

Building Better Opportunities

Project outline

For use in England only



Project reference	Project 2 of 5 - Working with Younger People (NEETS)
LEP area	Lancashire
ESF Thematic Objective	9: Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty
ESF Investment Priority	1.4: Active inclusion
Funding available	£2,667,500
Project start period	March 2016 to August 2016
Latest date for completion	December 2019
Date open for applications	Friday 5 June 2015
Deadline for stage one applications	12 noon on Monday 3 August 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 to the ESF Operational Programme in England when it is officially adopted by the European Commission. The 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 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 in 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

Lancashire is a place of rising qualification levels: the proportion of residents qualified to NVQ4+ has increased from 24.5 per cent in 2007 to 30.8 per cent in 2012. However, its performance does not compare well with the national average and there are areas where significant improvement is required to support identified growth sectors. For example, only 36 per cent of employed people in Lancashire are qualified to NVQ Level 4 or above, which is below the national average of 40 per cent. Lancashire does have a solid skills base but that will have to develop and expand to meet current and future business needs.

86 per cent of the 35,000 16-17 year olds in Lancashire are participating in some form of education, employment or training, just below the 88 per cent national rate. The majority are in full-time education and training (79 per cent), four per cent are in apprenticeships, 2.6 per cent in work-based learning and the remainder undertaking other forms of learning. Young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) will be unable to access the benefits of economic and employment growth. There are an estimated 3,200 NEET young people in Lancashire, six per cent of which are 16 to 18 years old. By age group, nearly 600 are 16 years old, over 1,000 aged 17 and 1,600 are 18 years old. Overall Lancashire has a higher than average number of NEETS. 15 per cent of 16-24 year olds in Lancashire are only qualified to NVQ Level one and nine per cent have no qualifications. Without intervention there is a real danger that excluded young people and communities living in some of the most deprived areas will be left behind as our economy develops. Experience has shown that investment in employability, skills and social inclusion infrastructure can help even the most disadvantaged individuals into employment.

Projections of demand for qualifications by industry in Lancashire for the period 2010 to 2020 indicate an increased demand for employees with higher level qualifications at NVQ Level four and above and a significant fall in demand for employees with NVQ Level one and those with no qualifications. Whilst a lack of skills will restrict local economic growth, it also has an impact on other challenges. The areas within Lancashire with the lowest skills levels are also those that are the most deprived, with the poorest health, highest levels of economic inactivity and lowest life expectancy.

There are five projects being delivered in the Lancashire area through Building Better Opportunities:

- Older People (one project in tranche one and a further project in tranche two of the Building Better Opportunities programme);
- Young People (one project in tranche one and a further project in tranche two);
- Disadvantaged groups (this will be part of tranche two).

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 reduce the number of NEETs in the Lancashire LEP area, specifically focusing on identifying and reaching the hardest to reach young people who are furthest away from the labour market and training. It aims to provide integrated support to young people who are not already engaged in statutory provision and work. It should tackle the barriers young people face and help individuals to find routes into employment, volunteering or further learning activities. The aim of the project is for longer term reengagement rather than short term outputs.

Project description

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

- intensive and/or wrap around support focused on confidence building and mentoring;
- innovative activities that stimulate and motivate young people to progress into employment, volunteering or further learning;
- additional support to ensure that individuals secure basic skills including managing and overcoming barriers such motivational support and health issues;
- 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 remove barriers to employment due to health-related issues (particularly mental health);
- outreach activities and access to locally provided services. This may include addressing issues related to, for example, health, language, transport, childcare and basic skills;
- providing Social Enterprise and business shadowing and peer support/business mentors;
- providing volunteering activities.

The Project must align with other 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). This project has been designed to be part of an ‘escalator’ approach 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 and focus on areas with significant numbers of NEETS and/or where the proportion of NEETs exceeds the national average (more detail is available on the Lancashire Local Enterprise Partnership website <http://www.lancashirelep.co.uk/>).

Project participants

All participants must be unemployed or economically inactive as defined in our programme guide. The people who will benefit from this project should come from within the Lancashire LEP area with a specific focus on those out of work and people who are most at risk of social exclusion. This includes, but is not limited to:

- NEETs;
- young people at risk of becoming NEET;
- ‘hidden’ NEETs (i.e. young people who are NEET but not formally recorded as NEET).

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 16-24 and who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) and young people aged 15-18 at risk of becoming NEET. Young people below the age of 15 are ineligible participants.

Project outputs and results

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

- At least 644 people are engaged in activities to improve their work readiness, including at least:
 - 322 men;
 - 322 women;

- 322 people who are unemployed;
- 322 people who are economically inactive;
- 129 people with disabilities;
- 62 people from ethnic minorities.

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

- At least 13 per cent of the people enrolled on the project move into education or training on leaving.
- At least 13 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.