

# Building Better Opportunities

## Project outline

For use in England only



<b>Project title</b>	Project 2 of 3 - Transitions - Preventative work with young people recently NEET or at risk of becoming NEET
<b>Project reference number</b>	Oxf/2/2
<b>LEP area</b>	Oxfordshire
<b>ESF Thematic Objective</b>	9: Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty
<b>ESF Investment Priority</b>	1.4: Active inclusion
<b>Funding available</b>	£734,100
<b>Project start period</b>	July 2016 to November 2016
<b>Latest date for completion</b>	December 2019
<b>Date open for applications</b>	8 October 2015
<b>Deadline for stage one applications</b>	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](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/esf).

## Project background

The number of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) is low across Oxfordshire, but is none the less persistent, localised and a serious problem both in the areas where it is concentrated and for the young people involved. The number of young people NEET in the county as a whole as at 31 May 2015 was 619 in school years 12 to 14: of this number, 133 people were NEET for six months or more in Oxford and Banbury.

In Oxfordshire, the number of NEETs has in fact been reducing steadily for the past five years. While this is very positive, it means that the young people who do remain NEET are much more likely to have complex barriers preventing them from moving into employment. It is well established that the longer young people are disengaged from education and training, the harder it is for them to move back into learning and find appropriate employment. This has been identified as a top priority within Oxfordshire LEP's local European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) plan and links with its 100 per cent Participation Strategy.

Many young people face more barriers to gaining employment than other job seekers, particularly as they often lack suitable qualifications and skills and previous work experience. Two of the Building Better Opportunities projects in Oxfordshire seek to engage young people with education, training and employment and improve their prospects.

The proposed work in this area has two components:

- Engagement - working with those already NEET.
- Transitions - working with those at risk of becoming NEET or who have recently become NEET.

The Engagement project will seek to work with existing providers of local services working with the participants to engage with young people who have been NEET for six months or more, provide an intensive programme supporting young people with employability, link young people to appropriate businesses, provide work placements and support young people into education, employment or training.

The Engagement project will require more intensive, tailored and flexible support than the Transitions project due to the more long-term and deep rooted nature of the issues faced by these young people.

The Transitions project supports the aim to ensure that all young people in Oxfordshire, and in particular the most vulnerable groups, are participating in education, training or employment with learning, thereby raising the aspirations of young people in the county. This also allows the opportunity to address an issue which, if not solved, can lead to serious long term problems.

There are two projects being delivered in the Oxfordshire area through Building Better Opportunities in tranche 2:

Project 2 - Transitions - Preventative work with young people recently NEET or at risk of becoming NEET

Project 3 - Engagement- Working with young people already NEET

There is one project being delivered in the Oxfordshire area through Building Better Opportunities in tranche 1:

Project 1 - Pathways for the long-term unemployed.

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

## Project aim

This project aims to provide support and advice for young people in years 11 and 12 aged from 15

to 17 who are at risk of becoming NEET, as well as young people in years 12 and 13 who have recently become NEET. The intention is to prevent people from becoming NEET and support those who have recently become NEET to move into education, apprenticeships, employment or training in line with Raising the Participation Age legislation. It aims to engage young people with programmes that have clear routes for them to develop confidence, self esteem, social skills and employability.

This project should not replace the statutory Information Advice and Guidance (IAG) provision that schools must provide but should support the transition of young people from school to education, employment and 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:

- providing flexible holistic one to one support tailored to the needs of the individual, to ensure they remain in or move into employment, education or training;
- providing information, advice and guidance to help each participant understand the best options for them in order to remain in (or move back into) education, employment or training;
- providing support for participants to improve their literacy and numeracy (where this is not accessible through mainstream education services);
- providing work-readiness support and help to access learning, training and job opportunities. For example: advice to help young people understand vocational routes into different careers; coaching and mentoring; volunteering and work experience opportunities; skills training; and activities that raise aspiration and reduce the attainment gap by preparing young people for working life (in particular for 15 to 17 year olds identified as at risk of becoming NEET);
- supporting young people to enable them to overcome barriers to employment, for example support to tackle substance misuse issues, manage long-term health issues or cover travel costs, signposting and referring participants to mainstream provision where appropriate.

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

### **Project location**

The project should be delivered across the Oxfordshire LEP area, including in more rural communities.

### **Project participants**

All participants must be unemployed or economically inactive as defined in our programme guide and should be at risk of NEET or those who are already NEET.

The project will have a specific focus on young people up to their eighteenth birthday:

- young people in National Curriculum Years 11 and 12 (aged 15 to 17) who are at risk of becoming NEET;
- young people in National Curriculum Years 12 and 13 (aged 16 to 17) who have recently become NEET.

### **Project outputs and results**

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

- At least 192 people are engaged in activities to improve their work readiness, including at

least:

- 96 men;
- 96 women;
- 38 people who are unemployed;
- 154 people who are economically inactive;
- 38 people with disabilities;
- 18 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 with training, 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 employment with training (including self-employment) or 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.