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## **LEARNING & SKILLS COUNCIL**

**ESF 2007-2013**

### **Tender – East of England/Young people Project Specifications**

November 2007

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## Introduction to tender

The importance of rapidly enhancing the skills base of those in employment has been emphasised in the Leitch Review of Skills. The Review recommended that for the UK to be become a world leader in skills by 2020, a number of targets would need to be achieved including: 95% of adults with functional literacy and numeracy skills, 90% of adults with at least a level 2 qualification, 1.9million more level 3 attainments and 500,000 more apprenticeships in the UK.

Whilst the East of England performs particularly strongly in terms of qualification attainment of school age children, skills development for young people tails off sharply at age 16.

Participation of young people in education and training continues to be a significant issue in parts of the East of England with an estimated 29,000 (21%) 16 and 17 year olds in the region not taking part in education and training in 2004 (excluding those in employer or other funded training)<sup>1</sup>. The East of England also is characterised by extremes in participation rates, with no other region having such a disparate picture. Hertfordshire, traditionally an area of high participation, had the highest levels across England in 2004 (at 86%) whilst Essex and Norfolk had the lowest levels of participation nationally (both at 75%).

Approximately 12,000 16-18 year olds were not in education, employment or training (NEET) in January 2007, equivalent to just over 7% of the cohort, below the England average of 8%. The problem varies significantly across the region with some areas experiencing rates of NEET that are between 9 and 10%.

The LSC will be delivering activity that addresses the challenges facing young people aged 14-16 who are at risk of becoming “not in employment, education or training (NEET)” through a series of preventative activities and a package of intervention activities for those aged 16-19 who are already NEET.

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<sup>1</sup> Statistical First Release, SFR13/2006, Department for Education and Skills, 2006

<b>14-16 NEET prevention</b>	<b>Reference: EE/Y/S01</b>
<b>Aim</b>	
<p>We are seeking tenders to provide a package of intervention activities and programmes for those aged 13-16 years who are already or are at risk of becoming disengaged from education and training. The aim of these activities is to re-engage these young people as active and successful learners between the ages of 13-16 years and to support their progression into appropriate further education or training at age 16 and beyond.</p>	
<b>Service requirement</b>	
<p>Within the broad category of young people who are already or are at risk of becoming disengaged from education and training, groups facing specific barriers and experiencing significant disadvantages will be prioritised, reflecting local needs, as indicated below.</p> <p>The commissioned activity will provide additional progression routes into existing programmes such as further education provision in colleges and school sixth forms, Entry to Employment (E2E), Apprenticeships and Programme Led Apprenticeships; and into new programmes currently being developed within the 14-19 phase including the new Diplomas and the Foundation Learning Tier.</p> <p>Activity will include the delivery of appropriate entry and exit information advice and guidance support to ensure learners are able to make appropriate choices to enable flexibility in progression at a level appropriate to their needs. It is envisaged that activity could be at pre-entry, entry, level 1 or level 2 to reflect the fact that learners who become disengaged or are at risk of doing so represent a broad spectrum of ability.</p> <p>The provision will need to be of a high quality, offering formal accreditation of nationally recognised qualifications and providing a clear progression pathway post-16. It will also need to provide a programme of learning that is complementary to the core curriculum at Key Stage 4 and seeks to integrate the development of basic skills and employment skills into the overall learning package. Proposals should demonstrate how the models proposed draw on the previous experience developed through ESF, Increased Flexibility, School Engagement Programmes and other alternative curriculum projects and build on the existing work of 14-19 partnerships to deliver innovative, interesting and collaborative activity. It is expected that successful delivery will require the involvement of a range of partners, including those beyond the public sector, such as voluntary sector organisations and business.</p>	
<b>Target groups &amp; priority</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 14-16 year olds who are disengaged or are at risk of becoming disengaged from learning and therefore of becoming NEET post-16</li> <li>and</li> <li>• 13-14 year olds identified as at early risk of becoming disengaged</li> </ul> <p>Targeting (but not exclusively) key disadvantaged groups of young people who are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• not currently in formal education (including those receiving education other than at school (EOTAS))</li> <li>• supervised by Youth Offending Teams (YOTs)</li> <li>• those attending Pupil Referral Units (PRUs)</li> <li>• in care and care leavers</li> </ul>	

