

Building Better Opportunities

Project outline

For use in England only



Project title	Project 4 of 4 - Health Barriers to Employment (Tyne and Wear)
Project reference number	NE/2/4
LEP area	North East
ESF Thematic Objective	9: Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty
ESF Investment Priority	1.4: Active inclusion
Funding available	£4,816,000
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

The North East Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) (nelep.co.uk/whatwedo/strategic-economic-plan) sets out a vision for the area's economy to provide over one million jobs by 2024, representing 100,000 new jobs. It also sets out targets to close the productivity gap with the national average, improve private sector employment density, the economic activity rate and the employment rate. The North East ESIF (European Structural and Investment Funds) Strategy (nelep.co.uk/whatwedo/european-strategy) sets out the local framework for delivering on these aims in the context of Europe 2020 targets to generate smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

The evidence base, including the local Inclusive Growth Study, shows significant inequalities locally in employment and income rates. People over 50 and under 25, people who experience enduring mental health conditions, people from ethnic minorities, women, people who live in the most deprived areas and rural communities and disabled people (particularly people who have learning disabilities) have significantly lower employment and income levels than others. Many people fall into more than one of these groups, meaning they face increased disadvantage.

Health inequalities are particularly acute in the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (NELEP) area, with 28.1 per cent of economic inactivity attributable to long term sickness against 21.5 per cent nationally (Office for National Statistics Annual Population Survey, January 2014-December 2014). Many people with long-term health issues and disabilities are amongst those furthest from the labour market and are likely to need more focused and targeted support, perhaps over a longer period, to help them into work. There is also a significant focus in the SEP and local ESIF Strategy on the relatively low uptake (particularly among females) of science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) subjects and related gender inequalities in industries requiring these skills.

There are pockets of excellent practice in the NELEP area, but this can be sporadic and not always well aligned. Widespread consultation by NELEP with partners, including the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and Skills Funding Agency (SFA), local authorities, public health bodies and the voluntary and community sector, has identified a need to build on and add value to existing provision. Avoiding duplication will be critical, including consideration of emergent proposals around the Mental Health Trailblazer and European Social Fund (ESF) activities, including the DWP opt-in, community grants and open calls. Of particular note is the significant investment already committed in relation to young people in the area including Talent Match, Generation North East and other ESF projects. This project should contribute to aligning these activities, sharing best practice and addressing gaps as well as alignment with the Tyne and Wear Multiple Barriers to Employment project launched in tranche one.

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

- Project 4 - Tyne and Wear (Health barriers to employment)

There are three projects being delivered in the NELEP area through Building Better Opportunities in tranche one:

- Project 1 - Northumberland (Holistic support for those furthest from the labour market)
- Project 2 - Durham (Holistic support for those furthest from the labour market)
- Project 3 - Tyne and Wear (Multiple barriers to employment)

Applicants should ensure they are fully aware of the other projects we will be funding in the NELEP area (even if they only plan to submit an application for this project). Cross-consortium working within the LEP area (and where appropriate membership of more than one consortium) is encouraged to align provision across the three geographies.

Project aim

This project aims to provide support to the most disadvantaged groups in Tyne and Wear, who are

furthest from the labour market and who experience significant barriers to work. It will focus on physical and mental health barriers to employment, as the number of people who are economically inactive through ill health is relatively high across the sub-region. A person-centred approach will be required to recognise each individual's complex and overlapping needs and provide tailored support to address their key barriers to employment.

The project will need to provide activities that will focus on health barriers to employment and address health-related behaviours which increase the risk of illness. Activities should promote healthy lifestyles to enable individuals to become fit for work (for example addressing diet, exercise, smoking cessation and reducing alcohol consumption) and support people with mental health issues to progress towards economic activity.

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:

- supporting early action before health problems and barriers become entrenched;
- outreach activities and supporting people to access existing locally-provided services;
- buddying and support;
- motivation and confidence building;
- targeted initiatives to identify and address health barriers to employment, including fitness to work;
- volunteering opportunities to build confidence;
- supporting people to recognise the basic skills they already have and to build on them through training, mentoring, higher-level skills training and work experience, to enable people to move on to other support networks or local initiatives;
- activities to increase awareness of and participation in STEM-related provision by improving numeracy and problem-solving skills;
- additional and innovative approaches to pre-employment training and apprenticeships. This could include work-ready skills including confidence, time-management and raising aspiration to overcome health barriers;
- signposting and referring participants to mainstream services and wider packages of support, including using self-employment as a route out of worklessness;
- in-work support for participants who succeed in moving into employment;
- tailored and additional support, where necessary, for people with long-term health conditions and physical and mental disabilities, people over 50 and people experiencing addiction.

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

Project location

The project should be delivered across Tyne and Wear (including Newcastle, Gateshead, North Tyneside, South Tyneside and Sunderland). The project will be one of four operating in the NELEP area alongside projects in Northumberland, County Durham and a second project in Tyne and Wear. Alignment between the three geographies and four projects is considered fundamental to the successful delivery of this project.

Project participants

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

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

- people in households where no one works;
- people who are long-term unemployed;
- people with disabilities;
- people from Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities;
- people aged over 50;
- people with poor physical and mental health.

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 plus remain eligible participants.

Project outputs and results

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

- At least 1163 people are engaged in activities to improve their work readiness, including at least:
 - 581 men;
 - 582 women;
 - 582 people who are unemployed;
 - 581 people who are economically inactive;
 - 174 people who are 50 or older;
 - 233 people with disabilities;
 - 48 people from ethnic minorities.

NB 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.