



Leading learning and skills



EUROPEAN COMMUNITY  
European Social Fund



Including Jobcentres and  
social security offices

## Award Descriptions

### North West Co-financing ESF Awards & Celebration Event

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#### European Social Fund (ESF)

ESF was set up to improve employment opportunities in the European Union and raise standards of living. It aims to help people fulfil their potential by giving them skills and improved job prospects. ESF does this by:

- helping unemployed and inactive people enter work.
- providing opportunities for people at a disadvantage in the labour market.
- promoting lifelong learning.
- developing the skills of employed people.
- improving women's participation in the labour market.

#### Co-Financing Organisations (CFOs)

In 2002 and 2003 respectively, Learning and Skills Council and Jobcentre Plus were given approval by Government Office for the North West to become CFOs for ESF and were granted allocations totalling £206million to take forward the ESF agenda incorporated within the Regional Development Plan. The event will celebrate the success of the programme in the North West, acknowledging both the providers and in particular the beneficiaries whose lives have significantly changed as result of ESF funded intervention.

As part of the Celebration Event, awards will be presented to acknowledge achievement and excellence. We are now inviting you to submit entries for the following categories:



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## Awards for beneficiaries:

### Multiple Barriers

This will be awarded to the beneficiary who has overcome significant barriers to achieve their goal of moving from welfare dependency into employment and has been an exemplar to their peers. The nominations could include those that have addressed numeracy and literacy issues, dealt with social problems, overcome personal difficulties etc.

### Personal Achievement

The beneficiaries for this category will be those who have shown great drive and determination to overcome complex barriers due to disability or serious health difficulties to achieve employment and/or independence. The applicants will have clearly shown they have been an inspiration to others.

### Carer's

This award will be presented to an ESF beneficiary who has been required to juggle caring responsibilities, overcome barriers to employment and successfully moved into work. Nominations will have demonstrated determination and drive to achieve their success.

### Individual Workforce Skills

The award winner will be an employed individual who through ESF programme funded support has increased their skills levels. As a consequence of developing new skills the individual will have either:

- taken on new responsibilities, and or,
- made a significant contribution to their employers business and/or
- been promoted.

### There will also be the **Overall Achievement Award**

The winner of this category will be chosen from the categories listed above by the independent judging panel.



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## Awards for Providers:

### **Innovation (with employers)**

The award winners will be able to demonstrate how they have used ESF funding to develop innovative approaches in their work with employers. This may include examples of new approaches to employer engagement, especially in hard to reach sectors with a poor track record of training or micro businesses, recruitment of employers, identification of training needs or new approaches to the delivery of training.

### **Innovation (with beneficiaries)**

The award winners will be able to demonstrate how they have used ESF funding to develop innovative approaches in their work with beneficiaries. Applications may include of examples of innovative approaches to engagement, especially, hard to reach groups, recruitment and retention. Applications should also be able to demonstrate real benefits for those engaged in the programme, which may include personal development, skills acquired, qualifications achieved or employment gained.

### **Embracing Diversity**

This award is aimed at those providers who can effectively demonstrate that their project has helped to achieve greater diversity in terms of both either engagement in learning and/or employment. Those successful in this category will be able to demonstrate that the project has:

- successfully engaged with a diverse group of beneficiaries
- engaged with a particularly hard to reach group and delivered tangible benefits
- worked with both beneficiaries and employers and provided employment opportunities
- Increased the diversity of a workforce by successfully working with employers to change their recruitment practices and as a result diversified their workforce.



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### **Excellence**

This award (judged from all provider categories) is aimed at those providers who have designed, developed and effectively delivered project(s) which have had significant impact on the target beneficiaries. Those successful in this category will be able to demonstrate that the project has set challenging objectives and successfully achieved those objectives. Examples of this might include:

- Effectively engaging hard to reach groups
- Achieving tangible outcomes for beneficiaries facing significant barriers to learning and or employment
- Supporting those facing significant disadvantage in the labour market to secure employment

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### **Selection Process**

Our panel of judges will select winners for each category and identify the Overall Achievement and Excellence Award. The Panel will be headed up by Shay O'Rourke, Head of the ESF Programme, Government Office for the North West.

Please find attached nomination form which should be completed online and submitted by email to:

[NWREGION.ESFTEAM@DWP.GSI.GOV.UK](mailto:NWREGION.ESFTEAM@DWP.GSI.GOV.UK); no later than Friday 9 May 2008.

The Celebration Event takes place at the Hilton Hotel, Manchester (Deansgate Suite) on 27th June 2008. Further information and invitations will be sent out in due course.