- young parents or carers
- with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities (LDD) or have mental health problems
- black and minority ethnic (BME) young people including those for whom English is not a first language
- homeless
- travellers
- alcohol/drug dependent
- with behavioural difficulties
- with low aspiration / low self esteem
- excluded from mainstream education / have a pattern of poor attendance

### **Geography / area of delivery**

Each LSC area in East of England as outlined below, except Bedfordshire and Luton where ESF activity for the NEET group is being co-financed by Bedfordshire County Council and Luton Borough Council respectively.

### **Outputs**

We anticipate that at least 8,200 young people and supporting staff throughout the East of England should benefit from this provision. It is expected that programmes for 13-14 year olds and development programmes for staff will be of shorter duration and therefore require lower levels of support and those for 14-16 year olds will vary in their intensity according to the target group and their specific needs and therefore the level of support required for individual places on each programme will vary accordingly. We will be seeking to engage as many young people as possible and therefore value for money will be an important criterion in assessment of tenders.

In general outcomes will focus on:

- Number of beneficiaries participating
- Percentage of young people progressing into mainstream learning post 16
- Number of qualification outcomes (or if appropriate units towards) at Entry level, Level 1 and Level 2, as appropriate to the needs of the young beneficiaries and at higher levels for the staff development activity

Specific outcomes will be agreed through negotiations with partners as appropriate to the activity agreed. They may include elements of the following:

- Literacy, numeracy and IT qualifications, including Key Skills, from entry Level to level 2
- Applied / vocational accredited qualifications from entry level to level 2
- Accredited personal, social and employability development activities
- Progression to participation in core funded further learning post-16
- Progression pathways built in to facilitate links into mainstream core provision across Levels 1 – 3
- Contribution of case studies and examples of good practice
- Formal accredited CPD for staff involved in delivery of 14-16 programmes outlined above as a capacity building activity
- There will be an output requirement that every beneficiary has an individual learning

plan which records their personal targets, planned activity and expected outcomes against which their progress can regularly reviewed

Tenders may propose to address the whole or part of this specification seeking to provide programmes at a regional, sub-regional, area or sub area level. Any successful tender will need to demonstrate how the design and delivery of the provision will meet the assessed needs of young people and provide the appropriate support, IAG, health and safety arrangements and flexible, innovative provision that will motivate and enthuse young people and enable progression. In addition to these core requirements provision will be delivered from the following procurement menu of activities (in line with those outlined above) in the specified LSC areas:

**Location: Cambridgeshire**

**Learner number:** 800

**Beneficiary groups to be targeted:** All of the groups listed above

**Activity:** a) to i) as listed above

**Outcomes:**

- Number of participants: 800
- Minimum percentage of participants progressing into mainstream learning or training at 16 years: 70%
- Minimum qualification outcomes: For programmes of one year or longer duration all participants to achieve at least one accredited full qualification from those groups listed above. For short programmes all participants to achieve one or more units of an accredited qualification from those groups listed above

**Location: Essex**

**Learner number:** 3,700 (of which 740 to be short intensive programmes for 15/16 year olds (activity i) above))

**Beneficiary groups to be targeted:** All those aged 14-16 in the groups listed above across Essex, with special focus on Thurrock, Southend, Basildon, Colchester, Tendering, Harlow and Braintree,

**Activity:** : a) to i) listed above including some programmes targeting the priority sectors of Retail, Construction, Health, Hospitality, Land based, Engineering & Manufacturing and Logistics.

