

DURHAM CITY LEARNING DISTRICT PARTNERSHIP TRANSITION PROJECT

Summary Project Description

This project will assist all those in need of support, who are at risk of falling out of full time education and training or suffering from long term unemployment. It will target learners from the age of 14 onwards, in order to move them towards employment via guidance, counselling and training, and into education, training or paid and unpaid work. Using a number of methods, including one to one coaching sessions, structured learning and prescriptions for learning, it will also be a pathway to employment opportunities that will be developed through a series of mutually supportive actions, involving many agencies as it is necessary, to complete the pathway. The project will ensure collaborative working between partners, including Connexions, Aim Higher, Job Centre Plus, LSP's and the voluntary and community sectors. The project will also concentrate on working with employers; by setting up learning centres to ease access of learning, or into employment. Residents of the target communities will be able to join and leave the pathway at any point, depending of individual need and circumstance.

Benefit and Impact

Much of the activity supported under this project will bring hard to reach learners into a position where they are ready for further training or progression to employment, this project will deliver 'soft outcomes' by signposting clients to key work skills; attitudinal skills; personal and practical skills. This kind of impact will of course lead people who have developed confidence through the project to work related training or paid work or further education that will lead to employment.

Because of the characteristics of the target communities, and some of the client groups within them, it will be important to provide support in non-traditional, innovative ways. Obtaining results will probably be more costly than in conventional training environments. There will therefore be an emphasis on staff to handhold clients onto non-training activities, in that the beneficiaries will require guidance, counselling and other forms of pre-vocational support.

Outcome

The main outcome for this project will be to increase learning activity and worklessness in the most deprived wards of Durham City, which are Pelaw, Shadforth, West Rainton, Pitlington, Ushaw Moor and New Brancepeth. The project will run for 2 years and consist of 1 manager (which will be the Durham city Learning Co-ordinator), 2 transitional officers and 1 pt administrator; the project work will concentrate around career guidance and pathways, prescriptions for learning, worklessness and employment pathways. The number of beneficiaries is 240, over two year period and target audience is aged from 14 through to 59, male and female.

One officer will work extensively with the 14-19 cohort of young people in the above areas, in a hand holding exercise to assist the most vulnerable into FE, HE, work based learning or paid employment. Working closely with Connexions County

Durham, Aim Higher, FE Colleges and Training Organisations, the project aims to support all young people assigned to the project, the best possible chance of succeeding by encouraging them to progress onto their chosen pathways and giving them the added support, appropriate to their needs.

The 19+ Transition Officer will work extensively with GP's and Job Centre Plus to identify people who are at risk of becoming/or who have been on long term sickness. He/she will work on a one to one basis, and will assist with clear progression routes which will lead to employment, thus increasing overall economic activity in the City. It is also envisaged that any young person who has not yet achieved their objectives by the time they reach 19 years of age, will be handed over to the 19+ Transition Officer to give further assistance if required. This will enable the young person to continue to receive help and support as they feel they need it, and not drop through the net.

The third strand to the project will concentrate on employers in the area. The manger of the project will concentrate on working with employers and business, to promote learning and assist in setting up learning centres, plus the transition of people from modern apprentices/training schemes/ long term unemployed/sickness, to help assist them into paid work. The above collaborative work will hopefully ensure that the close links built up with employers will encourage employers to give the non traditional worker the opportunity to use the learning centres as a starting point, in their quest for work, and use the centres as a base in which to build up their skills.

Evidence of Need and Link to Community Plan

The evidence of need arose from an Audit of Need completed by the Durham City Learning Co-ordinator when she came into post in Jan 2005. The Co-ordinator completed the research over a three month period to inform her and the partnership of the needs of the city and to write the Community Action Plan.

On analysis of the data collected, it was evident that more workers were required on the ground to combat the prolonged problem of NEETS and worklessness, but also the need on more one-to-one transitional work, to engage these hard to reach client group.

There is also a need to sustain the post of the Learning Co-ordinator for the Partnership, and this project through an ESF bid, along with match funding from major stakeholders will be one way of addressing this need. The Learning Co-ordinator will have a dual role of project manger and learning Co-ordinator and will service the needs of the Local District Partnership, and therefore 3,000 is required towards the match funding for the project and the Learning Co-ordinator to continue the role over a 2 year period.

Breakdown of costs which show third party support

DRAFT COSTINGS FOR BID

	Year 1 April 06/7	Year 2 March 31 07/8	TOTAL
STAFF COSTS WITH ONCOSTS			
MANAGER*	35,094.84	36,249.18	71,344.02
ADMIN ASSISTANT (PT)*	9,680.00	9,837.30	19,517.30
TRANSITION MENTORS X2 *	46,246.20	70,022.70	116,268.90
SUB TOTAL STAFFING	91,021.04	116,109.18	207,130.22
PROJECT COSTS			
STAFF TRAINING	3,000.00	3,000.00	6,000.00
TRAINING COSTS FOR CLIENTS	5,000.00	5,000.00	10,000.00
TRAVEL FOR STAFF AND CLIENTS	4,000.00	4,000.00	8,000.00
PUBLICITY	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES	1,500.00	1,500.00	3,000.00
1 COMPUTER	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00
2 LAPTOPS	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00
TELEPHONE	2,000.00	2,000.00	4,000.00
PHOTOCOPY	2,000.00	2,000.00	4,000.00
RENT	6,000.00	6,000.00	12,000.00
INTERNET	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00
DEVELOPMENT OF LEARNING CENTRE COSTS	10,000.00	5,000.00	15,000.00
POST	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00
ADVERTISING FOR STAFF*	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00
SUB TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	45,000.00	31,500.00	76,500.00
TOTAL COSTINGS	136,021.04	147,609.18	283,630.22
MANAGEMENT FEE @15% for * items			31,669.53
OVERALL COSTS			315,299.75
45% OF COSTS FROM ESF			141,884.89
Shortfall			173,414.86
Matched Funding			
Single Programme over 2 years ?	40,000.00		
Aim Higher Project	10,000.00		
Connexions in kind	12,000.00		
NLDC funding?	3,000.00		
LSP?	3,000.00		
PCT	15,000.00		
New College Durham in kind	31,600.00		
LSC ?	58,814.86		
Total	173,414.86		

The Learning Co-ordinator is asking for 3,000 from the LSP to support the project, and the sustainability of the Co-ordinators post.

Caroline Moralee
Durham City Learning Co-ordinator
October 2005