



North West Community Services Training Ltd

Post Covid-19 – Back to Learning plan



**LIVERPOOL
CITY REGION**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

METROMAYOR
LIVERPOOL CITY REGION

Back to Learning

- Current Operational Status Update
- Functional Skills & Apprenticeship Standards Updates
- Returning to work preparations
- Covid-19-Secure Workplaces
- Contact details

Current Operational Status

- NWCS training centres are currently closed. Reception is staffed remotely between 08.00-17.00 Monday to Friday 0151 521 5888.
- NWCS staff are operating all services remotely from their homes.
- Pre lockdown we set a target for all learners to be on or ahead of their learning targets as we come out of lockdown at the end of summer. We are immensely proud of our learners progress and the teachers, trainers and support staff for their guidance.
- NWCS has remained fully operational by remote means throughout the lockdown period. Tutors are offering teaching and support visits, using a variety of learning resources such as ePortfolio, eAssessor texts, email, Zoom & Teams to host learning and support/review sessions.
- NWCS learners have been delivered loan technology to their homes for use in accessing teaching sessions and to assist them in completing their off-the-job learning tasks and assignments.

Current Operational Status cont.

- NWCS concluded the 18/19 contract year with a 78% success rate. This is one of the highest within ILPs in the Liverpool City Region.
- NWCS have arranged for learners who experienced financial hardship through the pandemic to work with a trust that supports young people 14-25.
- NWCS has arranged for learners to benefit from mental health tools and advice from their highly qualified mental health first aid trained staff through remote support sessions.
- Awarding body quality visits have continued throughout the lockdown with NWCS receiving glowing praise for the way that they have supported their learners.
- NWCS have made the decision to close the Huyton learning centre from July 2020. All learning will move to a remote model / take place at the L9 6AW site.

Functional Skills Update

- The pandemic has really impacted upon the delivery of Functional Skills and prevented learners from sitting exams.
- Calculated Assessment Grade (CAG) – English, maths and ICT qualifications that fall between 20th March and 31st July, due to learners unable to undertake the final exam.
- Grading Process - Involves reviewing evidence from attendance, coursework and mock papers.
- NWCS submitted all evidence by the 19th June deadline to the awarding organisation.
- NWCS have taken advantage of this with all submitted CAG ratified by the awarding body and certificates issued so not to detriment learners.

Apprenticeship Standards

- Apprenticeship Frameworks cease on 31st July 2020 to be replaced by Standards.
- NWCS have replaced Business courses (Administration, Customer Service & Team Leading) Childcare & Supporting Teaching & Learning in Schools frameworks with an Apprenticeship Standard.
- NWCS delivery staff have undertaken significant CPD to enable the transition from Frameworks to be seamless.
- NWCS already successfully deliver H&SC level 2 Adult Social Care / level 3 Lead Adult Social care Standards (from January 2019)

Frameworks Vs Standards

- Frameworks are taught in centre and assessed in the workplace with 80% of the qualification being based on assessment.
- Standards are partly taught in the centre and partly taught in the workplace. 80% of the standard is taught NOT assessed.
- Not all Standards include the attainment of an actual qualification . A qualification is included in Childcare/H&SC Standards , however not in the Business sectors.
- Standards are subject to End Point Assessment, which differs across sectors. EPA could include situational judgement tests, professional discussions or presentations as to work and competences.

Frameworks & Standards – Factual differences

- A level 2 standard is set at a higher level than a level 2 framework.
- Apprentices still complete Functional English & maths, however ICT is now removed.
- Standards require more involvement from employers – an apprentice cannot complete without employer input throughout, through Gateway and then at End Point Assessment (EPA).
- Employers must commit to supporting 20% off the job requirement for apprentices.
- Apprentices will complete within 15-18 months.
- The Gateway is a 12-week process of agreeing and evidencing competence between the apprentice and provider involving the employer prior to EPA. Employers must agree that the apprentice is ready for gateway.
- EPA is carried out by the End-Point Assessment Organisation (EPAO) Not by NWCS staff.
- Learners can not complete the Apprenticeship Standard unless they complete EPA.

What does a standard involve?

Childcare example

- Interview with an employer and or learner with a sector specialist.
- Initial & diagnostic assessment.
- On-boarding of the apprentice (Induction)
- Training of the professional skills knowledge and behaviours.
- Assessment for the qualification.
- Teaching of Functional skills.
- Continuous training plan targeting and reviews.
- Completion of qualification and Functional Skills.
- Apprentice arrives at Gateway.
- End point assessment (EPA) with the external awarding organisation (AO)
- Upon completion, learners will benefit from specific IAG and discuss progression to higher levels.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) EPA update

- Working with our chosen EPAO, NWCS have ensured that:
- We're committed to supporting our learners every step of the way. During these challenging times, we're proud to demonstrate that commitment and offer you more when it comes to EPA.
- Continue to support you digitally.
- To keep end-point assessment accessible and on track, we've proactively worked with our EPAOs to enable flexibilities and expanded our digital solutions so that all assessments can now take place remotely.
- Our digital first approach allowed us to respond quickly to the changing situation presented by COVID-19 and meet the needs of providers, employers and apprentices, with proctoring successfully implemented straight away.

Returning to Learning Preparation

- NWCS will resume a full centre-based delivery again early October following the half-term school holidays.
- Prior to this we will commence some face-to-face support and teaching in “bubbles” (small fixed groups) for those who identify the need.
- Covid-Secure Risk Assessments are ratified and in place.
- NWCS will require employers risk assessments for visitors and mutual-agreement before we can resume on-site training, observations and visits with learners. These and Covid-related queries should be sent to paul-sheron@nwcsLtd.uk
- It is important to us to have the peace of mind that our covid-secure arrangements for staff, learners and visitors exceed basic compliance.

Key Contact Details

- Paul Sheron – Operational Manager 07795 386 360 paul-sheron@nwcsltd.uk
- Karen Luxon - Operational Manager 07929 444 128 karen-luxon@nwcsltd.uk
- Aintree site 0151 521 5888
- Childcare Lead – bobbie-picton@nwcsltd.uk
- Supporting Teaching & Learning Lead – Janette-holland@nwcsltd.uk
- Heath & Social Care Lead – annette-swinnerton@nwcsltd.uk
- <https://www.apprenticeshipsnorthwest.com>