**Outcomes:**

- Number of participants: 3,700
- Minimum percentage of participants progressing into mainstream learning, training at 16 years: 84%
- Minimum qualification outcomes: For programmes of one year or longer duration all participants to achieve at least one accredited full qualification from those groups listed above. For short programmes all participants to achieve one or more units of an accredited qualification from those groups listed above

**Location: Hertfordshire**

**Learner number:** 600 ( 14 – 16 year olds); 100 ( 13 – 14 year olds)

**Beneficiary groups to be targeted:** All groups listed above, with special focus on Broxbourne, Stevenage, Welwyn & Hatfield and Dacorum geographical areas

**Activity:** a) to i) listed above, including some programmes with increased awareness and experiences of priority sectors (i.e. construction & hospitality) and work tasters for 13 – 14 year olds.

**Outcomes:**

- Number of participants: 700

- Minimum percentage of participants progressing into mainstream learning, training at 16 years: 70%
- Minimum qualification outcomes: For programmes of one year or longer duration all participants to achieve at least one accredited full qualification from those groups listed above. For short programmes all participants to achieve one or more units of an accredited qualification from those groups listed above

**Location: Norfolk**

**Learner number:** 600 (of which 200 to be staff CPD)

**Beneficiary groups to be targeted:** All of the above listed groups, excluding pupils in year 9 aged 13/14 years.

**Activity:** a) to i) as listed above, excluding d)

**Outcomes:**

- Number of participants: 600
- Minimum percentage of young people progressing into mainstream learning, training at 16 years: 80%
- Minimum qualification outcomes: For programmes of one year or longer duration all participants to achieve at least one accredited full qualification from those groups listed above. For short programmes all participants to achieve one or more units of an accredited qualification

**Location: Suffolk**

**Learner number:** 1800

**Beneficiary groups to be targeted:** All of the above listed groups

**Activity:** a) to i) as listed above, excluding e) and h)

**Outcomes:**

- Number of participants: 1800
- Minimum percentage of participants progressing into mainstream learning, training at 16 years: 80%
- Minimum qualification outcomes: For programmes of one year or longer duration all participants to achieve at least one accredited full qualification from those groups listed above. For short programmes all participants to achieve one or more units of an accredited qualification

**Results**

Activities aimed at re-engaging young people aged 13-16 who are at risk of dropping out of learning, not achieving or of not progressing to post-16 learning. The type of activities to be offered should be drawn from the following:

- a) Extended applied and vocational curriculum opportunities for 14-16 year olds, beyond the new diplomas, that will promote sustained participation and better achievement for those at risk of dropping out of learning or not progressing to further learning post-16, leading into positive progression post-16
- b) Work related learning programmes that involve effective partnerships with employers, with structured learning opportunities and accredited outcomes for young people, potentially fast tracking into an Apprenticeship
- c) Short preparation for work programmes that will develop young peoples' employability skills to enable progression to Workbased learning

- d) Preparatory vocational learning tasters for 13-14 year olds from the risk groups listed above
- e) Professional development for teaching staff, mentors and support staff to enable more effective delivery of alternative programmes for 13-16 year olds
- f) Multi-agency provision specifically tailored to the needs of young people under the supervision of the Youth Offending Team service, including personalised learning, specialised IAG and support packages e.g. developing personal effectiveness, combating substance misuse, raising confidence and self-esteem. An emphasis on strong progression pathways and a research and evaluation element to determine what works best
- g) Increased 14-16 routes at Entry and Level 1 in areas with insufficient provision to meet the needs of the at risk group, through additional support (to core funding for mainstream programmes) to develop and set up new provision, build the capacity of the sector and provide enhanced support and enrichment activities for learners.
- h) Enhancements to current provision focused on engaging those aged 14-16 through attractive additional innovative programmes that seek to enhance current provision and improve retention engagement and performance of the target group in their current learning environment e.g. school or other provision
- i) Short programmes to provide intensive support/mentoring to 15-16 year old learners in their final year of compulsory education who have been identified as likely to become NEET to encourage progression and participate. This could include Easter or Summer camps

**Other outcomes**

Not applicable

**Funding available**

**£5.54 million**

**Start and end dates**

March 2008 to December 2010 or any period between

**Contracting details**

As this project is supporting individuals and does not provide any commercial advantage to a specific employer or sector, it is NOT subject to State Aid.

