

Opportunity for community partnerships to work with Jobcentre Plus in East & South East Scotland District

Social Justice: Transforming Lives¹ was published in March 2012. It set out the Government's vision for a society in which local and national services work together to tackle the causes of poverty in the UK.

Work is undeniably the best and most sustainable route out of poverty; about two-thirds of parents in poverty who enter work subsequently move out of poverty. Apart from its obvious economic benefits, for people recovering from problems such as drug addiction or mental ill-health, work can provide a stable environment to support their ongoing recovery.

Equally, worklessness can have serious and lasting negative impacts, particularly on the life chances of children who grow up in households where no adults work. This can create an intergenerational cycle of worklessness and entrenched poverty that can be devastating to individuals, families and communities across the UK. Breaking this cycle of worklessness is, therefore, a major priority for the Government

We want to transform investment and service delivery for those at risk or experiencing disadvantage. Our goal is to ensure that support is coherent and effective, providing the holistic and tailored services they need.

We know that some of the best ideas come from social organisations that are working at the grass roots with the hardest-to-help.

We aspire to join up public services such as health, housing, transport, employment and skills to help local people back into work. We seek to achieve value for money and alignment of funding which supports our primary aim of getting as many people back to work as quickly as possible across East & South East District.

Therefore we are looking for new, creative, unique and innovative proposals which will be delivered by a number of organisations working together in partnership.

The ability to demonstrate collaborative partnership activity with Jobcentre Plus and key stakeholders, including voluntary and community based organisations is a criteria and minimum requirement for this application. The project should be led by a recognised Lead Accountable Body (LAB) with auditable accounts i.e. not-for profit organisation.

We are looking specifically for applications which add to (but do not replicate) existing Jobcentre Plus services to unemployed people before or following their participation in the Work Programme. Your proposal will avoid duplication of services and normally not be purchased through open procurement and EU law, whilst developing a solution to the 'what's next?' question where the partnership can holistically support an individual or family through a particular issue: health, lifestyle, addiction, offending, lack of skills etc. We will need to be satisfied that the objective cannot be met by other means before committing to funding through a grant.

We particularly welcome programmes which include activities outside the traditional classroom environment that have been proven to develop life skills and increase outcomes for individuals. The outcome is the capacity to move into work experience, training, employment, education and have the resilience to sustain it. We will be looking at partnership activities which achieve the maximum business benefits and where payments may be linked to agreed work-related outcomes.

The minimum requirements for your proposal should include "soft skills" to employment and focus on **ONE** of the following:

1. **Lone Parents on Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) or Income Support (IS)** – A specific programme to support claimants who may feel that they are a long way from being able to compete for and sustain employment, and for whom a variety of engagement, 'life skills' development and coping activities are needed before they can successfully access and progress through more formal training or work related activities. Links with childcare/crèches whilst attending programme is preferable. Consideration needs to be given regarding school hours.
2. **Claimants aged 25+ in receipt of JSA or Employment Support Allowance (ESA) in a Work Related Activity Group (WRAG)** who have multiple barriers to life and employment needing intensive programme support, in addition to the Jobcentre Plus offer. These claimants are a significant distance from the labour market, so may need individual solutions. This may include ex-offenders, people with a history of homelessness or claimants who have never worked
3. **Claimants aged 50+** - A specific programme to help people who may feel they are unable to compete for employment and for whom motivation, confidence, IT skills, transferrable skills and health issues will require addressing.
- 4 **Claimants on JSA, IS, or ESA** who may feel, due to their disability or health, in particular mental health issues, unable to compete for employment. A variety of engagement, motivation and confidence techniques may be required, in addition to learning coping mechanisms for managing and balancing health with work. This can run alongside provision, such as Work Choice, but cannot be a duplication of either current or previous provision for this claimant group.

In all of the above, we are particularly interested in unique local solutions for the very different communities across the district – this may be community specific, local authority related etc.

Your proposal should last at least 6 weeks and detail how your partnership with the other organisations, will address the claimant needs and barriers listed above; stating which element each partner will deliver. Tangible outcomes and expected destinations should be given for participants who complete your programme i.e. employment, training, education.

Minimum requirements for the partnership

We will offer a grant up to the **value of £50,000** to a recognised Lead Accountable Body (LAB) who will manage and be accountable for the money on behalf of the partnership.

As a minimum this should include information that demonstrates

- The reason why the claimants you are planning to work with cannot be supported by existing training provision e.g. Work Programme, Support Contract, Work Choice, College course etc.
- Evidence that the partnership has considered the needs of the local labour market and local claimants, as well as having consulted with local Jobcentre to confirm this.
- Details of how many claimants the partnership opportunity will support and for how long.
- Details of what outcome will be delivered by the Grant Funded programme (e.g. projected job outcomes, specific qualifications to be gained, work experience opportunities, one to one advisory support, job broking service, soft skills, digital support, debt advice, in work support etc).
- Evidence of pooled resources within the partnership – costs of delivering the project, including breakdown of items being provided at nil cost and details of how the funding will be disbursed to partner organisations.
- How the project complements or brigades existing services.
- Outline how the proposal will attract, enthuse and engage the claimant groups.
- Support or signposting for individuals on completion of the programme

- Both the minimum requirements for the proposal and the partnership have been evidenced

Application Process

To apply for a application pack with further information and guidance on completing please email Derek Russell at ESESDISTRICT.FSFAPPLICATIONPACK@DWP.GSI.GOV.UK email address with the subject header "FSF Grant Funding 2014/15 Application Pack"

The closing date for applications is Friday 8 August 2014. Any applications received after this time will not be accepted. Should there be any problems with this please contact Derek Russell.

Support and further information

Please contact your local Employer & Partnership Manager for further support and advice in the first instance or alternatively contact Derek Russell, Third Party FSF Manager. Contact details below:

Forth Valley	Billy Howie	WILLIAM.HOWIE2@DWP.GSI.GOV.UK
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