

# Building Better Opportunities

## Project outline

For use in England only



Project reference	Project 1 of 2 - Holistic support
LEP area	Sheffield
ESF Thematic Objective	9: Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty
ESF Investment Priority	1.4: Active inclusion
Funding available	£2,764,400 in total: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• £2,294,452 for provision in South Yorkshire</li><li>• £469,948 for provision in D2N2</li></ul>
Project start period	March 2016 to August 2016
Latest date for completion	December 2018
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](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/esf).

## Project background

Consultation on the city region's Strategic Economic and ESIF plans began in early 2013 across a variety of stakeholders including third sector organisations. Recent data-analysis has strengthened the original social inclusion strategy, confirming the priorities for the city region.

Economic inactivity is a major concern for the city region, with 78 per cent of the working age population who are without work being economically inactive. The latest research in SCR's Social Inclusion Strategy Green Paper provides stark evidence of the impact of ill health in the city region, with poor health being above national levels; this is a major barrier to employment. Data from NOMIS shows that 99,610 people locally claim Employment Support Allowance (ESA), Incapacity Benefit (IB) or disability benefits, over 10 times the number of long-term unemployed. Long term illness and disability is higher than the national average and 25.4 per cent of economically inactive people in the city region are inactive due to long-term sickness. Employment rates for people with mental health, learning disabilities and long term health conditions are between 6.7 per cent and 8.7 per cent nationally, with these levels being even lower in the city region.

Recent evidence outlined in the State of Sheffield and the Social Inclusion Strategy Green Paper highlighted the impact of welfare reform on individuals and families, with an estimated annual loss of £169 million to the Sheffield City economy. These losses bear down most particularly on those people who are already likely to be socially excluded and under financial stress. The other districts in the city region face similar challenges. The State of Sheffield report also showed increasing levels of financial vulnerability and consequent need for financial inclusion support.

In some parts of the city region, lack of English language and basic skills create a challenge, notably for refugees and asylum seekers and the Gypsy and Roma communities. The Social Inclusion and Equalities Advisory Board have commissioned further research and sector consultation, which has highlighted "hotspots" of need for English as a Second Language (ESOL) and basic English support and a general need for digital confidence and skills support. Although there is mainstream provision for ESOL, there is a need for innovative community-based support to provide very first steps, as many individuals lack the confidence or information to access college-based courses.

There are two projects being delivered in the Sheffield City Region LEP area through Building Better Opportunities:

- Holistic support;
- Social entrepreneurship.

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

Further supporting information, that should be considered when completing the application, can be found on the LEP website, which can be accessed via the link published on the Big Lottery Fund website:

<https://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/global-content/programmes/england/building-better-opportunities/sheffield-city-region>.

Assessment will include consideration of how well applications address the information contained in relevant parts of the local ESIF strategy and this document.

## Project aim

This project aims to improve employability skills for those furthest from the labour market and inactive individuals with complex or multiple barriers to employment. The aim is to help these people move closer towards and into employment. The project will specifically address the employability health challenges identified in the city region, including the high levels of disability and long term health impairment. It will offer an integrated and person-centred approach, which

addresses the complexity of individual needs to enable participants to move towards work and out of poverty. It should also encourage the support of personal advocates and mentors.

### 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:

- providing a holistic assessment of an individual's needs and then appropriate interventions that are tailored to help people move towards work;
- addressing debt and money management skills/financial literacy;
- increasing digital literacy to enable participants to engage with the labour market and participate in employment and training;
- provision or brokering of training (i.e. behavioural support), work experience or volunteering focused on specific, individual needs;
- health and condition-management support;
- innovative and local English as a second language and ESOL provision;
- referral to literacy/numeracy skills provision and other mainstream services to meet individuals' wider needs.

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

### Project location

The project should be delivered across the Sheffield City Region LEP area, but provision should be made for those key areas identified as having a high need for English as a second language and basic English: Darnall, Tinsley, Netherthorpe, Pitsmoor, Fir Vale, Grimesthorpe, Broomhall, Sharrow, Highfield, Shirebrook, Doncaster Central, Barnsley Central, Bassetlaw and Worksop.

### 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 Sheffield City Region LEP area and be aged 25 and over, 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:

- economically inactive people with health problems (including mental health);
- Learners with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities (LLDD) conditions.

People with two or more of the following barriers to labour market participation:

- caring responsibilities;
- people aged 50 and over
- people recovering from drug and alcohol dependency;
- people with a lack of functional English;
- people with family, parenting and relationship problems;
- people without stable living accommodation;
- people with low skills;
- people from black and ethnic minority (BAME) communities, migrants who have the right to work in the UK or Roma communities.

### Project outputs and results

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

- At least 642 people are engaged in activities to improve their work readiness, including at least:

- 321 men;
- 321 women;
- 129 people who are unemployed;
- 513 people who are economically inactive;
- 131 people who are 50 or older;
- 321 people with disabilities;
- 96 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 11 per cent of people move into employment, including self-employment, on leaving. Of these, 20 per cent must have been unemployed when joining the project and 80 per cent must have been economically inactive.
- At least 29 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.