

Building Better Opportunities

Project outline

For use in England only



Project reference	Project 1 of 1 - Multiple and complex needs
LEP area	Cheshire and Warrington LEP
ESF Thematic Objective	9: Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty
ESF Investment Priority	1.4: Active inclusion
Funding available	£10,670,000
Project start period	March 2016 to August 2016
Latest date for completion	December 2019
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.

Project background

The Cheshire and Warrington ESIF programme aims to strengthen the local economy, while also tackling some of the challenges faced by communities across the area. Based on research and local intelligence, it has been identified that many individuals and families in Cheshire and Warrington continue to experience disadvantage; which is particularly concentrated in persistent pockets of unemployment and economic inactivity. As a consequence many people are facing social exclusion and poverty. Providing access to employment is recognised as one route to overcoming this, and aligns with Cheshire and Warrington LEP's Strategic Economic Plan.

Data from the Department for Work and Pensions (2012) shows that there are over 45,000 people aged 25-64 in Cheshire and Warrington facing significant barriers to employment. Barriers include factors such as: living in households where no one works; caring responsibilities, including being a lone parent; being affected by long term ill-health, mental health issues or disability; having low levels of basic skills; geographical barriers such as rural isolation and transport difficulties; digital exclusion; having a history of offending; and financial exclusion. Addressing such barriers will enable people to play an active role in their community and move towards and into employment.

Information from the Department for Communities and Local Government (March 2013) showed that there were 1,455 troubled families across the Cheshire and Warrington LEP area. Helping troubled and complex families can generate multiple benefits, including supporting adults to access/return to work, reducing benefit dependency and creating social capital such as reduced anti-social behaviour and supporting children back into education. Complex families are those who are at risk of becoming troubled families, and do not fully meet the requirements of support from the statutory Troubled Families programme.

Project aim

This project aims to support individuals and families with multiple and complex needs to move closer to, and into, the labour market. The project will focus on those who are furthest from the labour market, helping them move towards and into employment. Employment will be one measure, but so too will be the confidence of participants to progress onto other training, education or volunteering opportunities. Therefore the project will need to:

- provide the means through which disadvantaged people become work-ready, and are able to access learning, training and job opportunities;
- engage and support disadvantaged people to enable them to overcome barriers to employment;
- be responsive to the different needs of individuals and communities;
- provide consistent levels of support across urban and rural areas.

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:

- a holistic assessment of an individual's needs;
- helping individuals to gain a greater understanding of their own abilities and learning needs and to build confidence;
- providing bespoke and intensive support for individuals, including information, advice and guidance. Supporting participants to address specific barriers preventing them from moving towards and into employment. This might include improving employability and interview skills and helping participants apply for jobs;
- providing help to participants to overcome wider barriers to work and to engage better with public services. Referring participants to other support, as necessary;
- supporting joint working that is additional to existing provision, such as working with the Troubled Families teams and local transport leads;

- providing access to volunteering opportunities, work experience placements and training to gain qualifications;
- the provision of small group support in some rurally isolated areas.

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

Project location

The project should be delivered across the whole of the Cheshire and Warrington LEP area, including more rural communities. Geographical coverage of Cheshire and Warrington LEP area is fundamental to the successful delivery of this project.

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 be those furthest from the labour market, who have complex needs and face multiple barriers. This includes, but is not limited to:

- people from complex or troubled families;
- people with disabilities, or health problems including mental ill health;
- people with caring responsibilities;
- people facing geographic barriers to accessing employment;
- people undergoing the transition to Universal Credit;
- young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET);
- people who are financially or digitally excluded;
- people who are care leavers, offenders (not in custody) or ex-offenders.

Whilst we can support activities for young people between the ages of 15 and 18, there is a new statutory requirement for this age group to remain in education, employment or training. We can only pay for activities working with young people who are aged 16-29 and who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) and young people aged 15-18 who are NEET or at risk of becoming NEET. Young people below the age of 15 are ineligible participants. Unless the project is specifically aimed at young people, those aged 29+ remain eligible participants.

Project outputs and results

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

- At least 2,685 people are engaged in activities to improve their work readiness, including at least:
 - 1,343 men;
 - 1,342 women;
 - 1,342 people who are unemployed;
 - 1,343 people who are economically inactive;
 - 425 people who are 50 or older;
 - 547 people with disabilities;
 - 89 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. 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.