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LSC NORTHWEST

RESPONSE TO THE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN

A Handbook for Practitioners

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SECTION A: Overview

1. Introduction

1.1 The Handbook

As a direct consequence of the economic downturn the LSC has introduced significant changes to our learning programmes so that they are better able to meet the needs of employers and individuals. These changes together with new programmes are both wide ranging and significant.

This handbook is a summary of the support which the LSC can offer to employers and individuals affected by the downturn including specific support to deal with redundancies and unemployment. It includes a summary of the activity funded via LSC North West's European Social Fund 2007-10 Co-finance Plan.

It has been produced as a tool to support the work of LSC staff and colleagues in our partner organisations. It also provides links to the other key web based information sources.

In December 2008 the Regional Skills and Employment Board published a joint plan ***The North West Joint Regional Response To The Labour Market Downturn***. This handbook sets out in further detail how the LSC will take forward those elements of the Plan for which we are responsible. The RSEB Joint Plan can be found at: <http://www.lsc.gov.uk/regions/NorthWest>

1.2 North West Priorities

In November 2008 the LSC Annual Statement of Priorities for 2009/10 set out our priorities in relation to the further integration of employment and skills and how skills can raise employability.

Following the policy set out in *Work Skills* published in June 2008 we are working closely with Jobcentre Plus to jointly commission provision for people seeking to move into employment. In the North West we are taking this agenda forward by:

- Trialling new approaches, in Greater Manchester that will ensure that we link pre-employment training into in-work provision such as Train to Gain, supporting progression, sustainable employment and career development.
- Engaging in Adult Advice and Guidance Pathfinders.
- Taking forward the Skills for Jobs programme which provides vocational training to support workless people into sustainable jobs.

1.3 Responding to the Economic Downturn

1.3.1 As a consequence of the economic downturn, pressure on businesses, increased redundancies and growing unemployment Government has announced a series of new interventions and changes to existing programmes.

1.3.2 In the North West the Regional Employment and Skills Board and its Employability Skills sub-group has led the development of a co-ordinated response involving Jobcentre Plus, the LSC, NWDA and Business Link and others.

1.3.3 The LSC, Jobcentre Plus, Regional Development Agencies and Sector Skills Councils are working together in each region and nationally to identify where recruitment levels remain stronger, and where, even in the downturn, there remain job vacancies and skills shortages. Using that intelligence, we will work closely together to deliver the joint regional response we have previously announced. This is part of the transformation of the Further Education sector with a stronger focus on employment outcomes and delivering the productivity-enhancing provision that employers seek.

1.4. LSC Response

1.4.1 The LSC has responded at both national and regional level by introducing new programmes and flexing existing programmes and activity. This guide has been produced to be used by LSC staff, colleges and training providers together with colleagues in our partner organisations. The guide sets out the following:

- a) The LSC's role in responding to the labour market downturn.
- b) Our priorities and the support we can offer to employers and individuals affected by the labour market downturn.
- c) The programmes and initiatives we are funding which address those priorities.

1.4.2 The guide will be regularly updated to ensure that it provides an up to date and comprehensive summary of the support available and how that support can be accessed.

2. The Role of the LSC

2.1 The role of the LSC in responding to the economic downturn is to:

- Actively work with our key partners through the Joint Economic Commission and the Regional Skills and Employment Board to ensure a coherent employment and skills response to the downturn.
- Ensure that appropriate programmes are in place and that colleges and training providers are responding flexibly to meet the changing needs of employers and individuals.
- Work with Jobcentre Plus, sub-regional economic partners and other stakeholders to support businesses in managing redundancies and individuals affected by redundancy and unemployment.
- Protect the interest of learners, including Apprentices to assist them in completing learning programmes and providing them with support to access further learning and employment.
- Identify gaps and weaknesses in existing provision and develop new responses.
- Work with employers and other partners to identify employment opportunities, skills shortages and skills gaps to maximise employment.

3. The LSC Response to the Downturn

3.1 Core Elements of the LSC Response

The LSC response in the labour market downturn has three essential elements:

- a) Support for employers to enhance the workforce skills enabling them to respond more effectively to the downturn and increased trading pressures. The principle vehicle for this is through the Train to Gain (TtG) offer.

- b) Support for individuals affected by redundancy and unemployment. This also includes support for those who have been workless for longer periods.
- c) Working with employers to exploit new employment opportunities including Apprenticeships.

