

Delivery Plan 2023

Actions to deliver our Learning Without Walls strategy



Introduction

Our annual Delivery Plan sets out our activities for the coming year; the short-term actions to achieve the longer-term objectives outlined in our strategy document, **Learning Without Walls** [\[↗\]](#).

Our plans for 2023 are grouped around the four pillars of our strategy - the levers we can pull to create lasting behavioural and cultural shifts that create a better future for all.



Change for a better future

As part of our commitment to supporting the best technologies for adult vocational skills we will continue to enable organisations to develop and adopt innovative tech.

Grant Funding

In 2023 there will be one **VocTech Activate** [\[↗\]](#) grant funding call. VocTech Activate is our test bed where the first spark of an idea can be scoped and tested in the supportive environment that Ufi funding provides. We fund projects that are at a relatively early stage, helping to prototype ideas and work out the next steps necessary on the journey to long-term success. You can find out what other organisations have done with a VocTech early-stage grant in our **VocTech Directory** [\[↗\]](#).

We will continue to run our **VocTech Ignite** [\[↗\]](#) programme alongside the grant funding calls; helping enable great project ideas to progress.

How much grant funding is available?

VocTech Activate provides grants of between £30,000 and £60,000 for projects lasting from three to 12 months. We have increased the amount of funding available, recognising the rising costs of innovation.

2023 Grant Fund Call Dates



VocTech Activate Grant Fund

December 2022: Guidelines published and workshops open for registration

11 January 2023: Call opens for applications

Investment Funding

Ufi Ventures will continue to make new and follow-on investments in early-stage companies in 2023. We invest approximately £150,000 at seed stage, and £75,000 at pre-seed stage. We look to invest in companies with ambition to make a positive impact, using VocTech, to:

- Help adults in the UK to access and progress in work through improved skills
- Help employers in the UK to improve their business performance through improving the skills of their workforce
- Grow the VocTech sector by demonstrating attractive financial returns from investing in it

Throughout 2023 we will continue to develop our approach of offering targeted support to our investment to help accelerate their growth; including tapping into the networks and partnerships in our wider community. We will also develop our deep dives into specific sectors to expand our market intelligence in key areas, and work with Tyton Partners to publish our horizon scanning activity.

To stay informed, sign-up for the **Ventures Bulletin** [\[↗\]](#). If you are looking for investment **send us your pitch deck** [\[↗\]](#) for a response within five working days.

www.ufi.co.uk/ventures

Making Change Now

During 2023 we will consult on our next VocTech Challenge - exploring how vocational technology can support skills for industries of the future. The Challenge programme is expected to include a grant fund and commissioned projects with partners.

How much grant funding is available?

Our VocTech Challenge Grant fund will likely include both Activate and Impact projects.

- VocTech Activate projects (grants of between £30k and 60k for projects lasting three to 12 months)
- VocTech Impact projects (grants of between £100k and £200k for projects lasting 12 to 18 months)

As with our previous VocTech Challenges, there will be opportunities to engage with us to help shape the direction of the programme.

Sign-up to our Community Newsletter [\[1\]](#) to keep informed, receive the latest news and dates for the grant call.

The grant funded projects from our 2021 *VocTech Challenge: Levelling up learning* will continue to deliver, focused on improving the confidence and motivation of learners most affected by the digital divide. We will share the ongoing practical insights from their work as these projects continue.



Supporting the Market

When we form Strategic Partnerships, we look for opportunities where the collaboration can ‘shift the dial’ for both partners in delivering our aligned missions, using our joint resources and networks. Our aim is to build long-term relationships that benefit our organisations and the wider sector.

The commissioned research projects that sit within these partnerships have already resulted in impactful sector-wide reports and actions. Our first, in partnership with the Association for Learning Technology (ALT), explores how to develop and deploy learning technology to best support adults impacted by the digital divide. Our second, in partnership with the RSA, looks to better understand the barriers people face when engaging with learning and to develop deeper insight into what might encourage learners to overcome these barriers. We will build on these findings in 2023 and seek to embed the good practice across our joint activities.

