

Building Better Opportunities

Project outline

For use in England only



Project title	Project 1 of 5 Supporting Young People
Project reference number	Cor/2/1
LEP area	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly
ESF Thematic Objective	9: Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty
ESF Investment Priority	1.2: Sustainable integration of young people
Funding available	£3,101,300
Project start period	July 2016 to November 2016
Latest date for completion	December 2019
Date open for applications	8 October 2015
Deadline for stage one applications	12 noon on 30 November 2015

Important information about this project outline

This project outline represents just one strand of the overall funding that is available through Building Better Opportunities. As this is a joint programme with the European Social Fund, we will only consider applications that clearly meet a project outline and meet the requirements set out in our **programme guide**.

As you read this project outline, please note the following:

- This project outline is subject to any changes made by the European Commission or the Managing Authority to the rules governing ESF in England. The Big Lottery Fund will upload any updates to <https://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/esf>. It is your responsibility to review the page regularly to keep abreast of any changes that may have an impact on your application.
- You must apply for the full amount of **funding available** shown, which we will award to just one applicant or partnership to deliver the project described in this outline.
- The project must be delivered in the **LEP area(s)** shown and within any specific **project location** we've identified within this outline.
- You must plan to **start** and **complete** your project by the dates indicated. By 'complete' we mean that you must have spent and claimed all of the grant and closed your project.
- Your proposed project must align with the **project description** we've provided within this outline and include any specific activities listed.
- You must submit your stage one application by the **deadline** we've given above.
- Your proposed project should include appropriate links to potential employers and self-employment opportunities. The specific interventions must enable a comprehensive assessment of an individual's needs that are tailored to help them move towards work and out of poverty.
- You must demonstrate that the activities you are proposing will be additional to any national and statutory provision. This could include, for example, wrap around support that works with people to overcome the barriers that prevent them engaging effectively with statutory provision, or more in-depth and intensive support to the most disadvantaged people, which they can access alongside the statutory provision they are entitled to.
- Activities must be locally accessible and be led by skilled front line staff.
- The people who will benefit from the project must come from the eligible participant groups we've identified in our programme guide, with a specific focus on those unemployed or economically inactive, furthest from the labour market, and most at risk of social exclusion. We may also specify particular **project participants** within this outline that must benefit from some or all of the activities you'll deliver.
- You must be confident that you'll be able to deliver the **project outputs and results**, taking into account the value, length and nature of the project we've described. We will monitor the delivery of the project to ensure these outputs and results will be met over its lifetime.
- You should have experience of delivering similar services and of identifying and working with people who face significant challenges to engaging with the labour market. You must demonstrate an understanding of the needs of local people, and show how you will work with existing local providers of related services and engage those most in need in the local area.
- Organisations can be involved in more than one application, either as a lead or a partner. However, lead partners might set their own requirements on partners' involvement in other applications so please check local requirements with the lead partner.
- Subject to satisfactory performance, there may be the potential to extend the project duration and/or increase the funding available for this project once activities have commenced.

If you think your organisation, or a partnership led by your organisation, would be able to deliver the project we've described then you can request a stage one application form on our website www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/esf.

Project background

Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly's economy faces a number of challenges that are reflected in low wages, low productivity and relatively low skills attainment. The local Strategic Economic Plan (July 2014) highlights high and persistent levels of worklessness, pockets of severe deprivation and skill levels that are below the national average as being key issues hindering economic growth.

Cornwall also faces other challenges that can have an impact on outcomes for young people. It is a large rural county with a dispersed population and relatively poor transport links. Key findings from a Department for Education study into barriers to participation in post-16 education or training showed that the main barriers and constraints experienced by young people relate to finance, transport, availability of provision and their knowledge and awareness of the post-16 options available to them. Young people who live in rural areas have significantly increased odds of experiencing transport as a barrier or constraint than similar young people who do not live in rural areas. Access to provision is a significant issue for young people living in the Isles of Scilly, where all post-16 learners travel to the mainland to access learning.

Within the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Enterprise Partnership area there is a significant variation across year groups, ranging from 2.4 per cent not in employment, education or training (NEET) in Year 12 to 6.3 per cent NEET in Year 13. Local tracking data shows there are significant geographical variations, with high proportions of NEET young people in the Camborne and Redruth, Liskeard and Looe and Bodmin.

Cornwall's 16-19 review highlighted that, whilst there are a range of work experience opportunities and activities for young people, the lack of suitable employment is a concern. Meeting the needs of vulnerable groups also remains a challenge, as young people with learning difficulties and disabilities (LDD) make up over a third (35 per cent) of the NEET cohort.

