

Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities (NLDC) Fund 2009 / 10

Tender Specification 2009 / 10

31 July 2009

Derbyshire Learning & Development Consortium (DLDC), on behalf of Derbyshire Learning and Skills Council, has £200,000 (revenue only) for the period 1 October 2009 to 30 September 2010 for investment in NLDC.

This document is intended to aid applications for funding, which will be done by competitive tender.

Purpose

This guidance provides advice to potential applicants for the NLDC Programme.

Background

The purpose of the fund is to: *'support local voluntary and community sector organisations (VCS) to develop their capacity to deliver learning opportunities for residents of disadvantaged neighbourhoods'*.

(DfES 2002)

The aim of the funding is to:

- enable LSC areas to make a full contribution to the National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal and Civil Renewal through community based often informal learning and to build the capacity of communities to respond to these renewal agendas either through local VCS Learning and Skills Consortia or other mechanisms that can be maintained;
- improve the quality of the learning provider base, including the development of small and community and voluntary community organisations; and
- through the provision of learning and supporting learning through neighbourhood, civil renewal and active citizenship skills and knowledge

NLDC revenue funding can be used to:

- enable VCS Consortia to deliver training and education opportunities for learners in their communities;
- encourage innovative, accessible 'first step' learning in local communities (e.g. by extending successful outreach activities from neighbourhood learning and community centres, VCS organisations and UK online centres);
- encourage the acquisition of neighbourhood, civil renewal and active citizenship skills, knowledge and behaviours;

- train or retrain local people to develop roles in community leadership or as 'community champions' for local people;
- build up local expertise and support those individuals working or willing to work as community tutors in gaining a range of relevant qualifications e.g. as teachers or assessors;
- develop new ways of delivering relevant curriculum to attract excluded and under-represented groups into learning, including working with target groups to develop meaningful and engaging learning contexts;
- support the development of Voluntary and Community Sector training providers through a capacity building programme to enable them to meet the LSC provider assessment criteria (this includes providing volunteer staff training);
- providing staff development, including secondments, for example for Learning Partnerships; and
- work with other local providers and stakeholders to map existing neighbourhood centres to ensure good coverage of local learning opportunities at appropriate venues – the mapping should use the template first set out in the document *Neighbourhood Learning in Disadvantaged Communities – Guidance for Practitioners*.

Priorities and Target Groups

For 2009/10, £200,000 revenue has been allocated from the Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities Fund (NLDCF)

For this tendering round, Derbyshire is particularly looking to support the following types of activities; although this does not exclude consideration of other types of provision:

- community engagement activities; especially those using an holistic approach that engage participants in activities leading to employment;
- financial literacy; especially activities leading to Skills for Life qualifications;
- training community advice workers
- family employment initiatives

The priority aim is to seek new providers and build their capacity to offer appropriate learning, whilst not discouraging existing providers with a proven track record and attracting VCS providers seeking to supply effective learning and to get to 'hard to reach' learners.

The priority group is low skilled adults (19+), not currently in employment, those on benefits and lone parents. Within this broad category, groups facing specific barriers and experiencing significant disadvantages would be prioritised, reflecting local needs.

Wherever possible, preference will be given to partnership projects or projects with significant partnership working or partnership potential; and providers should seek to demonstrate how they will encourage and provide progression opportunities, and to say how they will encourage learners to pursue further activity.

To impact on as many disadvantaged communities as possible, projects will be awarded so that an appropriate geographical spread is achieved.

Who is eligible to tender?

Our priority recipients of this fund are Voluntary and Community Sector organisations engaged in direct delivery of learning or working in partnership with a range of providers that are offering learning through VCS Learning and Skills Consortia, but the fund is not exclusively designed for them. Examples of eligible providers include those concerned with outreach work, members of the Derbyshire Learning & Development Consortium, Nextstep providers, Work-based Learning Providers, FE colleges and ACL providers.

In all cases partnership working with the community needs to be clearly demonstrated.

DLDC and Derbyshire LSC would also consider provision in schools; many schools are well placed to provide or host family and community learning. Where a partnership exists, an application can be made by a FE college, Work based Learning or Adult and Community Learning provider (as the accountable body) so long as a partnership agreement between the different organisations is in place. The LSC wishes to particularly promote partnership working and to ensure that partnerships are acknowledged in written agreements.

There are no upper or lower thresholds for funding individual projects. However, the LSC and DLDC are looking to support a number of projects with an average of £30,000, to spread the opportunity across as many areas as possible. Organisations funded through NLDC should not rely on NLDC money for their long-term survival.

Performance Indicators and Quality

Each recipient will be expected to meet or be working towards LSC quality standards, along with the Common Inspection Framework. Providers will also be required to meet the LSC Health and Safety requirements as they apply to all learners and should be using RARPA (Recognising And Recording Progress and Achievement) or a similar system to ensure quality.

All providers will be expected to complete an Individual Learner Record (ILR) for each learner recruited onto their project.

Evaluation process

All projects will be expected to submit some form of evaluation. It is not expected that any significant amounts of funding should be diverted from delivery to cover the costs of producing this.

Payments process

Payments will be made based on a payment profile, subject to satisfactory performance and evidence.

Timetable and application process

All tenders must be submitted to DLDC so that they are received at the DLDC Office:

32 Charnwood Street
Derby
DE1 2GU,

no later than **12 noon on Friday 4 September 2009**. They must be delivered in a sealed envelope marked '**NLDC TENDER**' and for the attention of Rosie Slater. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their tender by Tuesday 22 September 2009. It is expected that projects will start on 1 October 2009 and must be completed before the end of September 2010.

Please note the following:

- tenders that do not follow the guidelines given in the specimen application form provided are unlikely to score highly;
- there is maximum word count for each question; any additional wordage will not be taken into account for scoring purposes; only proposals on NLDC application forms will be considered and additional evidence or supporting documents will not be taken into account;
- one signed original copy and 3 photocopies should be sent to the address below by the time and date stipulated;
- tenders should be typed in a minimum 11 point font size (Arial);
- application forms received electronically (i.e. by fax / e-mail will not be taken into account); and
- multiple bids from single organisations are discouraged: it is expected that where an organisation wishes to offer a number of different activities, these are collated into one project.