

Building Better Opportunities

Project outline

For use in England only



Project title	Project 3 of 5 Disadvantaged groups
Project reference number	Lanc/2/3
LEP area	Lancashire
ESF Thematic Objective	9: Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty
ESF Investment Priority	1.4: Active inclusion
Funding available	£3,622,200
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

Despite recent employment and job growth, Lancashire still contains significant pockets of deprivation, linked to low skill levels and limited employment opportunities. An analysis of the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (2010) shows extremes in Lancashire, from the affluent areas of the Ribble Valley and Wyre to several places that contain large areas of severe ingrained deprivation. These areas are associated with lower skill levels and economic activity rates. Six Lancashire authorities are ranked in the 50 most deprived in the country, with three of these (Blackpool, Burnley and Blackburn with Darwen) falling into the 10 per cent most deprived. Blackburn, Darwen and Wyre also have economic inactivity rates exceeding 30 per cent, well above the national average.

Despite the recent improvement in employment levels, Lancashire has seen an overall decline in employment of 2.5 per cent since 2008. Although this is lower than the UK average of three per cent, economic activity varies within the LEP (Local Enterprise Partnership) area. Lancashire LEP believes it has the potential to create significant employment opportunities over the period of this European Structural Infrastructure Fund (ESIF) programme, with the LEP aspiring to support the creation of 50,000 jobs.

Economic activity rates suggest that within the Lancashire LEP area, both members of Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities and women appear particularly disadvantaged in the labour market. It has also been identified locally that there are multiple barriers preventing disadvantaged people in the area from entering the workforce, these include: long term unemployment, low skills, low incomes; ill health and housing problems. Eight out of 14 Lancashire authorities have working age benefits and incapacity benefit rates well above the national average.

Health issues (both physical and mental) contribute to the barriers faced by people who are out of work. Over 200,000 of Lancashire's working age population have long term health problems that limit their day to day activities; in addition another 165,000 provide unpaid care for family or friends with an illness or a disability. Reducing the time that individuals are economically inactive will increase their chances of returning to employment where these issues are an obstacle to training or employment.

There is one project being delivered in the Lancashire area through Building Better Opportunities in tranche two:

- Project 3 - Disadvantaged groups

There are two projects currently being delivered in the Lancashire area through Building Better Opportunities in tranche one:

- Project 1 - Older People
- Project 2 - Young People

Applicants should ensure they are fully aware of the other projects we will be funding in the Lancashire area, even if they only plan to submit an application for this project.

Project aim

This project aims to offer support to individuals who are at risk of exclusion from the labour market. It will support disadvantaged people to move towards and into employment. This project should particularly target BAME groups, women, and those with physical and/or mental health problems, supporting them to tackle the barriers they face and identify routes to work.

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:

- outreach activities to engage participants;
- intensive tailored, flexible support that meets the individual's needs;
- confidence building activities and mentoring opportunities;
- additional support to ensure that individuals secure skills, including managing and overcoming barriers such as lack of motivation;
- support focusing on digital inclusion (activities including increasing computer literacy, developing basic ICT skills to enable access to and participation in employment and training opportunities);
- support to improve financial capability (the knowledge, skills, confidence and motivation to be able to manage money well) and awareness of and use of appropriate financial products and services;
- support to address barriers to employment due to health-related issues (particularly mental health) and wider barriers, such as issues around language, transport, childcare and basic skills;
- social enterprise and business shadowing opportunities and peer support/business mentors;
- volunteering activities;
- innovative activities that stimulate and motivate people to progress into employment, volunteering or further learning.

The project must align with other European Social Fund (ESF) and mainstream funded activity in Lancashire, including other opt in activity delivered through the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) and Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), for example the Blackpool Mental Health ESF project. This project has been designed as a progressive route to social inclusion and should prepare participants to engage with training and employment opportunities delivered through the SFA and DWP, as appropriate.

Applicants are encouraged to consider a wide range of innovative delivery models.

Project location

The project should be delivered across the Lancashire LEP area, but should include specialist provision for target participant groups.

Project participants

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

The project will have a specific focus on those most at risk of social exclusion. This includes but is not limited to:

- people from BAME communities;
- people with physical or mental health problems;
- people with learning difficulties.

Whilst we can support activities for young people between the ages of 15 and 18, there is a new statutory requirement for this age group to remain in education, employment or training. We can only pay for activities working with young people who are aged 16-29 and who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) and young people aged 15-18 who are NEET or at risk of becoming NEET. Young people below the age of 15 are ineligible participants. Unless the project is specifically aimed at young people, those aged 29 and over remain eligible participants.

Project outputs and results

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

- At least 879 people are engaged in activities to improve their work readiness, including at least:
 - 440 men;
 - 439 women;
 - 440 people who are unemployed;
 - 439 people who are economically inactive;
 - 176 people with disabilities;
 - 86 people from ethnic minorities.

N.B. each person can be counted against more than one category.

- At least 17 per cent of the people enrolled on the project move into education or training on leaving.
- At least 14 per cent of people move into employment, including self-employment, on leaving. Of these, 50 per cent must have been unemployed when joining the project and 50 per cent must have been economically inactive.
- At least 27 per cent of people who were economically inactive when joining the project move into job-search on 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.