



Lancashire Skills and Employment Board

Private and Confidential: No

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Part 1: Steering Group and Strategic Partnerships

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Executive Summary

The Skills Funding Agency (SFA) European Social Fund (ESF) opt-in targeting young people at risk of or not in education, employment or training (NEET) has commenced. The Building Better Opportunities (BBO) Big Lottery ESF opt-in is due to commence in September. The overarching steering group has been convened and has met; draft terms of reference are provided for approval by the board.

An update is also provided in relation to the appointment of the Strategic Partnerships Manager (NEET) which will be deployed to the hub to undertake strategic alignment activity. Interviews take place on Monday 25th July.

Recommendation

The board are asked to approve the terms of reference for the steering group, subject to comments from committee members.

1. Background

- 1.1 As per the ESIF update at the last committee meeting, the SFA ESF opt-in project for young people at risk of or not in education, employment or training (NEET) has now been contracted and has commenced delivery. The successful consortium, which is led by the Lancashire Employment and Skills Executive Partnership, consists of the Lancashire Colleges, private sector providers and a range of Lancashire-based third sector organisations. The accountable body is Preston's College.

- 1.2 The accountable body will provide an overview of the project scope and targets at the meeting, alongside recommendations for reporting, and the capacity building funding element of the project which the Skills and Employment Board are required to 'sign off'.
- 1.3 As part of the capacity building fund, a Strategic Partnerships Manager will be deployed to the hub, by the accountable body.
- 1.4 The BBO ESF opt-in project for young people who are NEET is likely to launch in September.

2. Steering Group

- 2.1 As discussed and agreed at the last committee meeting a steering group has been convened which will overarch both projects, to ensure complementary activity and appropriate referrals. The steering group has met and a draft set of terms of reference has been developed for approval by the Skills and Employment Board (see Appendix 1), including recommended membership.

3. Strategic Partnerships Manager (NEET)

- 3.1 As per the last committee meeting, the hub has progressed discussions with Preston's College to recruit the Strategic Partnerships Manager (NEET) which will be deployed to the hub to undertake work in regard to strategic alignment. The advert was circulated to committee members. The deadline for applications was Friday 15th July. A strong field of applications was received. Interviews will take place on Monday 25th July. A verbal update on the outcome of the interviews will be provided at the meeting.
- 3.2 As discussed at the last committee meeting it is anticipated that the Strategic Partnerships Manager will chair the steering group and provide regular progress updates to the Skills and Employment Board, working closely with the two accountable bodies and strategic partners.

Appendix 1.

Lancashire Youth Steering Group

Terms of Reference

DRAFT

Aim

The Steering Group's primary responsibility is to work in partnership to ensure that activity targeting young people who are at risk of becoming NEET or who are NEET, which aims to support and engage Lancashire young people into positive outcomes, works in a complementary way to the benefit of young people.

The Steering Group will specifically oversee the performance of ESF activity targeted at young people under the ESF SFA project 'Moving On' and the ESF BBO project 'Invest in Youth'.

Young people in this in context are 15-18 years old, including young people up to the age of 25 with an Education Health Care (EHC) plan, in Lancashire who are either at risk of becoming NEET or are NEET for 'Moving On' and 16-24 year old disadvantaged NEETs for 'Invest in Youth'.

Positives outcomes are young people successfully progressing into education, employment and training. For the 'Invest in Youth' project a positive outcome is also further job search.

Objectives

1. To ensure organisations delivering projects/initiatives, education and training targeted at young people at risk of NEET or NEET are complementary to, and not in competition with, each other.
2. To build a network of partners and stakeholders to share and maintain an understanding of local needs, opportunities, as well as policy changes.
3. To actively engage with local stakeholders so that they can steer the activities delivered and ensure that the activities continue to be relevant within the local context.
4. To align activity aimed at supporting Lancashire's young people for their benefit.
5. To oversee effective referral processes across the stakeholder network.
6. To oversee the development of an effective escalator model, including progression opportunities and pathways for young people across the stakeholder network.
7. To ensure that new initiatives that come on-line complement existing activity and that all activity adds value.
8. Monitor the performance of both projects and provide the Lancashire Skills and Employment Board with regular performance updates, including pipeline information.
9. To monitor progress and report against the delivery of the 'Moving On' capacity building plan to the Skills and Employment Board quarterly.

10. Oversee the development of an evaluation strategy which runs concurrently with the lifespan of the projects and evaluates the impact on young people in Lancashire and the labour market.

Chair

The Steering group will be chaired by the Strategic Partnerships Manager (NEET).

Membership

- LESEP
- SELNET
- Preston's College
- Lancashire Skills and Employment Hub
- Lancashire County Council
- Blackpool Council
- Blackburn with Darwen Council

Stakeholder network

Schools, colleges, private providers, universities and information, advice and guidance providers. Providers of other ESF projects, the voluntary and community sector and the National Citizen Service and appropriate specialist providers.

Meeting Frequency

Bi-monthly meetings.

Governance Relationship with the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP)

The Youth Steering Group will report into the LEP via the Lancashire Skills and Employment Board.

Glossary

ESF: European Social Funds

SFA: Skills Funding Agency

BBO: Building Better Opportunities (Big Lottery / ESF Programme)

NEET: Not in Education, Employment or Training

LEP: Lancashire Enterprise Partnership

LESEP: Lancashire Employment Skills Executive Partnership

SELNET: Social Enterprise Lancashire Network