

BUSINESS CONTINUITY POLICY - APPRENTICESHIPS



Policy Group: Health & Safety and Environment

Effective: May 2022

Approved: Rachel Butt, Director of Excellence

Responsible Officer: Emma Barrett-Peel, Chief Operating Officer

Next Renew Date: May 2023

Ref no: 2.4.1



GUIDANCE

Vision

Transform lives through learning

Values



PASSIONATE - We're passionate about everything we do, especially creating as many opportunities as we can for both young people and adults to gain new skills.



UNSTOPPABLE - We are committed to continually exploring ways to improve the service that we offer for the benefit of our learners, partners, and employers.



RIGHT - We endeavour to be open, honest and fair in our dealings with learners, employers, partners and stakeholders. We also aim to get it right first time.



PARTNERSHIPS - We continually strive to deliver excellence through strategic and sustainable partnerships with a wide range of FE organisations, employers and wider stakeholders.



LEARNERS - We keep our learners at the centre of everything we do and we are driven by the desire to provide life-changing opportunities for them.



EMPOWERMENT - We are passionate about supporting Purple People at all levels, empowering them to realise their full potential and progress.

Tone of voice

Our tone of voice takes its direct influence from our core values. We are passionate about people and learners and are driven to get the best out of everyone by understanding them. We are caring and supportive, as well as being determined and striving for growth. We talk with purpose and enthusiasm in a way that connects and empowers people.

Innovation is at the heart of Learning Curve Group and we're always thinking about what's next!

SUMMARY CHANGES

Date	Page	Details of Amendments
May 2021	All	Reflect new structure and use of Aptem and Cognassist
May 2022	All	Summary Review
May 2022	All	Change of Responsible Officer/Author
November 2022	All	Updated key contacts

This policy have been reviewed and approved by Director of Excellence:



INTRODUCTION

Learning Curve Group (LCG) is one of the largest national training providers in the UK, providing education and training nationally. All companies within the LCG family uphold the same company vision, mission and core values and follow our group policies and procedures.

Applies to

Delivery staff involved in apprenticeship operations, apprentices and employers are provided with this plan to ensure they understand its content and know how to act accordingly.

Reason for policy

This plan is supplementary to LCGs Major Incidents and Business Continuity Plan. It provides the framework for responding to major incidents that significantly impact the continuation of the apprenticeship operations thus leading to short-term closure or suspension of activity.

It is important that LCG can support apprenticeship training throughout an apprentice's time on programme. To minimise the risk of unforeseen circumstances disrupting training the Apprenticeship Business Continuity Plan is in place. It provides guidance and support to enable us to tackle the impact of severe disruptions due to a variety of one-off, but credible, causes.

The policy will be activated in response to an incident causing significant disruption to the delivery of apprenticeships, particularly in delivery of key or critical activities e.g.

- Total or partial loss of utility provision or critical systems prohibiting delivery of services
- Loss of confidential information/data protection issues
- Denial of access to facilities due to damage e.g., Fire, flood, explosion, vandalism
- Loss of a key resource delivering critical support
- Serious injury or death
- Release of toxic or harmful materials in the vicinity
- National emergencies e.g., pandemics, terrorist attacks

The above list is not exhaustive and other circumstances may trigger the plan being activated.

This policy and procedure do not form part of your terms and conditions of employment and can be changed at any time as we deem appropriate.

Testing the plan

This policy will be tested annually in line with major incidents across all areas of the business including a disaster recovery plan operated by the data centres.

POLICY

Business Critical Systems

Learning Curve Group apprenticeships are delivered either remotely, at employer premises, at Head Office or at our Training Academies.

LCGs apprenticeship data is stored electronically either remotely or online. Remote data is stored on portable company issued laptops, secured by passwords that are changed regularly. The retention of data is in line with that required by our funding partners.

Electronic data is held on business-critical systems which are Proactis, QLIK, Aptem, Smart Assessor, Skills Forward, Cognassit and the Microsoft Office 365 server. All systems are secured by passwords individual to the user that are changed on a regular basis.

The main way we communicate is via email, Microsoft Teams and telephone. All staff are issued with work mobile telephones and laptops. Mobile phones are configured to include access to the internet and emails. If these are unavailable, staff have access to landline telephones and can use personal phones.

All staff are provided with portable IT equipment to enable them to work remotely at home, at LCG Academics or off site in places such as public spaces (libraries, community centres etc.) and at the employer's premises as required. As such, this serves as another alternative method of operation.

Emails are backed up to the Office 365 server which allows lost data to be recovered, and for staff to access email accounts from any PC with their own secure log in. Internet access is required for emails, key learning and assessment systems (Aptem, Smart Assessor, Cognassit and Skills Forward). All staff mobile phones have portable mobile data.

