

Adult Learning Fees Briefing February 2019

Explanation of what repeat course fees are

Repeat learner fees were fees paid by learners who had already completed a particular course and then wanted to undertake the same course again within the same academic year. The repeat learner fees were £5.50 per hour (higher than the standard fees which were £3.90 per hour and the concessionary fees which were £1.55 per hour in the same academic years). All three of these fees rates had been approved by the council.

Why we stopped them 4 years ago

The Repeat Learner fees were discontinued some years ago because the council listened to the learners who were paying these fees and expressed their strong dissatisfaction (about these fees) to the council. This included submissions and representations from the learners to the council assembly and the scrutiny committee meetings. This was having a negative impact on the council's reputation.

What do we do now

Since the discontinuation of the repeat learner fees, we have the standard fees and the concessionary fees. There are no repeat learner fees.

After the discontinuation of the repeat fees, the Adult Learning introduced courses at different levels. For example, Beginners Courses, Introductory Courses and Improvers' Courses.

The 2018-2019 approved course fees also include Studio fees. These are for learners who have completed a course and want to further practice the skills they have acquired through the completed course.

What was the impact on learners under the old system of repeat fees and what is the impact of our current system

The learners who were paying the repeat learner fees told the council they were strongly dissatisfied with this fee rate. So, there was a self-reported negative impact on these learners.

The impact of the current system on the council's reputation is positive as the overall impact on the learners' satisfaction has improved. There is a better mix of learners who are undertaking the course for the first time and those who may be undertaking the course more than once.