

**Washington Area Committee
SIB Funding Applications (2014/15 budget)**

Name of Project	Youth Opportunities (Phase 2)
Lead Organisation	Sunderland North Community Business Centre

Total Cost of Project	Total Match funding	Total SIB Requested
£59,992		£59,992
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
2 years	October 2014	September 2016

The Project

This project will be based at the Albany Centre in Washington. The proposal seeks to build on best practice developed by maintaining the momentum and impact of Youth Opportunities Project by extending it for a further two years from 1st October 2014 to 30th September 2016.

The YOP Project has a proven track record, over achieving on all of its key outputs throughout 'Phase 1' contributing to the 'local approach to employment and enterprise' priority by helping to reduce NEET rates within the Washington Area. It has offered value for money, maximising funding and stretching resources to enable extension of the current project by ten months. This has required close partnership working with statutory, voluntary and private sector organisations to source appropriate opportunities. The approach developed has been identified as best practice within the City and adopted within North and West Area's.

Instrumental to the project's success has been the role of the dedicated key worker to both engage with the young people and offer intensive mentoring support to encourage them to identify career paths and progress into suitable employment routes. The key worker will continue to be based within the Albany Centre in Washington, delivering outreach sessions at other locations as necessary, aiming to engage and support **120 young people of which 40** will enter employment/apprenticeships.

Primarily, barriers identified for young people were lack of skills and qualifications. However, delivery has shown that many young people have also presented with physical and mental health issues associated with unemployment including unhealthy lifestyles, addictions, anxiety and depression. On-going support is often required to ensure that these young people maintain a positive pathway and that there is timely intervention to get things back on track before a crisis point is reached. The Key worker will maintain mentoring and IAG support towards employability and life skills but reflecting on these other issues will also address health and lifestyle factors that are directly impacting on their ability to progress. This will include liaison with local organisations to support access to services available to improve their overall physical/ mental well being, including ,counselling, healthy eating, drug awareness, weight management, mental health , volunteering and recreational exercise. It is expected that 50% of young people will need to address these issues to improve their chances of gaining employment.

Financial barriers affecting young people often exclude them from being able to access positive interventions. To support inclusive participation, the client barrier removal resources will be crucial

to enable the continuation of support to cover costs for travel, clothing and equipment, identity documents, part contributions for increased employer insurance costs and access to training around Employability, First Aid, Health and Safety and Food Hygiene.

There will be a direct link with the School Opportunities Project, to ensure that seamless service is available to Year 11's on leaving school and through the transitional period into Post 16 options. This project will offer flexibility to support all Washington NEET Young People and will not have the rigid eligibility criteria regarding levels of qualifications that some of the recently introduced mainstream NEET initiatives have. Our delivery experience has shown that those who leave school with less than five GCSE's or those who enter options and then disengage are further at risk of 'falling through the gap' and will require intensive on-going support to encourage them to consider suitable options.

Number progressing into accredited skills training	30
Number receiving Non accredited training	60
Number accessing health related activities	30

Partnership Working

Youth Opportunities Phase 1 for the last 34 months has been successfully delivered by this organisation in the Washington Area and they have developed good working relationships with all local organisations that deliver complimentary activity including Connexions, JobCentre Plus, TCV Training Washington Mind, Millennium Centre, Oxclose and District Young People Project, Tyne and Wear Fire Service (Phoenix Project), Princes Trust, Cameleon Training and, Children's Services- Rainbow Centre. SNCBC is a member of the Washington Area VCS Network and the Washington Youth Forum.

SNCBC also deliver the School Opportunities Project in the Washington area, working with Year 9, 10 and 11 Pupils from Oxclose, Biddick and Washington Secondary Schools for which this Project will continue to be an exit strategy. We deliver mandatory Work Programme under contract to Avanta, Community Work Placement through Pertemps and Work Activity via Ingeus, which will impact on those aged 18 + years. SNCBC also work closely with Connexions in relation to Modern apprenticeship opportunities and the National Apprentice Scheme for Employer Support

Other strategic initiatives targeting NEET Young People, which are identified progression routes and will directly link with this project include the Regional LA7 Project, co-ordinated by Sunderland Connexions and Study Programme coordinated by SpringBoard for young people requiring short term and long term accredited training and/or apprenticeship opportunities. SNCBC also deliver Youth Contract for 16-17 year olds under sub contract to Pertemps which targets those with no more than one GCSE at C or below, care or custody leavers. These initiatives have set eligibility criteria and in some cases young people are not eligible to access these programmes.

SNCBC deliver a range of adult and family programmes which will compliment Youth Opportunities and support a whole family approach to considering employment, as we recognise family opinions are often a barrier for young people's progression. This includes Sunderland City Council's Troubled families (Family Focus) and DWP's ESF Family Wise with the Wise Group.

The project will continue to build upon the networks and partnership working developed in the current programme and continue to look at other opportunities to contribute to the Key Worker salary as they arise, and we have successfully done to extend the current programme, this will again used to sustain the length of the programme in liaison with Area Committee.

Outputs of the Project

No of employment/training programmes delivered	1
No of beneficiaries	120

Key Milestones

Milestones and Key events	Forecast dates
Project launch	31 October 2014
Participation of young people & Key worker in young people's conference	31 October 2014
First course re Princes Trust accreditation commences	05 January 2015
Lifestyle Event	30 April 2015
Engagement NEET School leavers (Year 11)	21 August 2015
Evaluation Year 1	30 September 2015
Exit Strategy	30 May 2016

Financial Information

Item & Description	Total cost	Match	SIB
Salary Key worker (net)	39,012		39,012
Salary ENI	5,384		5,384
Staff training	400		400
Travel costs	1,200		1,200
Admin, expenses, mobile, payroll	1,796		1,796
Client resources (barrier removal)	8,800		8,800
Room hire, events, training	3,400		3,400

Recommendation: Approve

This proposal meets the Area Committee priority to deliver employment opportunities for Washington residents as well as support health and well-being priority and supporting young people priority.