

<u>Policy Title</u>	NCG Group Policy Framework
<u>Policy Category</u>	Compliant
<u>Owner</u>	Executive Director Governance, Risk & Assurance
<u>Group Executive Lead</u>	Executive Director Governance, Risk & Assurance
<u>Date Written</u>	25 th September 2018
<u>Considered By</u>	HE Governance Committee
<u>Approved By</u>	Corporation
<u>Date Approved</u>	July 2019
<u>Equality Impact Assessment</u>	The implementation of this policy is not considered to have a negative impact on protected characteristics
<u>Freedom of Information</u>	This document will be publically available through the Groups Publication Scheme.
<u>Review Date</u>	September 2019
<u>Policy Summary</u>	The purpose of the NCG Group Policy Framework is to specify policy direction for the Group on the development, authorisation, publication, communication and review of Group-wide policies. This will ensure the Group has consistent standards for all staff to follow when developing and publishing up to date Policy statements. All official policy documents must comply with this policy framework.

<u>Applicability of Policy</u>	<u>Consultation Undertaken</u>	<u>Applicable To</u>
Newcastle	Yes	Yes
Newcastle 6th Form	No	No
Carlisle	Yes	Yes
Kidderminster	Yes	Yes
Lewisham Southwick	Yes	Yes
West Lancashire	Yes	Yes
InTraining	No	No
Rathbones	No	No
Group Services	Yes	No

<u>Changes to Earlier Versions</u>	
<u>Previous Approval Date</u>	<u>Summarise Changes Made Here</u>
N/A - 1st Edition of Document	

<u>Linked Documents</u>	
<u>Document Title</u>	<u>Relevance</u>
None	N/A

1. Introduction

The paper seeks approval of HE fees for 2020/20201 and if approved by Corporation will be subject to final approval by the Office for Students (OfS) when we submit our Access and Participation Plan (APP) in May 2019. If approved, we will be informed by the OfS in August 2019.

In January 2017, Corporation approved a proposal to increase the maximum HE fee charged by NCG, which created additional financial resource to support the student experience. This paper proposes that this continues and outlines further measures which if implemented would further support our learners.

Analysis of HE fees at other similar institutions shows that other colleges, New College Durham and Bradford College will be charging £8,200 and £8,750 respectively. Local universities are all charging up to the maximum permissible of £9,250. Blackpool College charges the lowest fee at £8250 for fulltime programmes.

2. Financial commitment

Where a provider charges a fee above £6,165 they are required to outline within their Access and Participation Plan how they will increase expenditure on widening access and supporting successful outcomes for students (the student experience).

For the past two years, NCG have committed to spend 55% percent of the difference between the basic fee of £6,165 and the fee we charge.

This percentage is institution based as the OfS state:

“We will not set a minimum expected level of expenditure. Our focus will be on the outcomes that providers achieve and the level of the ambition they set, rather than inputs in the form of investment. We will challenge providers’ investment through our assessment of whether we believe their plans to be credible given the level of intended investment.”

3. Proposed maximum fee: £9,000

As noted, the £9,000 proposed is the maximum fee that could be charged within the NCG group. Divisions can, if they wish, can charge a lower fee level. Additionally a range of student benefits are offered across the group. These include:

- Targeted WP bursary.
- Financing professional qualifications and memberships for students.
- Scholarships for students from underrepresented groups.
- Free equipment, e.g. laptops for students.
- Extra support through increased investment in staffing

The fees agreed for 2019-20 last year were as shown below:

Division	Full Time Fee	Part Time Fee
Newcastle College	£9000	Not over the basic fee of £4625
Kidderminster College	£7900	Not over the basic fee of £4625
West Lancashire College	£7900	Not over the basic fee of £4625
Carlisle College	£6165	Not over the basic fee of £4625
Southwark College	£7900	Not over the basic fee of £4625

These fees relate to all HNDs, Foundation Degrees, Bachelor Degrees and Top Ups.

4. Masters fee

Masters fees will be retained at £6,000 to remain attractive and in most cases undercut the local offer.