

WEST AREA COMMITTEE

Project Brief for Call for Projects West Area Committee

LEARNING AND EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE FOR NEET'S IN WEST

CALL FOR PROJECTS

West Area Committee would like to invite all local Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) groups and statutory providers to submit a full application that will deliver support, guidance and a programme of work to assist and support West's young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs) to complete an employment experience placement and enter learning opportunities to support the progression into employment. Applications will be considered from VCS groups who have a management committee, constitution and bank account with dual signatories. VCS groups must adhere to accounting requirements in accordance with the Companies Act.

1. Introduction and Background

- There is an opportunity for local VCS groups and statutory providers with experience of successful delivery with young people in West not in employment, education and training (NEETs), and experience of working with employers and businesses to deliver a project on behalf of West Area Committee.
- West Area Committee has identified the need to increase support available to West's NEET young people and to ensure proactive and successful relationships are developed with local employers.
- The West Area People Board has identified that there is a lack of opportunity for young people who are NEET and are eager to move into employment but are not apprenticeship or employment ready to access opportunities to gain experience within the workplace.

In addition, many young people are participating in training opportunities and accessing pre-employment support without access to employers and the labour market, so are ill prepared for the working environment.

- Current NEET figures for the West stand at 8.6%, the highest level of all 5 areas.
- The government have introduced the 'Traineeships' programme from August 2013. This will provide the opportunity for 16-19 year olds to gain work experience to equip them with the skills and experience to achieve full time employment
- The West Area People Board identified the positive opportunity within the national traineeship programme but acknowledged the shortcomings of the programme which may restrict accessibility, support and opportunity for some of the young people in the West and have added value to address these shortcomings.

2. Key Features

- The applicant must have experience and infrastructure in place to deliver this type of scheme.
- Identification and provision of high quality work placements with actual employers.

- A dedicated worker/mentor who will provide intensive support to the young person and employer in order to support, maintain and develop the placement, relationship and potential employment opportunity.
- Target NEET young people aged 16-18 who are not in apprenticeship/employment or apprenticeship/employment ready, who want to enter the employment market but are the hardest to reach and are not 'traineeship ready'.
- Assess each individual to identify the development and learning needs which ensures the work placement, employer and learning opportunity are a suitable match and will meet the development and learning needs.
- Initial classroom learning to complete work preparation training, ensuring existing provision is used and duplication prevented.
- Identification of appropriate learning opportunity to run alongside the placement.
- Work experience placement to be a minimum of 3 months in length.
- Funding available to participating young people at commencement and on a weekly basis to fund associated expenses (£50 initial/£25 per week for 13 weeks) the frequency of payment to be determined by the provider. This will be in addition to any bursaries the young person may be eligible for not instead of.
- Clear and achievable progression routes for young people.
- Support for employers to identify future recruitment requirements and how the work placement scheme can meet these requirements.
- Work with partners to identify the young people, employers, learning opportunities and progression routes (i.e NEET panels, Connexions, Local Traders and Business Associations etc)

3. Project Outcomes

- Increase engagement of employers and offer to young people.
- Increase engagement with the hardest to reach young people and reduce NEET figures in West, providing evidence of achievement.
- Focus on skills development and learning opportunities for NEET young people aged 16-18.
- It will clearly identify mechanisms to work in partnership with local employers to encourage positive relationships and to develop support for local employers to encourage work placement, training and employment opportunities.
- The project will identify clear progression routes for young people and identify and measure the routes taken by those young people who have completed the work placement (including employment).
- It will complement and add value to the current initiatives being delivered in the West area.
- The project submission should include details about the types and levels of support that will be provided in order to achieve the outcomes above including match funding.
- The project should be no longer than eighteen months from the time it is approved.
- All beneficiaries of the project will reside across the West area.
- 50 NEET young people will complete a work placement.
- Identify the number of young people of the 50 who will complete accredited learning, commence a traineeship, apprenticeship or employment.

4. Budget

- There will be a maximum overall budget of £45,000 to deliver this project.

5. Quote Return

SIB Full Applications and guidance notes are available from 0191 561 1195 or by emailing louise.preece@sunderland.gov.uk

- Only Statutory or Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) groups can apply, see guidance notes for SIB for further information.
- After the deadline date, all received applications will be assessed against a scoring matrix and consulted upon, with recommendations being presented to West Area Committee to agree and endorse the recommendations outlined.

6. Queries

If you have any questions regarding the above please do not hesitate in contacting julie.lynn@sunderland.gov.uk or telephone 0191 561 1932.