You can download both reports from the links below:

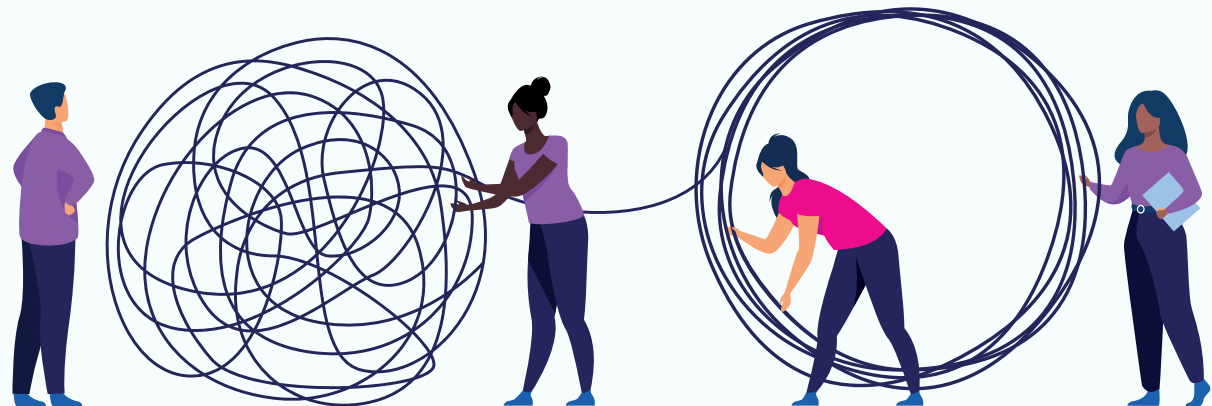
[ufi.co.uk/strategic-partnerships/alt](https://www.ufi.co.uk/strategic-partnerships/alt)

[ufi.co.uk/strategic-partnerships/rsa](https://www.ufi.co.uk/strategic-partnerships/rsa)

During 2023 we will look to extend the networks and communities of practice we have developed through #AmplifyFE, currently involving thousands of VocTech practitioners across the post-16 education sector.

We will add to our Strategic Partnership work with ALT, the RSA, iDEA and the Resolution Foundation with new Strategic Partnerships with Catch 22, Jisc and AELP and we will explore the potential for further partnerships throughout the year.

www.ufi.co.uk/strategic-partnerships



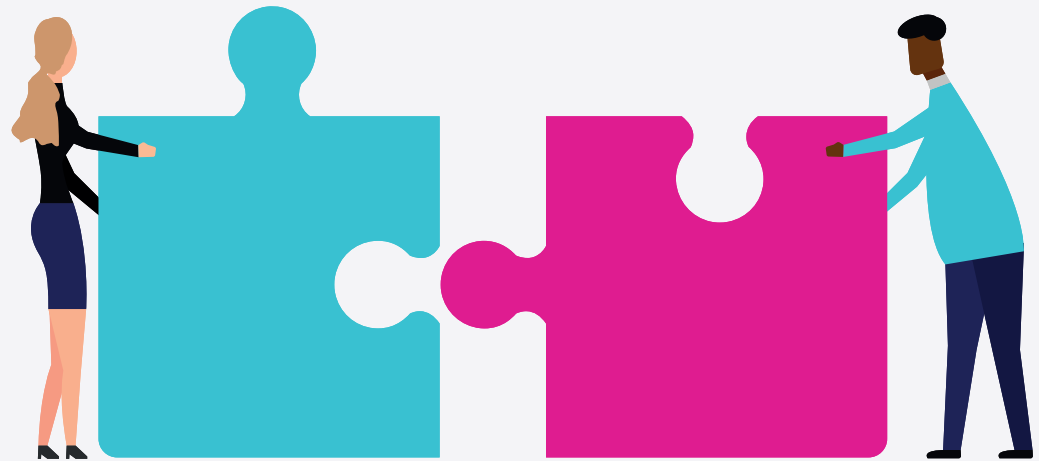
Building the VocTech Community

Our long-term goal is to catalyse change by reaching out, influencing, engaging and working with others who can help us achieve our vision of change at scale.

In 2023 we will build on our Public Affairs work to share our insights with policy makers and parliamentary groups to highlight opportunities for VocTech to make an impact; using our projects to demonstrate the 'art of the possible'.

Our 2023 **Week of VocTech** [📅] will continue to provide a platform and focus for all that we have learned and all that our projects and investments have achieved. Our ambition is to establish the Week of VocTech as the premier UK event for thought leadership and the sharing of best practice on education, technology and investment in the vocational space.

We expect to publish our evaluation of projects up to 2020 to develop the evidence base of effectiveness for projects and learners engaged with digitally supported VocTech solutions.





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