



Lancashire Skills and Employment Board

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Part 2: Lancashire Moving On Project

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Executive Summary

Preston's College has been awarded the ESF/SFA NEET contract as Lead Accountable Body (LAB), and operating jointly with the Lancashire Employment & Skills Executive Partnership (LESEP). This project runs until March 2018 and has been branded 'Lancashire Moving On' aiming to impact positively on a minimum of 2539 young people in Lancashire who are NEET or at risk of becoming NEET.

The project will be delivered collaboratively through a broad range of partners and in line with contractual and LEP specific requirements which aim to ensure that funding is directed to those with multiple barriers to participation in employment, education and training.

Reports will be created by the LAB working with LESEP and will be presented to the Youth Steering Group through to the Skills and Employment Board and ESIF Thematic Group.

Recommendations

That the Board considers and notes:

1. The over commitment model adopted in line with an early bid for growth
2. The initial reporting outline

That the Board considers and approves:

3. The Capacity Building Plan outline

1.0 ESF funded activity to support those who are NEET in Lancashire

Though the SFA commissioning round for ESF funded activity to support those who are NEET in Lancashire, Preston's College has been awarded the contract as Lead

Accountable Body (LAB), subcontracting to a network of 23 Lancashire providers comprising the FE Colleges, Independent Training Providers and specialist partners, operating jointly through the Lancashire Employment & Skills Executive Partnership (LESEP). LESEP comprises The Lancashire Colleges and The Lancashire Work Based Learning Executive Forum.

See Appendix 1 (Subcontracting Spreadsheet)

The contract covers the full Lancashire LEP area and runs from May 2016 to Mar 2018.

Preston's College and LESEP have undertaken significant preparatory work to establish a pan Lancashire delivery infrastructure including Due Diligence and initial partner profiling and contracting, and providing ongoing guidance for delivery partners. Electronic and paper based systems and procedures are in place. These are now approved by the SFA, supporting timely and accurate transfer of data and paper based information and facilitating performance and quality monitoring and reporting.

2.0 Lancashire Moving On Programme Delivery and Outcomes

	Lancashire Volumes	Deliverables %
Total Starts	2539	100%
Starts ages 15-16	762	30%
Starts ages 16-18	1777	70%
Achievement	-	85%
Maths and English uplift	889	35%
Progressions overall	2031	80%
Progression to paid employment	152	6%
Progression to unpaid employment	51	2%
Progression or retention in education	1421	56%
Progression to apprenticeship	305	12%
Progression to Traineeship	102	4%

2.1 Aim of Project

The aim is to reduce the number of young people aged 15 -18 (15 - 24 SEND) who are NEET or at risk of becoming NEET. Progression rates are high making it imperative that all provision is outcome focused and directly improves education, employability and personal skills to 'Move On' to successful outcomes including:

- Further learning
- Traineeship
- Apprenticeship
- Paid Employment
- Unpaid employment

2.2 Targeted focus

There is a very clear direction to work with those with multiple barriers in terms of background, characteristics, geographic location and, although there is the facility to work with those significantly at risk, the project will specifically focus on completely NEET young people. Partners are tasked to focus activity to those with the following characteristics:

- SEND and vulnerable groups
- Young offenders and those known to be at risk of offending
- Looked after children and Care Leavers
- Young parents
- Those with drug and alcohol abuse
- Those with Emotional/behavioural and mental health issues
- Those from troubled or workless families including
- Low income identified by various indicators including Free School Meals (FSM)

Local knowledge will further target delivery to known groups, geographical areas and specific local issues.

2.3 Programme Delivery

Partners will deliver varied and responsive 'outcome focused' programmes including:

- Non regulated and Regulated learning pathways which will interest and engage and encourage progression to more substantial employment or education
- Tailored individualised programmes of learning based on strong Careers Information, Advice and Guidance) CIAG
- Year round provision continuing over the summer transition period
- Delivery in identified 'hotspots' at ward level
- Enhanced transition work for those with no planned destination at age 16.
- Quality work experience / tasters / placements
- Substantial programmes including maths and English for fully NEET 16+ group
- CIAG and Coaching to underpin all provision
- Combination of short programmes leading to more substantial outcomes including
Priority sector based tasters and programmes including: Construction, Health, Digital and Creative, Engineering, Visitor Economy

2.4 Implementation Process

- Dedicated LAB Compliance team in place
- Joint working with LESEP, Skills and Employment Hub and SELNET
- Steering Group established – Terms of reference to be agreed

- Claims process and cycle clearly identified
- Standardised evidence paperwork approved by SFA
- ILR data transfer process established
- Password protected Partner Portal to allow secure data transfer
- Data Sharing process discussions underway with Local Authorities
- Initial SFA implementation meetings supportive and processes agreed
- District Level Partnerships to be established
- District Leads to be identified
- Recruitment process underway for Strategic Partnerships Manager (NEET)
- Full Marketing and Communication Strategy to be rolled out through LESEP

2.5 Performance and Quality Monitoring

The LAB has appointed a Performance and Quality Co-ordinator to work alongside the Compliance Team as the main point of contact for all partners and to carry out monthly Performance and Quality reviews. Risk levels will be identified and monthly action plans established. The Co-ordinator will provide contextual analysis of the hard evidence around performance and quality which will be included in the reporting process.

Partner profiles have been completed and in total exceed the maximum contract value. To accommodate this, contracts have been agreed which profile new starts until July 2017 only. Should individual partners achieve against their profiles, outcomes and associated values, funding may be moved around the network. In the case of full project overachievement, a growth case will be submitted to the SFA at the earliest possible point.

Specialist partners have been included for their ability to reach the most vulnerable groups at District levels, the flexibility of their offers and innovative approaches to secure employment outcomes.

2.6 Reporting

Reports will be created by the LAB working closely with LESEP and will incorporate:

- Data demonstrating performance against forecast
- Pending data
- Monitoring of spend through volume : value ratios
- Starts to achievement / progression outcome ratios
- Contextual information around priority groups and areas
- Contract specific horizontal principles
- Contract specific and additional enhanced LEP service requirements

2.6 Showcasing

Activity will be showcased through:

- Case studies
- Features on partner and Hub websites
- Use of videos and podcasts
- Community, school and employer events
- Celebration and dissemination events

2.7 Capacity Building

The LEP Service requirements specified the identification of £150,000 from project earnings to be allocated to the following:

- Strategic Partnerships Manager (NEET) post employed by the LAB and seconded to Skills and Employment Hub
- Capacity Building resource

The recruitment process for the Strategic Partnership Manager (NEET) has been jointly facilitated by the Skills and Employment Hub and Preston's College. The post has been advertised through the College and 5 strong candidates shortlisted with interviews to be held at Woodlands Chorley on the 25th July.

Joint discussions have influenced the priorities for the Capacity Building Resource. LESEP will be taking responsibility for working with the Skills and Employment Hub to deliver, monitor and evaluate these elements.

See Appendix 2 (Capacity Building Resource Spreadsheet)

3.0 Conclusion

The detailed planning of the implementation stage demonstrates that the project will be delivered collaboratively through a broad range of partners and in line with contractual and LEP specific requirements. The initial SFA visits and recommendations give confidence that underpinning systems and procedures are solid and that audit requirements have been addressed, offering strong levels of assurance around delivery and the achievement of maximum contract value.