

Building Better Opportunities

Project outline

For use in England only



Project title	Project 3 of 3 - Engagement - Working with young people already NEET
Project reference number	Oxf/2/3
LEP area	Oxfordshire
ESF Thematic Objective	9: Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty
ESF Investment Priority	1.4: Active inclusion
Funding available	£734,100
Project start period	July 2016 to November 2016
Latest date for completion	December 2019
Date open for applications	8 October 2015
Deadline for stage one applications	12 noon on 30 November 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 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

The number of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) is low across Oxfordshire, but is none the less persistent, localised and a serious problem both in the areas where it is concentrated and for the young people involved. The number of young people NEET in the county as a whole as at 31 May 2015 was 619 in school years 12 to 14: of this number, 133 people were NEET for six months or more in Oxford and Banbury.

In Oxfordshire, the number of NEETs has in fact been reducing steadily for the past five years. While this is very positive, it means that the young people who do remain NEET are much more likely to have complex barriers preventing them from moving in to employment. It is well established that the longer young people are disengaged from education and training, the harder it is for them to move back in to learning and find appropriate employment. This has been identified as a top priority within Oxfordshire LEP's local European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) plan and links with their 100% Participation Strategy.

This project aims to ensure that all young people in Oxfordshire, and in particular the most vulnerable groups, are participating in education, training or employment with learning, thereby raising the aspirations of young people in the county. This also allows the opportunity to use European Union funds to address an issue which, if not solved, can lead to serious long term problems.

The proposed work in this area has two components:

- Engagement - this project providing action to reach out to those already NEET.
- Transitions - a project targeting those at risk of becoming NEET or who become NEET.

The Engagement project will seek to work with existing providers of local services working with the participants to engage with young people who have been NEET for six months or more, provide an intensive programme supporting young people with employability, link young people to appropriate businesses, provide work placements and support young people into education, employment or training.

The Engagement project will require more intensive, tailored and flexible support than the Transitions project due to the more long-term and deep rooted nature of the issues faced by these young people.

Many young people face additional barriers to employment than other job seekers, particularly as they often lack suitable qualifications and skills and previous work experience. This project seeks to re-engage young people with education, training and employment and improve their prospects.

There are two projects being delivered in the Oxfordshire area through Building Better Opportunities in tranche 2:

Project 2 - Transitions - Preventative work with young people at risk of becoming NEET and those who have recently become NEET

Project 3 - Engagement- Working with young people already NEET.

There is one project being delivered in the Oxfordshire area through Building Better Opportunities in tranche 1:

Project 1 - Pathways for the long-term unemployed.

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

Project aim

This project aims to provide employment support and advice to young people aged from 17 to 19 who have been NEET for six months or more primarily in National Curriculum Years 13 and 14. It

aims to support these young people to move back into education, training or employment through innovative engagement activities.

Project description

The specific activities to be delivered through this project should be determined by applicants and clearly articulated in their stage one application form, but possible activities could include:

- providing intensive and long term activities which engage the participants and allow them to build their self confidence, aspirations, skills and experience;
- providing bespoke holistic one to one support tailored to the needs of the individual, to help them move towards and into employment, education or training;
- providing support for participants to improve their basic skills, literacy and numeracy (where this is not accessible through mainstream education services);
- providing work-readiness support and help to access learning, training and job opportunities (for example, advice to help young people understand vocational routes into different careers, coaching and mentoring, volunteering and work experience opportunities, skills training and activities that raise aspiration and reduce the attainment gap by preparing young people for working life);
- intensive support to enable participants to overcome entrenched and longer-term barriers to employment (for example support to tackle substance misuse issues, manage long-term health issues or cover travel costs, signposting and referring participants mainstream provision where appropriate);
- providing a various range of activities including music, art, food, gaming, street sport etc. to successfully engage young people and help them gain confidence and softer skills.

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

Project location

The project should be delivered across the Oxfordshire LEP area and should include specialist provision for people located in Oxford and Banbury.

Project participants

All participants must be unemployed or economically inactive as defined in our programme guide and must be NEET and have been so for six months or more.

The project will have a specific focus on young people in National Curriculum Years 13 and 14 up to their 20th Birthday.

Project outputs and results

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

- At least 193 people are engaged in activities to improve their work readiness, including at least:
 - 96 men;
 - 97 women;
 - 39 people who are unemployed;
 - 154 people who are economically inactive;
 - 38 people with disabilities;
 - 18 people from ethnic minorities.

NB each person can be counted against more than one category.

- At least 17 per cent of the people enrolled on the project move into education or training on leaving.
- At least 14 per cent of people move into employment with training, 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 employment with training (including self-employment) or 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.