Roles and Responsibilities

In the event of an incident that requires this plan to be activated the following sets out roles and responsibilities. Key contacts are provided in Appendix 1.

Director of Apprenticeships

- Overall responsibility for the continuation and coordination of apprenticeship delivery
- Inform LCG emergency response team
- Inform and liaise with ESFA
- Liaise with all affected delivery managers to agree contingency plans for learners
- Decide on requirements for access to alternative venues if required liaising with local providers where possible
- Communication to Aptem and Smart Assessor
- Communication with learners and parents as required
- Notify funding bodies via the Director of Funding and MIS

Director of Excellence

- Notify Awarding and End Point Assessment Organisations of temporary assessment venues as required

- Enquire of available assessment adaptations/special assessment requirements should they be required
- Conduct remote quality sampling to ensure temporary delivery arrangements are of suitable quality
- Oversee the risk assessments for safeguarding and welfare concerns

Director of Marketing and Communications

- Responsible for informing any employers who may be affected by the incident and how it may affect their learners
- Ensure employers are informed of any incident where required and how it may impact them in the short term
- Outline any alternative arrangements that have been made e.g., different premises etc.
- Liaise with media to ensure appropriate and informative communications

Director of Risk Management

- Meet and greet emergency services as they arrive with a floor plan of the building
- Building security while the building if the building is not accessible
- Salvage critical documents/equipment if this can be done safely -
- Ensure signage and notices are in place on all doors/boundaries to prevent access to dangerous areas
- Alongside the Director of Apprenticeships manage any transfer to alternative premises and arrange for them to be operational within agreed timescales including furniture and equipment
- In cases of suspected illegal/terrorism activity, contact the police
- Ensure all colleagues, learners and visitors are safe and accounted for
- Ensure all significant occurrences and decisions are recorded, together with reason for decision made

Head of Service/Centre Manager for the Affected Premises

- Responsibility for the immediate evacuation of the premises and the safety of all affected colleagues, learners and visitors. First point of contact for the emergency services until the incident coordinator arrives onsite
- Marshal learners, staff and visitors at the nominated assembly point
- Arrange for transfer of everyone to place of safety if required
- Arrange for warm, dry shelter for everyone in the short-term if required
- Turn off gas, electricity, etc., if this can be done safely
- Deal with immediate welfare matters: distress, injuries, domestic responsibilities, etc. alongside the emergency services
- Co-ordinate the sending home of learners and colleagues based on advice from the Director of Apprenticeships via ERT
- Arrange payment of any additional travel costs to apprentices if an alternative site is identified
- Prepare a risk assessment of vulnerable learners that require additional support and monitoring for various reasons

Director of People

- Responsible for ensuring staff welfare during any event including contact with immediate family members where required
- Establish contact with immediate family members of any colleagues or learners who have been injured
- Ensure that all colleagues are aware of what assistance is available in recovering from a major disaster, specifically medical and insurance assistance and, where applicable, counselling

Chief Technology Officer

- Responsible for checking backup data
- Should a data breach occur, check against ICO requirements and inform accordingly
- Provision of additional technology should it be required
- Ensuring remote access to support remote delivery and learning for staff and learners

LCG Phase out Strategy

If LCG are unable to continue with apprenticeship training the following process will be followed:

- Communicate with the key contact of the ESFA to advise the current position
- Ensure that the ESFA has all the required information and communicate with them continuously
- Work with the prospective apprenticeship training provider and share the required training information
- Notify Smart Assessor/Aptem and advise them to transfer all learner information so there are no gaps in the apprenticeship delivery

The key roles and responsibilities are noted above.

APPENDIX 1

Key Contacts

Contact	Contact Details
Emma Barrett-Peel Director of Apprenticeships	07485 368395 emma.barrett-peel@learningcurvegroup.co.uk
Rachel Butt Director of Excellence	07485 368345 rachel.butt@learningcurvegroup.co.uk
Hannah Marshall Chief Technology Officer	07485 368277 hannah.marshall@learningcurvegroup.co.uk
Neil Whittaker Director of Marketing & Communications	07971 596430 neil.whittaker@learningcurvegroup.co.uk
Rebecca Cooper Senior Manager Large Provider Team	07795 811956 rebecca.cooper@education.gov.uk
Louise Clough Director of People	07870 517335 louise.clough@learningcurvegroup.co.uk
Steve Williams Director of Risk Management	07485 310549 s.williams@LearningCurveGroup.co.uk
Mike Driver Smart Assessor	0330 343 8000 michael.driver@oneadvanced.com
Aptem Luke Gillett	07949 040009 Luke.gillett@aptem.co.uk
Cognassist – Carrin Rothwell	07990 019687 carrinrothwell@cognassist.com
David Redden Skills Forward	07739 034830 davidredden@ncfe.org.uk
ESFA	08000 150 600 helpdesk@manage-apprenticeships.service.gov.uk