

Learners with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities Invitation to submit a proposal for Investment to Change Capital Funding 2009/2010

Background

The LSC nationally has invested £51million Investment to Change funding from 2006 to present, to accelerate change and improve provision for learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. Activities have included;

- Joint working to map and adapt the curriculum to ensure that there is a curriculum that
 - offers real progress from school to Further Education locally
 - provides the skills necessary for employment;
- the development of effective transition planning groups to ensure that learners have the support they need to make the transition from school and that providers can make timely reasonable adjustments to support learners
- established links between FE providers and supported employment providers to facilitate progression from learning to employment;
- providing professional development opportunities for staff delivering to this group of learners, including sharing of expertise between specialist colleges and the General FE sector.

Funding

The North West has a regional capital budget of £550,000 for improving provision for learners with LDD in 2009-10. Capital expenditure can include; buildings, land, leases of building and/or land, ground works, building works, equipment or educational resources, including proprietary or bespoke software (but excluding those items usually funded from revenue expenditure) which add significant value.

No virement of money from capital to revenue can be made.

Regional Priorities

Developing supported employment opportunities linked to Further Education provision to facilitate smooth transition from learning to employment for Learners with LDD is at the heart of the North West plan for learners with Learning Difficulties. The North West would therefore now like to invite proposals for a substantial project that will develop a flagship model of supported employment for learners with learning difficulties and or disabilities in the region.

Preference will be given to those proposals most likely to lead to sustained employment for learners with LDD. Proposals may be for new and innovative projects or may be an element contributing to a larger existing project, enabling the extension of supported employment opportunities to learners with LDD.

Multi-Agency Applications

Proposals **must** demonstrate multi-agency and collaborative working, to deliver the proposed activity. Characteristics of appropriate partnerships will include:

- established multi-agency transition planning or good practice partnerships involved in planning and delivering learning provision for learners aged 16-25 with LDD, in particular those with links to 14-19 planning groups;
- organisations that intend to develop a transition planning group for learners with LDD aged 16-25, where none exists locally. These should be organisations that have the potential to lead such a development, to influence partners and to link to 14-19 planning groups.
- Multi-agency planning groups involved in commissioning/delivering services for adults with LDD.

Proposals should also take account of national and regional strategies, plans and publications; including the North West LLDD Strategic Implementation Plan, the Reviews of LLDD provision carried out in January 2007 and May 2008, and the Strategic review 2008/09. These can be found at <http://www.lsc.gov.uk/regions/NorthWest/LLDA+Plan+2007-2010.htm>
<http://www.lsc.gov.uk/regions/NorthWest/Review+of+FE+Provision+for+LLDD+in+the+North+West.htm>
<http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/NorthWest/LLDDAnalysisMay2008.pdf>
http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/NorthWest/Provision_for_Young_People_Aged_14-19.pdf
http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/NorthWest/North_West_Adult_Learner_Responsive_Provision.pdf

Proposals may also take account of relevant local research and plans, for example 14-19 partnership plans or research carried out by 14-19 partnerships.

The Application Process

Partnerships are requested to complete the proposal form attached as Annex A to this document, and to submit an electronic copy to: NW-LLDDstrategy@lsc.gov.uk by 5 pm 26 May 2009.

The subject line must read Investment to Change, proposal 2009, followed by the lead provider name. Proposals submitted without this subject title may not be accepted. Proposals emailed to any other LSC email address may not be processed.

Whilst projects may have a lifespan beyond March 2010, funding relates to the financial period 2009-2010 and **must** be spent by March 2010. Any activity not completed or goods and services not delivered to the LSC by 31 March 2010 cannot be charged to the 2009-10 financial year.

Assessment Process

Assessment is a three stage process. The preliminary stage and stage one will be progressed by LSC North West and stage two by LSC National Office.

Preliminary Stage

All proposals, must fully meet multi agency working requirements and the regional priorities identified within this document. Those that do not will not progress to the next stage.

Stage One

Proposals will be scored against:

- Understanding the environment
- Methodology e.g. does the proposal clearly identify how, who and when.
- Outcome/outputs
- Staff and working arrangements
- Project timescales
- Cost and value for money – educational case

Only proposals that meet the minimum score will be considered for funding.

Stage Two

Proposals for new activity that meet the minimum score threshold will be moderated by LSC National Office.

Successful providers will be notified following the completion of assessment by LSC National Office.

The total cost of proposals must remain within the regional budget allocated.