3.2 The Progression Model

For individuals the LSC working with our partners has developed a five stage progression pathway which aims to support individuals affected by redundancy back into sustained employment. The LSC has developed a range of interventions and support in response to the more difficult labour market conditions which form the elements of an *employability routeway*.

- i. Support for those threatened by or under notice of redundancy.
- ii. Vocational training and Skills for Life (SfL) training to enable those recently made unemployed and those who have been workless for some time to access training which will enable them to access employment opportunities.
- iii. Support in accessing employment.
- iv. Support for individuals who have recently accessed employment and who need additional support to make a success of their employment.
- v. Ongoing skills development through Train to Gain.

3.3 The LSC Offer in Significant Redundancy Situations

3.3.1 Working with Jobcentre Plus the LSC has developed a standard approach. Following an initial dialogue between Jobcentre Plus and the employer, where the redundancy is significant (over 20+ people affected) and there are skills issues, the LSC will identify a manager to work with Jobcentre Plus, the Local Authority and other relevant agencies and partnerships. They will work as part of a multi-agency team to agree and coordinate interventions. LSC funded support will be customised to the needs of the individuals under threat and to the company in question. Support can include:

- **Careers Advice**
The *nextstep* service can offer careers information, advice, and guidance. Drawing on information about the local labour market and related learning opportunities, support can be delivered either one to one or to groups.
- **Vocational Training**
Individuals will be able to access training which can be customised to their individual circumstances and labour market conditions. Training can include:
 - Job-change training including full and part qualifications at levels 2 and 3. This type of provision may be appropriate for individuals seeking employment in a new sector.
 - Accreditation and certification of skills already developed in the workplace including full and part qualifications at levels 2 and 3. This type of provision may be appropriate for individuals who wish to continue employment in the same sector.
 - Customised provision linked to other vacancies. Where alternative job opportunities in another employer have been identified, the LSC will fund customised provision (typically short interventions of between 2 and 8 weeks) to help individuals acquire the skills the new employer needs.
- **Skills for Life**
Where individuals would benefit from support in developing their numeracy and literacy skills, the LSC can fund this type of provision.

- **Learning and Skills for All Fund**
The LSC and NWDA support a learning fund delivered under the auspices of Unionlearn/TUC. Under certain circumstance this fund may be called upon to support individuals threatened with redundancy.
- **Apprentices**
Where Apprentices are threatened with redundancy, a range of support measures are in place to find these individuals alternative employment and to complete their Apprenticeship framework.

4. Links to Key Sites Offering Support in the Downturn

4.1 For Business Support:

ACAS

<http://www.acas.org.uk/index.aspx?articleid=1461>

Business Link

<http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/bdotg/action/home?site=102&furlname=northwest&furlparam=northwest&ref=http%3A//www.google.co.uk/search%3Fhl%3Den%26q%3Dbusienss%2Clink%2Cnorth%2Cwest%2C%26btnG%3DGoogle%2CSearch%26meta%3D&domain=www.businesslink.gov.uk>

Jobcentre Plus

<http://www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk/JCP/Employers/index.html>

Real help now

<http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/campaigns/RealHelpNow/index.htm>

Train to Gain

<http://www.traintogain.gov.uk/>

4.2 For Individual Support:

Careers Advice

<http://careersadvice.direct.gov.uk/>

Jobcentre Plus

<http://www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk/JCP/index.html>

LSC

<http://www.lsc.gov.uk>

nextstep (Greater Manchester)

Tel: 0800 107 4060 <http://www.nextstepgreatermanchester.org.uk/>

nextstep (Other Areas of the North West)

Tel: 0800 434 6129 <http://www.nextstepnorthwest.org.uk/>

SECTION B: THE LSC OFFER

1. Introduction

This section of the 'Handbook' sets out the main details of the programme flexibilities and other measures related to the economic downturn into one document and to thereby support comprehensive directions with providers. **It should not be used as a substitute for detailed programme guidance documents and providers should always refer to the published documents before taking any action.**

This section is broken into three elements, support for employers, support for employees and support which is focused on addressing the skills needs of individuals.

