



National Numeracy Leadership Council

2023 Highlights Report

The National Numeracy Leadership Council

Independent charity National Numeracy has a clear mission: to improve how people understand and work with numbers in day to day life, sparking better opportunities and brighter futures.

We believe that a major shift in attitudes is key to this. So, in September 2021 National Numeracy joined forces with HM Treasury, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), and pioneering businesses to find new ways to tackle the stubborn problem of low numeracy.

Together, we formed [the National Numeracy Leadership Council](#) (NNLC), chaired by Andy Haldane, Chief Executive of the RSA and Vice-chair of National Numeracy.

We believe a numerate nation is crucial to improving outcomes for UK PLC. Poor numeracy is costing the UK as much as £25 billion a year. Improving the numeracy of the workforce has multiple positive effects. It increases access to jobs, supports workplace skills, promotes progression and drives financial inclusion.

The Council comprises senior leaders from Amazon, Amazon Web Services, Barclays LifeSkills, Bloomberg L.P, Capital One UK, Experian UK & I, KPMG UK, S&P Global, TP ICAP, Vanquis Banking Group plus HM Treasury and the DWP.

In 2023, Council members have worked to influence and effect positive, sustainable, systemic change as a group, within industries and in their own organisations. This has included shaping the education system, engaging policy makers, and consulting on national initiatives.



Engaging policymakers

The Skills Minister attends Council meeting

The Council was delighted to discuss local and national numeracy perspectives with the Skills Minister Robert Halfon MP. Among the topics raised were the adult numeracy initiative 'Multiply', the Lifelong Learning Entitlement, practical applications for numeracy in everyday life, dyscalculia and inspiring people to take their first steps with learning.



'Maths to 18' employer consultation: an industry perspective

Council members KPMG and Vanquis Banking Group took part in the employer consultation for the government's 'Maths to 18' initiative. They shared employer insights to help guide its development, discussed how it can best meet the employer needs and how businesses can promote the scheme.

'Maths to 18' Advisory Committee

Council Member and Gender Taskforce chair Lucy-Marie Hagues, CEO of Capital One UK and International, accepted a seat on the Prime Minister's eight-strong Maths to 18 expert advisory group.

The government intends for young people to study mathematics to age 18, believing it will boost the knowledge and skills needed in the economy. The expert advisory group was tasked with collating evidence and providing advice on the maths young people need to study in a post-16 education system.

Consulting on National Initiatives

The Royal Society's Mathematical Futures programme

In September, the Council was honored to become the first group of employers to be consulted on the Royal Society's Mathematical Futures programme, which aims to build a new vision of mathematics education.

During a fascinating session, Council members shared employer perspectives on current and forecast challenges in human resources, and agreed on an alignment with the Society's work to build the numerate nation we need in the future.

Sir Martin Taylor, Chair, Mathematical Futures Programme, The Royal Society said:

"As we developed our thinking about the future of Mathematical and Data Education, talking to members of the National Numeracy Leadership Council gave us invaluable insight into what employers are looking for in terms of maths and data skills.



The ability to use those skills to solve problems and think creatively came through strongly. It was also clear that employers need all employees to be numerate and to have general quantitative literacy - the ability to use quantitative skills to think critically about real world problems - not just those whose jobs have an obviously mathematical focus."

Photo of Sir Martin Taylor, by John Cairns.

Influencing the business community

Future skills roundtable event

We were honoured that the former Lord Mayor of London Alderman Nicholas Lyons joined our breakfast roundtable event in the heart of the City. Founding Member S&P Global and Council Member Oliver Wyman convened 13 businesses to discuss the vital role numeracy plays in the UK skills landscape.

Influencing the financial sector: high-profile positioning of the importance of numeracy and industry events

UK Finance is the collective voice for the banking and finance industry, representing more than 300 firms across the industry. At its North Dinner in Manchester, Capital One took to the stage to emphasise the crucial role of numeracy and the need for the sector to focus on it when supporting growth and skills development in the UK's regions.

Lucy-Marie Hagues, CEO, presented findings about numeracy levels in Manchester drawing on the UK Numeracy Index, created by National Numeracy and Experian.



