



Multiply Programme

Impact report for Year 1 & 2

About National Numeracy

National Numeracy is a charity dedicated to helping people feel confident with numbers and using everyday maths.

Our mission is to empower children and adults in the UK to get on with numbers so they can fulfil their potential at work, home and school.

Our work improves how people understand and work with numbers in everyday life, sparking better opportunities and brighter futures.



Numeracy in the UK

Being able to use and understand numbers touches on all parts of everyday life: from getting on at work, budgeting and personal finances to supporting children with their maths.

49% of UK working-age adults are working at or below primary school levels of numeracy skills and this holds individuals back.

Poor numeracy also affects the economy, where it has been estimated to cost the UK £480 million per week.

National Numeracy has found that confidence with numbers is crucial for unlocking skills improvement, as number confidence is the single biggest predictor of number skills. Those with lower number confidence, for many brought on by negative experiences at school, report it having a greater negative impact on their career, wages, job choices and progression.



20%
of adults avoid applying for jobs that involve numbers or ask for a maths qualification in the job description.

49%
of UK working-age adults are working at or below primary school levels of numeracy skills.

What is Multiply?

Multiply is a three-year £559 million government programme launched in spring 2022, aimed at helping adults across the UK who do not have a GCSE grade C/4 maths qualification to improve their numeracy confidence and skills.

Free maths courses leading to a qualification have been available to adults for many years, but what sets Multiply apart is the offer of provision aimed at helping adults to increase their confidence before they go on to a qualification. For many adults, low confidence with maths or the belief that they cannot improve holds them back from getting started, and this is why it is so vital to address these attitudinal barriers first so they can take that next step.

By tackling attitudinal barriers and creating a pathway for adults to improve their numeracy skills through more informal courses, before going on to a formal qualification, Multiply has helped to fill some of the gaps in the Adult Education landscape.



Funded by
UK Government

How has National Numeracy supported local authorities?

Over the last two years of Multiply, National Numeracy has worked directly with 24 local authorities to deliver a package of local support. We have built a network of support for adults in each area by:

- Training **Numeracy Champions**: CPD-accredited mentors trained in a range of organisations across each local authority to support adults with their number confidence, and signpost them to further resources and qualifications.
- Delivering **Confidence with Numbers** workshops directly to adults who are looking to improve their number confidence. These one-hour sessions tackle some of the causes of low number confidence, so that individuals can take their first steps to improvement.
- Supporting adults to improve their number confidence and skills using the **National Numeracy Challenge**, our unique adaptive digital learning platform. To date this has supported well over half a million adults.
- This provision is supported by **comms** materials and guidance, our major national **campaigns**, and **online forums for Multiply leads**.

OUR IMPACT

819

Numeracy Champions trained

97%

of Numeracy Champions agreed they felt more confident to support others

230

organisations worked with to support adult numeracy

266

adults supported through number confidence sessions

3,445

adults who are the target audience of Multiply supported through the National Numeracy Challenge

Our Impact: Jess's Story

As a Care Co-ordinator Administrator for a GP surgery in Bradford-on-Avon, Jess was on the lookout for ways to support her team. She also wanted to build her own skills and knowledge.

Jess joined our Numeracy Champion training, funded through Wiltshire Council. From the training, she recognised that we all use maths throughout the day, even when we do not realise it.

"I was talking to my colleague this morning, and we were saying that maths is throughout your day, literally – you use it to set your alarm to get up in the morning. It's everywhere."

Since completing the training, Jess has added a Numeracy Champion badge to her email signature so her colleagues know they can talk to her for support. She also plans to add resources to their health and wellbeing display and bring them to the "Chatty Café" which they hold once a week.

Jess also felt the training improved her own confidence:

"For me it made me feel a lot more confident in myself, knowing that I can't be that bad at maths because I use it to look at figures for work."



"It's about letting people know that this is a safe space to talk about their worries with maths, and that it's nothing to be ashamed of."

[National Numeracy 2024, Nurturing number confidence in a GP surgery: Jess's Story](#)

Our Impact: Angela's Story

Angela had always wanted to go to university, but never had the opportunity. Once she reached her fifties, she found she had the chance, but there was one problem: she didn't have the maths qualification. She'd avoided the subject as much as possible due to fear.

"If you asked me how I used to feel about maths, I'd just say 'No. No, I don't do it.' It was as simple as that."