<b>16+ NEET intervention</b>	<b>Reference: EE/Y/S02</b>
<b>Aim</b>	
<p>We are seeking tenders to provide a package of intervention activities and programmes for those aged 16-19 who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) or who are at risk of becoming NEET, with the aim of moving these young people out of the NEET category and on to an appropriate destination of further education, training or employment</p>	
<b>Service requirement</b>	
<p>Within the broad NEET category, groups facing specific barriers and experiencing significant disadvantages will be prioritised, reflecting local needs.</p> <p>The commissioned activity will provide additional progression routes into existing and mainstream activity such as Entry to Employment (E2E), Apprenticeships and Programme Led Apprenticeships, FE provision (colleges and school sixth forms).</p> <p>Activity will include the delivery of intensive information advice and guidance to ensure that the provision offered allows for progression at a level appropriate to the learner. It is envisaged that activity will be predominantly aimed at pre-entry level, entry level and level 1; and may for example consist of provision suitable for pre-E2E leading on to E2E, or to bridge the gap between E2E and Apprenticeships.</p> <p>The provision will need to be of a high quality, offering a personalised package of activity that is highly engaging in order to re-engage young people who are NEET; to this end we are seeking innovative, interesting and collaborative activity.</p> <p>Opportunities for appropriate accredited learning which will increase a young person's chances of a successful transition from NEET will be a facet of this provision, as well as opportunities for personal development.</p>	
<b>Target groups &amp; priority</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unemployed 16-19 year olds including (but not exclusively) targeting key disadvantaged groups of young people who are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- young parents</li> <li>- supervised by Youth Offending Teams (YOTs)</li> <li>- those who are attending Pupil Referral Units (PRUs)</li> <li>- in care and care leavers</li> <li>- with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities (LDD) including mental health problems</li> <li>- black and minority ethnic (BME) young people including those for whom English is not a first language</li> <li>- homeless</li> <li>- travellers</li> <li>- alcohol/drug dependent</li> <li>- with behavioural difficulties</li> <li>- with low aspiration</li> <li>- with low self esteem</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>Geography / area of delivery</b>	
<p>Each LSC area in East of England as outlined below, except Bedfordshire and Luton where ESF activity for the NEET group is being co-financed by Bedfordshire County Council and Luton Borough Council respectively.</p>	

## Outputs

On the basis of up to £1850 support per learner for NEET intervention we anticipate that 3,178 young people throughout the East of England will benefit from this provision.

Specific outcomes will be agreed through negotiated agreements with partners in line with the specifics of the activity agreed. They may include elements of the following examples:

- Literacy and numeracy qualifications from Entry Level to Level 1
- Key skills development and qualifications at Entry Level and Level 1
- Entry Level and Level 1 or Level 2 accredited qualifications applied within a vocational context
- Personal, social and employability development
- Progression to E2E programmes
- Progression to participation in core funded further learning and/or employment
- Progression pathways built in to facilitate links into mainstream core provision across Levels 1 – 3
- Contribution of case studies and examples of good practice

In general outcomes will focus on:

- Number of beneficiaries participating
- Number and percentage of beneficiaries progressing into mainstream learning, training or work
- Qualification outcomes (or units towards) at Entry level, Level 1 and Level 2, where appropriate to the needs of the beneficiaries. (NB some participants will work towards both Entry Level and Level 1 qualifications as part of their programme.)

Any successful tender will need to demonstrate how the design and delivery of the provision will meet the assessed needs of young people and provide the appropriate support, IAG, health and safety arrangements and flexible, innovative provision that will motivate and enthuse young people and enable progression. In addition to these core requirements provision will be delivered from the following procurement menu of activities (in line with those outlined above) in the specified LSC areas:

**Location: Cambridgeshire** - whole of Peterborough and Cambridgeshire with particular focus on Peterborough City, Huntingdon and Fenland

**Learner number:** 418

**Beneficiary groups to be targeted:** Disadvantaged young people

**Activity:** NEET intervention covering all activities

**Outcomes:**

- Number of participants: 418
- Minimum percentage of participants progressing into mainstream learning, training or work: 50%
- Minimum qualification outcomes: 50% (209) at Entry Level, 30% (126) at Level 1