Photo of Lucy-Marie Hagues at the Numeracy Confidence and Social Mobility event in April 2023, by Lance Bellers

Building connections with stakeholders

Inspiring businesses

Throughout the year, Council members have engaged business audiences and the general public with stories about the transformational power of numeracy for lives and livelihoods. From opinion pieces in the media, to engaging social media posts, the personal support and network reach of our Council members is influential in raising awareness of the numeracy crisis and inspiring others to get involved.



Nationwide political engagement

The Council businesses wrote to all MPs highlighting numeracy levels in each individual constituency and asking for support with National Numeracy Day, our charity's flagship campaign.

National Numeracy Day was supported by politicians on all sides of the house, with attendance at events and schools and promotion in the press and social media. The Prime Minister, Ministers, Shadow Ministers and government departments all got involved and the first ever National Numeracy Day Parliamentary debate was held.

Thank You

National Numeracy and our partners are dedicated to helping people to get on with numbers so they can access greater opportunities in life. This Leadership Council is remarkable - enabling us to attract much more attention and more action to address the issue of low numeracy systemically.



We are delighted with the progress this group has made, and extend our huge thanks to the committed and hard working teams at our partner organisations. There is much more to be done, but together we are stronger and driving even greater impact, as this highlights report shows. Our ambition is that this Leadership Council continues to play a critical and growing role in addressing the UK's numeracy issues, so I can't wait to see what 2024 brings with current and future members.

Sam Sims
National Numeracy CEO

As Chair of the National Numeracy Leadership Council, it was a privilege to see the real energy and vigour with which Council members and their organisations led from the front in addressing the issue of low numeracy in 2023. Everyone serves to benefit from boosting UK numeracy levels, which is why business,



government and civil society all have a crucial role to play. The National Council represents a unique and powerful alliance, and I would like to sincerely thank all its members for their support and commitment.

Andy Haldane
CEO of the RSA,
Vice-chair of National
Numeracy

With thanks to all individual representatives and organisations:

Chair – **Andy Haldane**, Chief Executive of the RSA and Vice-chair of National Numeracy

Amazon UK – **Priyanka Wadhawan**, Director of Insights and Innovation

Amazon Web Services – **Liam Maxwell**, Director of Government Transformation

Barclays – **Kirstie Mackey**, Managing Director, Citizenship UK & Europe

Bloomberg L.P. – **Constantin Cotzias**, European Director

Capital One UK – **Lucy-Marie Hagues**, CEO

Department for Work and Pensions – **Tammy Fevrier**, Deputy Director, Youth and Skills

Experian UK&I – **Mark Lindsay**, Director

HM Treasury – **John Owen**, Director

KPMG – **Bina Mehta**, Chair

Vanquis Banking Group – **Richard King**, Group Corporate Communications Director

S&P Global – **Sally Moore**, Executive Vice President

TP ICAP – **Philip Price**, Executive Director, Group General Counsel

Photos from the Leadership Council's May 2023 meeting by Lance Bellers, unless otherwise specified.

National Numeracy Leadership Council














Work with us

We are immensely proud of our work with partners in 2023 and grateful for their commitment to improving numeracy in the UK.

Reaching and supporting more people than ever before in these challenging times is testament to their leadership in addressing this crucial issue, the strength and depth of our partner relationships and their belief in National Numeracy's work as a vehicle for social mobility and positive change in a time of need.

Working with us brings a host of benefits to employees and employers alike and we would be delighted to discuss how you can get involved. Please get in touch with our Partnerships Team: partnerships@nationalnumeracy.org.uk

Contact us

For more information, please get in touch with us at National Numeracy:

- Telephone: +44 (0) 1273 915044
- Email: enquiries@nationalnumeracy.org.uk
- X (formerly Twitter): @Nat_Numeracy
- Instagram: @national_numeracy
- www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk

Charity registered in England and Wales

Charity No: 7886294 Company No: 1145669



Nikki Chatha of Tower Hamlets celebrating National Numeracy Day 2023