

Learning and Skills Council – Greater Manchester

16-19 Competition – Rochdale

Response to statement of Need – based on the Rochdale Strategic Area Review August 2005.

16 -19 Competition Proposal from Rathbone – Opening Doors – A programme to reduce the number of 16-18 year olds Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) whilst contributing to increasing participation in all modes of learning, improving attainment and progression to higher levels

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Introduction

At Rathbone we believe that participation in learning and the experience of success through learning are fundamental to enabling young people to make an effective transition into adulthood and independence.

The ability to enable learning for young people who are amongst the hardest to reach is what defines Rathbone in the post 16 sector. We measure our success in terms of the positive impact we have on the life chances of those potentially excluded young people.

Rathbone is widely recognised as having a significant contribution to make to the Government's "raising skills, improving life chances" agenda. We are strongly committed to working in partnership with the Learning and Skills Council to identify and meet the particular challenges that exist in promoting and delivering high quality learning that offers effective choices which can meet the needs of individuals within this particularly vulnerable group.

Meeting the identified need

This proposal seeks to have significant impact on local education and training, by contributing to the reduction in the proportion of 16-18 year olds in Rochdale not in Education, Employment or Training.

The key focus of this proposal is to continue to contribute and expand our outreach and engagement work within Rochdale for NEET Young people, to locate and begin to build a relationship with young people that for many reasons do not want to be found and see mainstream provision as something they are either unable to or not interested in accessing.

Many individuals within the NEET group are not prepared to travel we will provide out reach into local estates at relevant times during the evenings and weekends to engage with young people within their own communities. The programme will contain and build on the objectives of increased participation, attainment and skills acquisition, promoting equality of opportunity and promoting social inclusion.

As well as outreaching into the community, we will provide a warm and safe environment where specialist staff will seek to build trusting and supportive relationships with young people. The programme will promote their awareness of various learning opportunities within the borough and signpost and support them to heighten their aspirations. By improving their knowledge and awareness of existing provision and services we will enable young people to make an informed choice and make the transition to a more formal education, training or employment setting. We will facilitate an environment where an individual's personal and social development is continually supported throughout this transitional period.

By enhancing a young person's self-esteem and confidence and participation in learning and education we will increase the social inclusion and diminish the anti-achievement culture experienced by many young people in the NEET group.

Rathbone have specialist staff that have been at the forefront of innovative initiatives to encourage young people who are not in education, employment or training to recommit to positive activities. Seven out of ten of those young people we work with in this way progress into mainstream learning, education and /or employment.

Within Rochdale - Rathbone have worked with 408 young people and 69% have made the positive transition from disengagement into mainstream learning, education and /or employment. This has included a significant number of young people who have had some involvement with the youth justice system and many of whom have been able to move forward in a positive manner after successfully completing supervision orders and becoming engaged in education, training and learning.

Target Group

Predominantly young people that have been excluded or are not in education employment or training; - key focus on targeting those who have dropped out at 17.

Care leavers.

Teenage parents.

Young offenders.

Young people with special educational needs (including those with statements for emotional and behavioural disorders.)

Young people from particular ethnic groups who have under performed at school.

Young people with drug alcohol dependency problems

Predominantly young people that have been excluded or not in education employment or training;

People living in areas of multiple deprivation and key estates including Newbold, Spotland, Kirkult and College Bank

People with learning difficulties and or disabilities

People living in isolated/rural communities

Rathbone expertise in Engaging young people not in Education

Rathbone currently has eight projects including one in Rochdale (Opening Doors Project) and across the country that reach out to some 500 young people a year who are representative of some of the most challenging young people within the NEET target group. Rathbone now has an established track record of innovation and effectiveness in working with this group. 70% of the young people engaged onto Rathbone's Neighbourhood Support Funded programmes progress positively into further education, learning or employment.

The work of these projects has also enabled Rathbone to form close links with the Youth Justice Service where partnership working between local Youth Offending Teams and Rathbone projects has been consistently strong and means that Rathbone has become increasingly involved with piloting new initiatives to engage young offenders.

The Social Exclusion Unit's recent Transitions Report identified 200,000 young people as being NEET at 16+ and a further 900,000 in this category aged 18-24 (In England and Wales).

One of Rathbone's Key strategic objectives is to develop work with the NEET group 16-24 and is aligned with the LSC target to significantly reduce the numbers of young people in the NEET group.

a) How the project will ensure effective collaboration with existing providers and complement existing provision as part of a locally coherent system

The 'Opening Door' project has been in existence since 2001, we hope to continue, enhance and expand our outreach into local communities across the wards of Rochdale focusing on the most deprived areas including Newbold, Spotland, Kirkult and College Bank to find young people who have been 'lost' The project already collaborates and works in partnership with the following organisations across Rochdale including:

- Connexions= Rochdale – Heywood- Middleton
- (Rochdale) Youth Offending Team
- Housing Agencies –Homeless – Supported Landlord Housing Scheme- Statham House –Night Stop
- Early Break – Drugs – Alcohol Abuse – Counselling
- Young Peoples Support Services (Social Services 16-18)
- College and Work based provider network

By maintaining this established partnership approach we will to build on the foundations of the Opening Doors Project and will continue bring together a range of organisations within the Rochdale area to offer wide ranging and positive support and individualised provision. We will continue to ensure that the project is focused on demand led by the NEET group and tailor support available when necessary to enable each young person to succeed.

b) Adverse impact on existing successful local 16-19 Provision and fit with Rochdale Local Area Agreement and LSC Statement of Priorities – North West Commissioning Plan 2007/08

This programme will support existing provision across Rochdale with a key focus of the programme to progress young people onto E2E, Apprenticeship programmes, College of FE, Sixth Form provision or employment. Therefore, we cannot see any adverse impact on existing provision – in fact all providers should see an upward trend in recruitment via this programme.