2. The SME Offer

2.1 Meeting Employer Skill Needs: Train to Gain Flexibilities

- 2.1.1 Full Level 2 qualifications, as with the core offer, are all fully funded, including repeats, which are restricted to those available on the 'additional Level 2 list'. The key difference is that there are no volume constraints on repeat qualifications i.e. the percentage cap does not apply to delivery to SMEs. Similarly for full Level 3 qualifications, normal TtG rules apply, but there is no constraint on the volume of repeat Level 3s that can be delivered to SMEs provided the repeat qualifications are on the "additional Level 3 list". Across provider delivery to non-SME employers, the 30% for repeat Level 2 and 20% repeat Level 3 limits continue to apply.
- 2.1.2 As part of the SME offer, bite size units and 'thin' qualifications will be funded in business critical areas. A list of fundable units has been produced and is published on the TtG website. It includes both the business critical areas originally identified in John Denham's announcement, plus an additional three areas the LSC has subsequently gained agreement should be included. These units are at Levels 2, 3 and 4. The list of fundable units mentioned above contains details of 138 units/qualifications available from January 2009.
- 2.1.3 For the purposes of the flexibilities, the SME definition will **only relate to the number of FTE employees**. The employer will be required to sign a declaration regarding eligibility, and a template for this will be available within the updated flexibilities guidance.

2.2 Capacity Building

- 2.2.1 As trailed at the AoC Conference in January 2009, and described in the Statement of Priorities, £30m has been made available to help develop provider capacity.
- 2.2.2 This will be available from February 2009. The fund is very flexible, and for example can be used to recruit and develop staff, to pay for equipment and IT upgrades, or enhance promotion and delivery of the offer to employers. This funding should not be used to displace funded support available via other routes; in particular it should not be used to fund activity that could be supported via the World Class Skills programme.
- 2.2.3 The funding will be given to providers as an allocation – there is no bidding process. The amount a provider is allocated is dependant on the number of TtG and FE NVQ in the workplace starts they had in 2007/8. To qualify, a provider must have delivered 50 starts (across all contracts held in other regions). It is also likely that the provider will need to

have achieved at least a Grade 3 from Ofsted, not be under a Notice to Improve and not be in a position of financial failure. Depending on the volume of starts the provider has delivered, they may receive between £20k and £200k.

2.3 Clustering

2.3.1 Another element of DIUS's response to the needs of SMEs is clustering, or support for groups of SMEs working together. This work will be taken forward in 2 phases:

- In Phase 1 the LSC needs to identify and work with 5 clusters in each region, with around 30 SMEs in each and with 5 supply chains. This will build on work already done in regions with RDAs, in retail parks etc.
- In Phase 2 the LSC is looking to develop new clusters, and are looking at approx 25 per region

Pump-priming funding of up to £10k per cluster will be available.

3. Response to Redundancies (All Employers)

3.1 Train to Gain funding can currently be used to deliver training to employees prior to redundancy and where they are made redundant having started a qualification, providers are encouraged to keep them on TtG to allow the learners to complete their qualification.

3.2 In addition to the ability to use the TtG funding to deliver training to employees prior to redundancy, the LSC is currently commissioning a £100m package of support for those under threat of redundancy and those who have recently become unemployed using ESF matched to TtG funding. The ITT was launched on the 26 January 2009; further information is set out below, however more detailed information is available in Section C.

3.3 For both newly redundant individuals and those under notice of redundancy, fully funded support for a range of skills activity that aids progression into sustainable employment will be available – this will be a fully customised offer of 2 – 8 weeks duration, that is not restricted to units or qualifications. Although TtG is focused on those 19+, this new package of support will be available to those 18+. Once individuals have re-entered employment, normal LSC rules on TtG will apply, with the additional flexibility that they will be able to access a repeat Level 2 or 3 irrespective of the size of the employer.

4. Apprenticeships

4.1 The Impact of the Downturn on Young People

4.1.1 Young people are historically vulnerable during economic downturns. There is already evidence of upward pressure on NEET and Apprentices are being affected by the downturn. The LSC is committed to further reducing NEET numbers and to continue the expansion of the Apprenticeship programme.

4.2 Work-based Learning Flexibilities

4.2.1 Hardship funding is available to support a young person on a Programme -led Apprenticeship (PLA) and is accessed by providers delivering Employer Responsive provision. It is for those facing financial difficulty and who need support with associated learning costs. It can be paid to a young person on a PLA where they are not eligible for

EMA; under age 25 and where the learner has genuine financial needs as assessed by the provider dependent on their individual circumstances and eligibility for EMA.