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Total Cost of Project*:	
Budget required for 2009-10	

* Whilst projects may have a lifespan beyond March 2010, funding relates to the financial period 2009-10 and must be spent by March 2010. Any activity not completed or goods and services not delivered to the LSC by 31 March 2010 cannot be charged to the 2009-10 financial year.

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Project Delivery Plan 2009-10

Please use this delivery plan to outline the stages of activity, together with the intended outcome, associated cost and timing. Please also state what evidence you will provide to support / confirm that the activity has taken place (additional information can be provided at page 10):

Activity description	Intended outcome	Cost		Completion date (payment date)	Evidence of spend
		Capital	Revenue		

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Activity description	Intended outcome	Cost		Completion date (payment date)	Evidence of spend
		Capital	Revenue		
Maximum LSC Contribution					

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Future Planning

If the project is anticipated to extend beyond March 2010, please outline the estimated costs:

Note: if the project extends beyond 3 years please provide details on a separate sheet of paper

Year	Capital		Revenue	
	Description	Cost	Description	Cost
2010-11 - to be provided to inform transition planning				
2011-12				

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PROJECT OUTCOMES

Where a project is continuing from 2008-09, please detail the outcomes to date:

**Outline link to Regional Learning for Living and Work Development
Plan/Strategy and Outcomes from Regional Needs Analysis for 2008-09:**

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Are the outputs in line with LSC targets (for example):

- Increased participation
- Achievement
- Accessibility
- Quality
- Planning
- Resources
- Not in Education, Employment, Training (NEET) reduction
- Has/will the bid increase partnership working
- Is the project sustainable without future LSC funding?
- Continuous professional development

**Demonstrate links to key National/Regional LSC target/s i.e. LSC
Statement of Priorities:**

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[Empty box for project details]

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES - Outline the methodology i.e. project management arrangements (including staffing), timeline, stages and tasks, sample sizes, contact procedures, method of contract, risks etc

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[Empty box for project details]

REVIEW AND MONITORING - How will the project be monitored and reviewed i.e. will the LSC receive reports at set times? Will it be through steering group meetings etc

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[Empty box for project details]

INTENDED OUTCOME(S)– Provide quantifiable aims and objectives or milestones and outcomes e.g. number of staff received mental health awareness training, to achieve X% higher retention rate than in previous years

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Briefly outline the long term financial and non-financial benefits of the project:

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STAGE TWO

For completion by National LLDD team – on receipt of file

Date Development Bid including completed pro forma (Annex A) and Evaluation criteria (Annex B) received at National Office:	
Are the capital and revenue costs clear:	Yes _____ No _____
Regional score (taken from evaluation criteria - Annex B))	
Date Development Bid, Pro forma (Annex A) and Evaluation Criteria (Annex B) sent to LLDD Group Moderator:	
Name of LLDD Group Moderator:	

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STAGE THREE

For completion by LLDD Group Moderator

Date received:	
Regional LLDD Group Moderator decision against evidence received	<p>*Agree with Regional decision</p> <p>*Disagree with Regional decision (as set out in summary statement (Annex B))</p> <p>(*Delete as appropriate)</p>
Date returned to National LLDD National team:	

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STAGE FOUR

**For completion by National LLDD team – on receipt of file from LLDD
Group Moderator**

<p>Date file received from LLDD Group Moderator:</p>	
<p>Date sent to Allocations team to moderate value for money (if LLDD Group Moderator agreed with Regional decision)</p> <p>If LLDD Group Moderator disagreed with Regional decision – go to stage six</p>	

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STAGE FIVE

To be completed by National Office Allocations Team

Are the financial consequences of this submission adequately outlined?

Does this submission demonstrate value for money?

Is the project affordable within the 2009-10 budget?

What about future years' commitments?

Outcome:

Authorised Signatory:

.....

Name (print):

.....

Date:

.....

STAGE SIX

**LEARNERS WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES AND/OR DISABILITIES
DEVELOPMENT FUNDING PROFORMA 2009/10****To be completed by National Office LLDD team**

Date file returned from Allocations team:	
Date file returned to Region:	
Decision:	*Agreed *Rejected (*Delete as appropriate)

STAGE SEVEN

To be completed by Regional Team

Evaluation – Development Bids 2009-10			
Provider/Partners	Aims/Objectives	Activities that took place	Outcomes/Beneficiaries
Impact on learners	Sustainability of Project	Future Developments	Additional Comments
Issues			
Name of Evaluator:	Position:	Date:	

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