This programme will help to sustain other providers in the Rochdale area who are experiencing a downward trend in the number of referrals that they are receiving as we raise young people's awareness of available provision and opportunities in Rochdale.

How will the proposal ensure a broad range of sustainable provision

Rochdale as a Borough is ranked between 12th and 46th most deprived in the Indices of Multiple Deprivation across six district level measures. This means that it is one of the most deprived Boroughs in the country. Almost the entire Borough falls within the 20% worst wards nationally.

We believe that this programme will contribute to some of the key targets within the Rochdale Local Area Agreement specifically Children and Young People, building safer and stronger communities and employment, supporting measures to lessen disruption and anti-social behaviour by moving young people from NEET into mainstream provision.

Young people engaged on the programme will begin to make more positive contributions to community life and local regeneration and employment thus supporting economic strategies.

This programme will promote active citizenship, so that young people become more aware of the impact of less inclined to become involved in nuisance crime.

This programme is crucial in addressing the needs of young people “Not in Education, Employment or Training” (NEET) group. The intensive support offered in collaboration with partners will help these young people to progress positively and ensure that they play an active part within the local economy and community. The programmes aim will be to increase the number of young people participating in learning, linking with all providers to offer young people a wide range of choice. A key area of focus will be for individuals to progress onto existing work based learning and FE opportunities when relevant and where there is a labour market. We will also inform partners of learner demand to enable them to provide provision to meet that demand. Young people engaged on the programme will also play a critical role in informing all existing provision and partnerships regarding the design of delivery going forward. One of the programmes aim will be to engage with young people and use their ideas and aspirations to shape Rochdale’s future delivery.

Few learners as a percentage of the total 16-19 population in Rochdale access vocational education and training or apprenticeships. The existing college and commercial companies offer a narrow range of opportunities and the success rates are lower in general than the regional averages.

Part of this new provision will include in depth Information, Advice and Guidance for young people at regular intervals throughout their journey towards engaging with lifelong learning. We will offer an impartial service that will promote all options open to young people.

This will ensure that any young person who has changed their mind can be directed to the most relevant learning establishment and/or job with training without them having to disengage again.

This proposal will ensure a broad range of sustainable provision by re-engaging those young people in the NEET group and focussing on young people who drop out of 6th form Colleges at 17 or earlier.

Longer term this project will contribute financial savings in Rochdale, as young people, who historically would not engage onto mainstream training, education and employment, begin to participate, this in turn will reduce anti-social behaviour.

The programme will in turn provide a more flexible route to mainstream training, education and ultimately sustainable employment in sectors that have identified skills shortages.

Our exit strategy will include demonstrating the evidence of our programmes success in order to try to source future funding for this work to continue. During the life of the project Rathbone staff and partners will establish a bank of funding opportunities. We will also celebrate the achievements of the young people and the programme by holding events whereby all involved will be invited including family members and other adult community members giving them the opportunity to see young people in a positive light.

We believe that the project will also contribute to the outcomes in Every Child Matters including Enjoy and achieve through learning, Make a positive contribution to society and achieve economic well being.

How will the proposal increase levels of participation and / or increase attainment at levels 2 and 3 to meet local, regional and national targets

Objectives

1 To engage with as many young people as possible within the NEET group and build a relationship with each individual based on trust in an environment suitable to their needs to encourage them to take the first steps into participating in the programme.

2 To involve all relevant partner organisations to provide enrichment days on E2E/Apprenticeships and Further Education to inform individual choice at the end of the programme and to ensure seamless transition into their chosen route whilst working hand in hand with Connexions and any other support specialists, staff will accompany these individuals on these days as necessary.

3 Offer a new approach to the needs of the target group by offering intensive one to one support with individuals at the beginning of the programme, in order to resolve some of their issues, before we begin taking the first steps towards positive progression

4 To build on and enhance good working relationships across all providers and support agencies in Rochdale, using the skills and expertise of all these organisations as required will ensure young people can benefit from a highly supportive, flexible and innovative programme. This will equip them with survival and functional skills in order for them to take (possibly) their first steps towards realising their potential. We will measure distance travelled and support 70% of them to make a seamless transition to their chosen progression route. Information, Advice and Guidance will be an integral part of the programme with Connexions being a key partner to support this.

