support (Head level)	£200 per hour



The following rates will apply to additional services which the college may provide for the subcontractor:

Service	Cost
Registration of learners on college centre with awarding bodies	Cost + 15%
Certification of learners from awarding body	Cost + 15%
Certification of apprentices with ACE	Cost + 15%
Internal verification	To be agreed depending on provision
Providing consultancy support (Head level)	£200 per hour