

## **LSC Celebrates Europe Day**

### **ESF Programme 2007-13 announced**

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The Learning and Skills Council celebrated Europe Day on Friday May the 9<sup>th</sup> by having an image of the European Union flag and Union Jack projected onto the front of the Centre Point building.

The celebration marks the recent announcement of the new European Social Fund (ESF) programme for 2007-13, which will help thousands of disadvantaged Londoners get qualified and enter the job market. A total of £324 million has been made available in London of which £188 million will be managed by the LSC. The programme, which kicks off in Spring/Summer 2008, aims to assist around 285,000 individuals with a focus on assisting:

- Unemployed and inactive adults
- Young people not in employment, education or training
- People in employment with basic skills needs or who need Level 2 and Level 3 qualifications

Mary Conneely, LSC Regional Director Regeneration London, said:

“London is a city that has plenty of opportunities and to benefit and prosper from these opportunities people need the right skills. London’s workforce has some of the highest skills levels in the country, however too many of London’s residents suffer from low skills levels and consequently many of our households are trapped

in poverty. To make a real difference in people's lives we must make sure that all residents have access to gain the skills they need to help them find jobs, succeed at work and build a brighter future."

- Ends -

### **Notes to editors**

#### **Learning and Skills Council:**

The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for ensuring the availability of high-quality education and training for everyone. We have a single goal: to improve the skills of England's young people and adults to world class standards. Our vision is that young people and adults in England have knowledge and skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce. We work nationally, regionally and locally to deliver this ambition on behalf of learners and employers.

#### **European Social Fund**

The European Social Fund (ESF) is one of four Structural Funds designed to strengthen economic and social cohesion in the European Union.

The primary aims of the ESF are:

- To help unemployed and inactive people enter work
- To provide opportunities for people at a disadvantage in the labour market
- To promote lifelong learning
- To develop the skills of employed people
- To improve women's participation in the labour market

ESF money is awarded to applicant organisations which have successfully tendered for funding. Most ESF money in England is distributed to projects through the Learning and Skills Councils, Jobcentre Plus and other organisations (for example, some Regional Development Agencies and local authorities). These organisations are responsible for finding the match funding. This system is known as 'co-financing' and it enables successful applicants to receive 100% funding for their projects.

The total financial value of the 2000-2006 ESF programme in London (which is running until July 2008) is £486 million. Of this, the LSC in London is responsible for £285 million, through which the LSC has joint-funded 503 organisations. Under the current round of projects (2005-2008), the LSC in London has assisted around 157,000 individuals to date, helping over 84,000 people to gain qualifications and over 5,800 unemployed people into work.

#### **Ofsted Report**

The ESF programme for 2000-2006 received an excellent Ofsted report in March 2008.

A representative sample from 60 providers from across London was drawn for inspection by Ofsted. They also reviewed 32 inspection reports from providers already inspected. Inspectors spent between one and two days on each inspection visit. They examined a sample of self-assessment reports for those providers in scope but not inspected, and a sample from main stream providers. In addition, inspectors reviewed the regional development plan and other key documentation, and carried out interviews with those responsible for ESF provision in the region.

To view the full report visit:

[http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/reports/pdf/?inspectionNumber=322345&providerCategoryID=2097152&fileName=\\school\57\esfi\\_57609\\_20080129.pdf](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/reports/pdf/?inspectionNumber=322345&providerCategoryID=2097152&fileName=\\school\57\esfi_57609_20080129.pdf)

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