**Location: Essex** including Thurrock, Southend and Essex

**Learner number:** 1070

**Beneficiary groups to be targeted:** 10% LDD, 10% BME

**Activity:** NEET intervention including activities a) to e) and h) to i) inclusive

**Outcomes:**

- Number of participants: 1070
- Minimum percentage of participants progressing into mainstream learning, training or work: 50%
- Minimum qualification outcomes: 50% (535) at Entry Level, 30% (321) at Level 1

**Location: Hertfordshire** – whole of Hertfordshire with special focus on Broxbourne, Stevenage, Welwyn and Hatfield and Dacorum

**Learner number:** 462

**Beneficiary groups to be targeted:** Disadvantaged and hard to reach young people, including young parents

**Activity:** NEET intervention including activities a), b), c), d) and e).

**Outcomes:**

- Number of participants: 462
- Minimum percentage of participants progressing into mainstream learning, training or work: 50%
- Minimum qualification outcomes: 20% (92) at Entry Level, 60% (278) at Level 1

**Location: Norfolk**

**Learner number:** 564

**Beneficiary groups to be targeted:** 200 young people under the supervision of the Youth Offending Team; 364 disadvantaged and hard to reach young people

**Activity:** NEET intervention including activities d) e) and f)

**Outcomes:**

- Number of participants: 564
- Minimum percentage of participants progressing into mainstream learning, training or work: 50%
- Minimum qualification outcomes: 50% (282) at Entry Level, 30% (170) at Level 1

**Location: Suffolk**

**Learner number:** 492

**Beneficiary groups to be targeted:** Disadvantaged young people

**Activity:** NEET intervention including activities d), e) and h).

**Outcomes:**

- Number of participants: 492
- Minimum percentage of participants progressing into mainstream learning, training or work: 50%
- Minimum qualification outcomes: 50% (246) at Entry Level, 30% (148) at Level 1

## Results

Activities aimed at reducing the number of young people not in education employment or training (NEET). The type of activities include the development and delivery of:

- j) Innovative, tailored, provision for young people in the NEET category to prepare them for progressing to mainstream learning or work with training
- k) Programmes that encompass intensive guidance, support and mentoring, significant work-based learning and qualifications (or units) up to level 1, including both functional English and functional maths
- l) Support which forms individually tailored programmes and enhancement to current provision, focusing on re-engagement, retention and achievement at level 1 with

- progression to level 2 where possible
- m) Highly personalised support to young people who are NEET by providing additional support and assistance to meet their identified needs, breaking down barriers to accessing suitable and sustainable training and/or employment
  - n) Pre E2E innovative additional flexible support and learning and training programmes specifically aimed at hard to reach, vulnerable and disadvantaged young people with complex issues and multiple barriers to learning, leading to a positive progression to E2E or other appropriate provision
  - o) Multi-agency provision specifically tailored to the needs of young people under the supervision of the Youth Offending Team service, including personalised learning, specialised IAG and support packages e.g. developing personal effectiveness, combating substance misuse, raising confidence and self-esteem. An emphasis on strong progression pathways and a research and evaluation element to determine what works best
  - p) IAG and provision to support and extend the skills of young parents in progressing to learning or training, including providing opportunities for learners to achieve or work towards qualifications at Level 1 or 2
  - q) Increased post-16 progression routes at Entry and Level 1 in areas with insufficient provision to meet the needs of the NEET group, through additional support (to core funding for mainstream programmes) to develop and set up new provision, build the capacity of the sector and provide enhanced support and enrichment activities for learners
  - r) Enhancements to current provision focused on engaging those in NEET group through attractive additional innovative programmes e.g. using specialised sporting facilities and qualifications such as coaching through Football Academies

**Other outcomes**

Not applicable

**Funding available**

**£5.54 million**

**Start and end dates**

March 2008 to December 2010 or any period between

**Contracting details**

As this project is supporting individuals and does not provide any commercial advantage to a specific employer or sector, it is NOT subject to State Aid.