Official labour market statistics data from the Office for National Statistics shows that as at July 2015 there were 720 Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) claims for young people under the age of 25. Although below the national average, youth unemployment is still a concern, with a larger percentage of long-term unemployed compared with the overall claimant rate. There is also clear evidence of the seasonal nature of youth employment and that young men are more likely to be unemployed than young women.

There are five projects being delivered in the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly LEP area through Building Better Opportunities:

- Supporting Young People
- Pathways to Employment - South and East Cornwall
- Pathways to Employment - Atlantic and Moor
- Pathways to Employment - Coast to Coast
- Pathways to Employment - West Cornwall

Applicants should ensure they are fully aware of the other projects/themes we will be funding in the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly LEP area (even if they only plan to submit an application for this project).

Project aim

This project aims to improve progression into the labour market for young people aged 15 to 24 who are NEET or at risk of becoming NEET, through innovative and vocationally-based skills activity leading to employment or further training/education opportunities.

The objective of this project is to address the issue that some young people are not attaining the skills levels or qualifications needed to obtain sustainable employment. Specifically this project will address low academic performance by raising qualification and skills levels (particularly basic

skills), and by addressing the lack of engagement in higher education, geographic and gender disparities and the barriers that young people in the area encounter.

The project should offer a co-ordinated response to individual needs and deliver new and innovative approaches to tackle the issues. It should also demonstrate how it will target and engage with those people who are most disadvantaged and furthest from employment, education or training.

Project description

The specific activities to be delivered through this project should be determined by applicants and clearly articulated in their stage one application form, but possible activities could include:

- building on and developing new solutions to tackling long-term unemployment through individual approaches for those with particular needs;
- tackling barriers for individual young people within the labour market;
- supporting individuals to plan, start and develop their careers and to move into further training and/or education;
- supporting individuals to raise their qualification and skills levels, by supporting them to access mainstream education and training opportunities and, where relevant, providing basic and life skills training;
- enabling access to distance learning models to help alleviate barriers;
- supporting volunteering and work placements as part of progression into employment, education or training.

Applicants are encouraged to consider a wide range of innovative delivery models, considering how the principles of co-design and building on an individual's strengths can help deliver a successful project and help to transform young people's lives.

As this activity forms part of the wider ESF Young People First Programme, a working relationship should be developed between this project and the Supporting Young People and other relevant contract holders to ensure progression opportunities are in place. This may include the need to participate in a project steering group for the wider ESF Young People First Programme.

Project location

The project should be delivered across the whole of the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly LEP area including balanced provision for those living in rural, urban and coastal areas.

Project participants

All participants must be unemployed or economically inactive as defined in our programme guide.

The project will have a specific focus on young people aged 15 - 24 who are NEET or at risk of becoming NEET and who are most at risk of social exclusion. This includes, but is not limited to:

- care leavers;
- young people with learning difficulties and disabilities (LDD);
- young people living with complex familial issues;
- young people in contact with the criminal justice system, at risk of committing crime or living or socialising with people committing crime;
- young carers;
- young people with mental health / health issues;
- young people at risk of committing crime or living or socialising with people committing

crime;

- young people with substance misuse issues;
- lone parents;
- those who are or at risk of exclusion from compulsory education.

Project outputs and results

The project must deliver the following outputs and results within its lifetime:

- At least 900 people are engaged in activities to improve their work readiness, including at least:
 - 450 men;
 - 450 women;
 - 225 people who are unemployed;
 - 675 people who are economically inactive;
 - 147 people with disabilities;
 - 86 people who live in a single adult household with dependent children;
 - 188 people with no basic skills;
 - 18 people from ethnic minorities.

NB each person can be counted against more than one category.

- At least 15 per cent of people enrolled on the project gain basic skills.
- At least 55 per cent of people (below 25 years of age) move into employment, including self-employment, or education / training upon leaving.
- In addition, you must ensure that anyone who needs access to childcare in order to participate in the project receives childcare support. This will be checked through a survey run by the Managing Authority.

These are the **minimum** targets we expect your project to deliver within its lifetime. Tell us if you will be able to support more people through the project, as this could have a bigger impact. Our assessment of your stage one application will take into account the different types of change that participants of the project will experience. If you are successful at stage one, we will ask you to develop a set of project outcomes that you will deliver alongside the outputs outlined above.