

Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities Tender Specification 2006-7



Leading learning and skills

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Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities (NLDC)

The Derbyshire Learning & Development Consortium (DLDC), on behalf of Derbyshire Learning and Skills Council, has £426,306 for the period 1st January 2007 to 31st July 2007 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 bidders for the NLDC Programme. The scope includes fifty of the most deprived areas in Derbyshire, some of which fall outside of the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund, and some specified geographical areas at sub-ward level (see attached list). **However, certain areas which are not included on the list may be considered – in these instances, a case must be put into writing detailing why the areas would be considered to be deprived and will be dealt with on a case by case basis.**

Background

The Social Exclusion Unit published in 2001 its action plan for a new approach to renewing poor neighbourhoods, '*a new commitment to neighbourhood renewal*'. The strategy had two long term goals

- In all the poorest neighbourhoods, to have lower worklessness and crime, better health, skills, housing and physical environments, and;
- To narrow the gap on these measures between the most deprived neighbourhoods and the rest of the country

In support of the national strategy, the Derbyshire LSC's priorities include engaging disadvantaged groups in the community to improve skills for employment and regenerating communities.

Funding Criteria

For 2006/2007, **£426,306** has been allocated from the Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities Fund (NLDCF), £137,306 being for capital funding and £289,000 for recurrent (revenue) funding.

Derbyshire LSC & partners are looking to support tenders that actively engage adult learners to develop their skills and to enable participants to progress into employment or to further training for specific employment opportunities. NLDC funding will allow organisations to deliver activities that would not normally be supported through mainstream funding.

Revenue (recurrent)

- Encouraging innovative, accessible 'first step' learning in local communities leading to increased employability skills (e.g. by extending successful outreach activities from neighbourhood learning centres);
- Deliver training and education, including literacy and numeracy that are not funded through mainstream funding, in the broadest possible range of settings;
- Supporting 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)
- Building up local expertise and supporting those individuals working or willing to work as community tutors in gaining a range of relevant qualifications e.g. as teachers or assessors;
- Developing 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;

and

Capital

- Assisting and supporting direct delivery of learning;
- Refurbishing and enhancing existing premises e.g. improving health and safety arrangements, minor works and adaptations to meet Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) requirements;
- Complementing other funds secured by applicant organisations or partnerships in order to establish a new learning centre in areas where none previously existed, and;
- Securing ICT provision e.g. PCs, licences, connectivity costs, and for the development/purchase of MIS, software and data management systems for the NLDC fund.

Organisations that have received LSC capital for minor works and DDA monies will not be eligible to apply for capital funding for premises but can apply for equipment purchases.

The LSC will retain an interest in any assets purchased from LSC funds as they are purchases made from public monies, and therefore a legal lien (right to retain possession) is required.

The NLDC fund cannot be used for match funding, for example with the European Social Fund or the Single Regeneration Budget, without a written agreement from the LSC.

Who is eligible to bid?

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, 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, Work based Learning Providers, FE colleges and ACL providers. In all cases partnership working with the community needs to be clearly demonstrated.

DLDC & 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 promote partnership working and to ensure that partnerships are captured in written agreements.

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.

There are no upper or lower thresholds for funding individual projects, however, Derbyshire LSC and DLDC are happy to see large projects (over £75,000) as well as looking to support a number of projects with an average of £30k, to spread the opportunity across as many areas as possible. Funding should be used to benefit people in the appropriate geographical locations (see attached list).

Organisations funded through NLDC should not rely on NLDC money for their long-term survival.

Target groups and priorities

The priority aim is to direct funding and support to 'hard to reach' learners, specifically those who are workless and to build confidence, motivation and skills to access the labour market successfully. In order to achieve this objective we welcome bids from new providers in our area, whilst not

discouraging existing providers we are keen to attract voluntary sector providers seeking to supply effective learning.

The programme is aimed primarily at those aged 19+, however, projects should not turn away learners below this age.

It is expected that this fund will benefit in the region of 1200 learners.

Wherever possible, preference will be given to partnership projects or projects with significant partnership working or partnership potential.

Providers should demonstrate how they will encourage and provide progression opportunities and say how they will encourage learners to pursue further activity.

Activities should focus on the priorities as outlined in LSC National Statement of Priorities see www.lsc.gov.uk/National/Documents/Keyinitiatives/OurAnnualStatementOfPriorities/raising-our-game.htm

Performance indicators

The key performance indicator for 2006/2007 is 'how many new people have entered learning from deprived areas and how many of them have progressed to further learning or employment'. Projects should focus on this type of activity.

Projects will be required to complete the appropriate ILR where they are in receipt of mainstream LSC funding (details available to successful applicants). Other providers will be required to complete a simple data return, which will be co-ordinated by DLDC and returned to the LSC.

Evaluation process

All projects will be expected to include some form of evaluation, although maximum funds should be allocated to delivery.

Payments process

Payments will be made on the basis of a profile with reconciliation at appropriate intervals or on the basis of actuals, against an invoice for delivery already taken place.

Timetable

All bids must be submitted to DLDC so that they are received at the DLDC Office, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby, no later than 12 noon on Friday 15th December. They must be delivered in a sealed envelope marked "NLDC BID" and for the attention of Rosie Slater. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their tender by 22nd December. It is expected that projects will run for 12 months from 1st January 2007.

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