Through Somerset Skills & Learning she found a tutor, Leigh McLachlan. Leigh, who'd trained as a Numeracy Champion through the Multiply initiative at Somerset Council, gave Angela the skills and confidence she needed.


"Leigh had faith in us the moment that we walked through the door...The great thing was we could relate to her because she'd had the same kind of feelings about maths that we'd had, and now she's teaching it."

Angela completed a three-month course with Leigh and went on to pass her Functional Skills Level 2 exam.

Now she has received her maths qualification, Angela has had offers from two universities. The course has also inspired her to learn other skills.

"It's inspired me to do more things. I'm doing a TEFL course at the moment - I thought I was okay with English but there's a lot to learn! And I've been to Morocco a couple of times so decided to learn Arabic."

[National Numeracy 2024, Going to university after decades of maths fear: Angela's story](#)



“That's why I'm so pleased that I've done the maths. Before it was just, "No, I don't do maths." I couldn't do maths. I can now, and it didn't take me very long. I did put a lot of effort into it, but I also had a lot of fun whilst I was doing that."**”**



"Working with National Numeracy has been one of the best decisions we have made since we started delivering the Multiply programme.

The resources that have been made available to our team and our learners ... are of fantastic quality and have clearly been created from a vast amount of knowledge and information about maths and the barriers that people face with this subject.

National Numeracy has been instrumental in the successful delivery of Multiply across Gloucestershire, they have enabled us to raise our profile, to disseminate core information on maths and to help many people start their journey to overcoming their fear of the subject.

The National Numeracy team is dedicated, knowledgeable and helpful, they have been a pleasure to work with..."

Sarah Carne – Head of Adult Education & Multiply Lead at Gloucestershire County Council

Key learnings

Multiply has presented an invaluable opportunity for National Numeracy to deliver innovative provision and reach individuals in a new way. Below are some of the lessons we have learnt from our work on the programme so far:

Learners with a qualification can lack confidence and skill:

From our work with local authorities, we engaged many adults who have a qualification but have low numeracy skills. These adults were not originally eligible for Multiply, but at our request the Department of Education expanded this in Year 2, so that learners with a qualification could be supported where they have a functional numeracy skill below this level.

Responding to local authority and learner needs: With Multiply allowing for more innovative and flexible provision, it has also allowed us to quickly respond and make changes to our content, delivery and approach based on the local need and feedback. For example, moving to mixed authority training sessions to offer many more dates for trainees. We are also shortening our training following feedback from Champions and the time they have available with their workload.



“I thought myself to be the most unlikely of numeracy champions as I am not confident at all regarding maths but I have become inspired and excited on how I can use this new role in my work.” – Bristol Numeracy Champion

Supporting learner progression: An important measure of success for the Multiply programme is showing the progression of adults who are improving their confidence enough through informal courses to go on to take a qualification. We therefore introduced signposting to local provision, including tailored emails from the National Numeracy Challenge, and training our Numeracy Champions to inform beneficiaries about locally available provision.

Engaging with local organisations: One of the best ways we have found to reach learners from the target audience is to work with local organisations who are already connected with them. We have worked with employers, schools, charities, unions, training providers and others to train Numeracy Champions who can support service users and colleagues at scale.



“The parents were absolutely thrilled with the session, and I received numerous positive comments about how engaging and informative it was. Your passion for maths and your ability to convey complex concepts in a clear and fun manner truly resonated with everyone.” – West Sussex School

Looking beyond Multiply

Multiply has helped to bridge a gap for adults by offering introductory, engagement provision to help learners build up their confidence, see the value of maths in their day-to-day lives, and get started with improving their confidence, before signing up for a formal qualification.

Through Multiply, National Numeracy has supported thousands of adults to improve their number confidence and take the first step to improving their skills. We are proud of the impact we have been able to achieve so far, and we look forward to continuing this work in Year 3.

Relationships with local organisations and adults have taken time to build, but we have now created networks of support that we hope can be sustained beyond the end of the Multiply programme.

Beyond Multiply, we hope to see programmes and funding aimed at maintaining this crucial engagement pathway for adults, so that we can continue to work with local authorities to build on the success of Multiply and maintain the networks of support that we have created.

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“It [taking the Challenge] made me feel much better about myself, more confident, and that could be an achievement, even for me, in my life, to get a GCSE. It doesn’t feel totally impossible now.” – Challenge Learner without a Level 2 qualification



Please email programmes@nationalnumeracy.org.uk if you'd like to find out about how we can support engagement and improvement in numeracy across your area.