

Executive Decision Report

Get Inspired and Youth Hub ESF Funding for Youth Unemployment

Decision to be taken by: City Mayor
Decision to be taken on: 9 March 2021
Lead director: Sue Welford



City Mayor

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All wards
- Report author: Julia Conlon
- Author contact details: 0116 454 1777
- Report version number: 1

1. Summary

This report is seeking approval to accept £3,995,057 of funding from the European Social Fund to reduce Youth Unemployment in Leicester. This will support individual young people seeking apprenticeships, training, and employment opportunities.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To accept £3,995,057 of funding from the European Social Fund to deliver the Get Inspired and Youth Hub programmes and agree for the City Council to act as Accountable Body in relation to it.

3. Supporting information including options considered:

- 3.1 Leicester City Council Connexions team in conjunction with the Youth Offending Service and LAC 16+ Team undertook a Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) project from 1st April 2017 to 30th July 2018.
- 3.2 Following this a national call was issued by DWP in July 2019 with a deadline of Sept 2019 and having successfully delivered the previous project, the Connexions team applied for a new project of £800k funding based on the call specification and finance available. Since the submission, no communication had been received from DWP until November 2020, when Connexions Manager was advised that the YEI funding had been fully committed and that Leicester City Council could not proceed with the current application submission
- 3.3 DWP did however advise of a launch a restricted call only for those areas that had applied under the YEI funding, to seek an ESF application which would require 50% of match funding. The deadline for submission was 6th January 2021. Approval to submit a bid for funding was secured from the Principal Education Officer.

Revised proposal

- 3.4 The project was developed based on the original submission of the YEI call, DWP feedback was they liked the proposed activities and wanted this offer to remain within the application.
- 3.5 The "Get inspired" project is proposed to run from 1st April 2021 to 31st December 2023 when the ESF programme will be complete. The partners

of project are:

- Connexions: provide 1:1 caseload support to 15-24 hardest to reach individuals (LAC, SEND, Ex-offenders) etc. They will also be the accountable body contract managers for the project and will ensure full project delivery, finance and outputs are achieved.
- Economic Regeneration Team: continued funding of Youth Hub and Ex-offender project, plus new project officer to enhance and support the website and social media activities.
- LASALS: The new ESF funding will enable the continuation of the 1.5 |Youth Hub Adviser posts to continue via this funding.
- Futures: provide 1:1 support to unemployed 19-24-year olds looking to enter employment, enhancing the delivery of the youth hub and within neighbourhoods
- Youth Education Project (YEP): a local training organisation who provide support to individuals providing level 1 training in Motor Vehicle; Childcare and Art, design, and creative studies.
- Trans4m: a local training organisation who will be able to provide support to individuals providing level 1 training in Hair & Beauty; Health & Social Care; Construction and Catering & Hospitality.

Project Budget

3.6 The total project cost is £3,995,057 with ESF funding of £1,997,523

Partner	Match	ESF	Total
Leicester City Council	£1,183,053	£1,454,545	£2,637,598
Futures	£304,023	£202,682	£506,705
YEP	£230,017	£153,344	£383,361
Tras4m	£280,436	£186,957	£467,393
Total	£1,997,529	£1,997,528	£3,995,057

£406,136 will be available to cover marketing, events, beneficial costs and other costs such as one-off consultancy requirements. The remaining ESF allocation is linked to staffing costs for the project such as new Project manager, Contracts Manager etc.

Next Steps

3.7 Since the application was submitted on 6th January 2022, Julia Conlon (lead applicant contact) has already received a number of appraisal questions which have been actioned. The bid has passed to DWP Management for final approval and it was suggested to progress a report to City Mayor for approval as funding is very likely.

3.8 It is likely we will hear the outcome from DWP mid-February or early March 2021 with commencement of delivery from April 2021.

4. Details of Scrutiny

Once funding is approved a paper will be presented to Scrutiny in Spring 2021.

5. Financial, legal and other implications

5.1 Financial implications

New staffing posts have been identified by LCC and partners which will be funded by the ESF grant to help deliver the project alongside existing staff. There is a further £406k, as mentioned in the report, which LCC will use to pay for a range of other project costs.

Martin Judson, Head of Finance

5.2 Legal implications

A partnership agreement should be agreed between Leicester City Council and the other partners detailing Leicester City Council's role as the Accountable Body; the role and responsibilities of the partners in respect of the Get Inspired Project and the levels of match funding to be provided by the partners.

Legal services should be involved in the drafting and negotiation of the partnership agreement and reviewing any grant agreement to be entered into with the ESF.

Dominic Taylor
Solicitor
Ext: 37 3560

5.3 Equalities Implication

When making decisions and in carrying out its duties the Council must comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) (Equality Act 2010) by paying due regard, when carrying out their functions, to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Act, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a 'protected characteristic' and those who do not. In doing so, the council must consider the possible impact on those who are likely to be affected by the recommendation and their protected characteristics.

Protected Characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. The act continues the duty of service providers and employers to make "reasonable adjustments" to ensure that people with disabilities are

not disadvantaged

This report seeks the approval to accept funding from the European Social Fund to reduce youth unemployment in Leicester and the allocation of the grant.

The project contributes to programmes to increase the employment rate by increasing the numbers of unemployed and economically inactive people entering sustainable jobs. Ensuring a strong focus on those at a disadvantage in the labour market helps increase social inclusion and leads to improvements in equality of opportunity. Impacts should be positive across all protected characteristics with the main focus being on age.

Surinder Singh, Equalities Officer Tel 37 4148

5.4 Climate Change and Carbon Reduction implications

The provision of services contributes to carbon emissions, for example from the use of buildings, equipment and transport. To minimise these impacts staff and partners should be encouraged to reduce energy use, such as through switching off unused equipment and lighting, using sustainable travel options or digital alternatives and following sustainable procurement guidance. Additionally, as employment is one of the largest source of carbon emissions in Leicester, where possible consideration should be given to how training for unemployed people could provide education on sustainability-related skills and careers, to provide access to future opportunities and meet the need for these skills in the city.

Aidan Davis, Sustainability Officer, Ext 37 2284

6. Background information and other papers:

None

7. Summary of appendices:

None

8. Is this a private report (if so, please indicate the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)?

No

9. Is this a “key decision”?

Yes

10. If a key decision please explain reason

Allocation of European Social Fund revenue grant funding secured of £3,995,057.