The flexible attendance arrangements offered by the programme will provide an opportunity for engagement currently denied to young people with chaotic, often high risk lifestyles or direct / in-direct obligations. A constructive approach to these barriers, addressing cause as opposed to effect, will remove the threat of dismissal for irregular attendees, enabling them to increase their attendance, as personal barriers are resolved. The project supports the numerous initiatives, which exist in the area, but is unique in that it provides individual support and training based on the barriers faced by the young person. We will harness existing opportunities and supplement them with 'in house' training opportunities which will focus on emotional intelligence / literacy development, thus enhancing the scope for achieving formal qualifications. The programme will fuse together the current opportunities for recreational activity and mainstream learning, into a flexible, demand-led project. Participants will have the opportunity to gain City & Guilds Key Skills at Level 1 in Improve own Performance, Working with Others and Problem Solving. Skills for life are embedded in all sessions. This will be done with a flexible curriculum delivered and developed by centre staff qualified to deliver basic skill and Key Skills. Young people deemed as being 'at risk' of not complying with supervision / ISSP orders some of whom will have been issued with warnings may be referred to the project by local Youth Offending Teams and will be given intensive support in the community to ensure they understand the terms of ASBO's and how to get to appointments and comply with their supervision orders. This cohort will be encouraged to become participants in 'centre training' thereby giving them a period of stability and the opportunity to gain qualifications and a route away from offending behaviour. The project staff will mentor individuals on the programme, and will provide supporting transition arrangements to enable the learner to move on other destinations in learning or employment. The project will highlight and signpost these progression destinations for all learners.

This programme will increase levels of participation. It will support and help young people to attain whatever they are capable of by providing support during and beyond their time on the programme, working alongside all other providers.

This programme contributes to the over-arching priorities of the National and local LSC and Connexions Partnership whilst developing coherent, co-ordinated and high quality training provision in order to increase the number of young people actively engaged in learning. It will raise awareness and improve the choice of learning opportunities for all young people to equip them with the skills for employment, FE and wider social and community engagement. The project will be one of the first steps to engage more 16-19 year olds enabling them to participate in learning. We will be engaging with some of the most disaffected young people and will endeavour to motivate them into a "can do" attitude. These young people are often in hard to reach areas, which is why staff will out reach to the young people initially until they are engaged on the programme. Longer term, the project will support the priority to raise the skills of the nation, giving employers and individuals the skills they need to improve productivity, employability and social cohesion.

The project promotes genuine partnership working to maximise effectiveness and efficiency and avoid duplication. The project will build on existing projects – E2E, LAP and Apprenticeship programmes and contribute to Rochdale’s key objectives – reducing the NEET group, better participation in work based learning, and reducing the drop out at 17.

The project will also support the following priorities and targets identified in the LSC North West Commissioning Plan 2007/08:

Priority 1

25 – Tackle the large number (19,000+) of young people not in employment, education and training (the “NEET” group) to reduce as efforts to develop individualised packages of support that assist them to re-enter education or enter the labour market bear fruit.

Priority 1 – 26 – Support the delivery of qualifications and basic employability skills to improve access to employment and qualifications.

Priority 1 – 27 – Support the increase the employment rates of disadvantaged groups

Reduce significantly the difference between the employment rates of Disadvantaged groups and the overall rate.

Priority 1- 33 - Use LSC resources, alongside those of partners, to develop comprehensive packages of support. To ensure workless people be supported to secure first full level 2 and Skills for Life

How will the proposal enhance institutional and curriculum choice

The programme will play a critical role in informing all existing provision and partnerships around the design of delivery going forward as we engage with young people, valuing and using their ideas to shape Rochdale’s future delivery.

Few learners as a percentage of the total 16-19 population in Rochdale access vocational education and training or apprenticeships. The existing college and commercial companies offer a narrow range of opportunities and the success rates are lower in general than the regional averages.

Part of this new provision will include in depth Information, Advice and Guidance for these young people at intervals through their journey towards engaging with lifelong learning. We will ensure that we promote all the options open to young people within Rochdale and beyond and the relevant labour market options. This will make sure that if a young person has a change of mind we can direct them to the next learning establishment/and or job with training without them disengaging again.

How will the proposal contribute to delivering specialised diploma lines

The programme will promote specialised diplomas as appropriate, and will be a strong voice for the young people on the programme and within the wider community to shape current and future delivery and development to ensure we can meet both learner and employer demand.

Outcomes

Participation - The programme will seek to engage or re-engage 130 young people from the NEET group 70 young people to complete their programme

Progression Outcomes - 70% to progress onto E2E/Apprenticeships at level 2/3 or FE, and/or employment.

Expenditure	Per annum
Staff and Volunteer Costs (Please break down to show what staffing you will have for youth work and/or admin, and for volunteer costs)	
Project manager -10%	£ 3,631.00
Senior Progression Mentor	£ 23,000.00
Progression Mentor (Including on-costs)	£ 19,000.00
Out-reach	£ 12,500.00
TOTAL STAFFING	£ 45,631.00
Operational/Activity Costs	£18,750.00
Office/Overhead/Premises Costs	£ 14,300.00
Capital Costs* Wireless Lap-tops – Outreach	£ 3,000.00
Marketing Activity	£ 1,400.00
TOTAL	£ 95,581.00