

**A COMMON ACCORD  
IN THE WORKING OF SUPPLY CHAINS IN THE  
POST-16 LEARNING AND SKILLS SECTOR**

*The scope of the Common Accord is supply chain activity using funds supplied by the Education and Skills Funding Agency or any successor organisations.*

**Signatories to this document commit to the following**

**“Overarching Principle”:**

**Supply chains seek to optimise the impact and effectiveness of service delivery to the end user.**

**This organisation commits itself to the clauses and principles of the  
Common Accord**

*Name: Karen Mitchell*

*Signature: Karen Mitchell*

*Position: Principal and Chief Executive*

*Organisation: Buckinghamshire College Group*

*Date: 01/08/2019*

## Clauses and Principles of the Common Accord

- I. The scope of the Common Accord is supply chain activity using funds supplied by the Education and Skills Funding Agency or any successor organisations.
- II. Signatories to the Common Accord commit to the “Overarching Principle” that: ***“Supply chains seek to optimise the impact and effectiveness of service delivery to the end user.”***
- III. In line with the overarching principle, signatories will abide by the following:
  - a. **Supply chain management activities should align with the principles of best practice in the skills sector.** *Signatories to the Common Accord agreed to be guided by the principles given in the LSIS publication “Supply Chain Management – a good practice guide for the post-16 skills sector” (Nov 2012 and subsequent iterations)*
  - b. **Prime/lead providers in supply chains will at all times undertake fair and transparent procurement activities, conducting robust due diligence procedures on potential subcontractors to ensure compliance with the Common Accord at all levels.** *Signatories agree the importance of ensuring that procurement activities are conducted in a fair and transparent manner to ensure the highest quality of learning delivery is made available, demonstrating value for money and a positive impact on learner lives.*
  - c. **Funding for learning that is retained by the lead provider must be related to the costs of the service provided. These services, and the levels of funding being retained for them, will be clearly documented and agreed by all parties.** *Signatories commit that the rates of such retained funding should be commercially viable for both sides, should be negotiated and agreed in a fair and transparent manner, and should relate to the actual services being provided.*
  - d. **Where disputes between supply chain partners cannot be resolved through mutually agreed internal resolution procedures, signatories commit to submission of the dispute to independent outside arbitration or mediation and to abide by its findings.** *Signatories agreed that the achievements of supply chains are attained through adherence to both the letter and spirit of contracts or partnerships. Signatories therefore commit that all discussions, communications, negotiations and actions undertaken to build, maintain and develop supply chains will be conducted in good faith in accordance with the Overarching Principle.*
- IV. Signatories to the Common Accord understand and accept that their commitment and adherence to it may be used as criteria or standards by other sector stakeholders, including (but not limited to) funding, representative and professional bodies.