

Building Better Opportunities

Project outline

For use in England only



Project title	Project 3 of 3 - Addressing barriers to work in the west of Thames Valley Berkshire
Project reference number	TVB/3/3
LEP area	Thames Valley Berkshire
ESF Thematic Objective	9: Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty
ESF Investment Priority	1.4: Active inclusion
Funding available	£1,317,540
Project start period	March 2017 to July 2017
Latest date for completion	June 2020
Date open for applications	17 March 2016
Deadline for stage one applications	12 noon on Monday 16 May 2016

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

Thames Valley Berkshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) has a strong focus on reducing economic inactivity and increasing workforce skills by promoting access to employment, social inclusion and skills for growth. The LEP ESIF strategy will contribute to social inclusion by supporting activities that will extend employment opportunities to disadvantaged people in the labour market who fall outside of existing work schemes.

Whilst Berkshire is a comparatively affluent area, there are some specific significant pockets of deprivation. These levels of deprivation equal or exceed those in the most challenged areas of the country. A number of areas perform badly against all seven indices of multiple deprivations: employment, income, child poverty, health, education, older people's poverty and crime.

There are three projects being delivered in the Thames Valley Berkshire area through Building Better Opportunities:

- Project One - Supporting families with complex needs
- Project Two - Addressing barriers to work in the east of Thames Valley Berkshire (in the Local Authority areas of Slough, Bracknell Forest and the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead)
- Project Three - Addressing barriers to work in the west of Thames Valley Berkshire (in the Local Authority areas of West Berkshire, Reading and Wokingham)

Applicants should ensure they are fully aware of the other projects we will be funding in the Thames Valley Berkshire 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/thames-valley-berkshire>

Assessment will include consideration of how well applications address the information contained in relevant parts of the local ESIF strategy, the Thames Valley Berkshire Building Better Opportunities briefing document (see <http://thamesvalleyberkshire.co.uk/esf>) and this project outline.

Project aim

This project aims to provide support to the most disadvantaged groups in targeted parts of the Thames Valley Berkshire area, to move towards and into employment. This includes supporting people who are furthest from the labour market to develop their capacities and competencies for work, including self-employment or becoming social entrepreneurs

It will work with people in the most excluded communities and neighbourhoods where there are high levels of deprivation and social exclusion. Participants will be those furthest from the labour market, who experience significant barriers to work.

The project will be targeted at addressing the key factors affecting access to employment (including self-employment), education and training in both urban and rural areas.

It will work with people aged 25 and over only, in order to avoid duplication with the existing provision for young people not in education, employment or training.

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:

- provision of outreach and support to people living in more remote areas;
- a holistic assessment of each individual's needs, followed by tailored support measures;
- support to improve access to transport and address other wider barriers, signposting and referring participants on to mainstream and other services, as necessary;
- support to become work-ready (for example, careers advice, access to learning, training, volunteering and work experience opportunities);
- support for those who want to start and grow a business to become self employed including specialist advice on social enterprise development and funding opportunities and providing the support needed to launch and manage an organisation;
- networking and communication of existing social entrepreneurs' activity/services across Thames Valley Berkshire LEP area to participants.

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

Project location

The project should be delivered in targeted neighbourhoods and communities across the West of the Thames Valley Berkshire LEP area (West Berkshire and the areas surrounding and including Reading and Wokingham). You should explain in your application which areas you plan to target and why, in order to serve the people who are furthest from the labour market. Your targeting should include consideration of how best to reach and work with the less densely concentrated numbers of people who live in rural areas.

Project participants

All participants must be unemployed or economically inactive as defined in our programme guide and be aged 25 or older.

The project will have a specific focus on those out of work and people who are most at risk of social exclusion in targeted areas of deprivation in Thames Valley Berkshire. The focus should be on the following participant groups, as identified in the briefing paper written by the Thames Valley Berkshire LEP:

- people aged 50 and over;
- people with long term and on-going underlying health issues
- the long-term unemployed and those experiencing entrenched worklessness
- ex-offenders
- people claiming Employment and Support Allowance who have mental health issues
- lone parents and carers.

Project outputs and results

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

- At least 334 people are engaged in activities to improve their work readiness, including at least:
 - 167 men;

- 167 women;
- 167 people who are unemployed;
- 167 people who are economically inactive;
- 54 people who are 50 or older;
- 68 people with disabilities;
- 67 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. However, please be realistic in estimates and provide justification for any higher targets you set yourself. 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.