4.2.2 Due to the current economic climate and the need to provide support for those learners who have been made redundant or have become unemployed during their apprenticeship, the definition of a PLA can now include redundant apprentices from an employer- led apprenticeship. These learners who are brought back “into centre” short term to be supported by the provider to finish their framework as near to completion, and/or whilst a new employer is found, can now access hardship funding.

4.3 Construction Sector

4.3.1 There are particular issues in the construction sector because of the severe impact of the downturn. Since early September 2008, the LSC nationally has been working with CSkills to address the issues of apprentices who have been made redundant or at risk of redundancy within the major house builders, and their supply chain, as a result of the downturn in the economy. Nationally, CSkills, in their managing agency capacity, has identified those learners who have been made redundant and set up a clearing house for these learners to contact in order to redeploy them within their employer base.

4.3.2 As part of national discussions between the LSC, DIUS and CSkills, it has been agreed that this facility should be offered to any learner when all avenues of support have been exhausted and there is no prospect that the existing provider is able to find alternative employment. All construction providers in the North West can now access this CSkills clearing house facility.

4.4 Apprenticeship Expansion Programmes

4.4.1 The Apprenticeship Expansion Programme trial aims to develop and test models that support existing high quality employers so that they can recruit and train additional Apprentices. These trained individuals will be fed into either the supply chain or into employment in the wider sector, with the aim of ensuring that these individuals can benefit the sector and supply chain at large, and ensure that both the current and future skills base of the sector is protected.

4.4.2 In order to secure value for money and to maximise the range of models trialled it is anticipated that varying models of delivery will be developed.

4.4.3 The trials are primarily aimed at:

- Large employers that already offer ‘high quality’ Apprenticeship programmes funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who have been awarded an overall grade 2 (good) or grade 1 (outstanding) at their last inspection as well as a grade 2 (good) or grade 1 (outstanding) in the Sector Subject Area in which they are proposing an Apprenticeship Expansion Programme. Current success rates should also be above the minimum levels of performance in the relevant sector subject area.
- Small and medium sized enterprises working individually or in partnership with each other to offer additional places on established ‘high quality’ schemes and;
- Employers in priority sectors where growth or replacement labour has been identified by the Sector Skills Council or in LSC Regional Commissioning plans as a key priority.

4.4.4 The following target groups and priorities have been identified for the trial:

- Advanced Apprenticeship (level 3) programmes.

- Potential apprentices over the age of 16 who are not currently employed and who would otherwise have not participated in the Apprenticeship programme.

The following learners will be ineligible for the programme:

- Learners already participating on an Apprenticeship programme with another employer or provider.
- Learners who have received an offer of an Apprenticeship place with another employer or provider.

4.5 Apprenticeship – Public Sector Engagement

4.5.1 To promote new Apprenticeship starts, LSCNW is working with a range of public sector organisations in the North West to gain their commitment to increase the number of Apprenticeships:

- With the NHS, to double the number of Apprentices through the Joint Investment Framework arrangements.
- With GONW, to introduce a civil service wide Apprenticeship programme in the region with the target to implement 500 Apprenticeships.
- With the North West Employers' Organisation and local partnership directors to agree approaches with individual local authorities to gain commitment to take on Apprentices.
- With Ofsted, to discuss the introduction of an Apprenticeship programme in the North West.

4.6 Additional ESF Interventions to Support Apprentices

4.6.1 An ESF programme to support at risk/redundant apprentices is due to start in February 2009. This will provide a range of measures to support the employer including a contribution to “keep on” the apprentice and create networks of employers who can provide part-time opportunities so that the apprentice can be retained in full-time employment and continue with their apprenticeship. Further information is set out in Section C.

4.6.2 The LSC has appointed organisations or consortia of organisations to develop, and deliver an innovative method of providing Apprentices with real work opportunities using a matrix approach to portfolio development with different employers. The aim of the programme is to offer employers and individuals the chance to access a wider range of employment/Apprenticeship opportunities by pooling part time employment opportunities in different employers to create a full time Apprenticeship opportunity. This programme also aims to support Apprentices who are threatened with redundancy or who have been made redundant with the opportunity to complete their Apprenticeship programme.

4.6.3 The LSC seeks to procure a range of pilot programmes to test different delivery models to fulfil the above aim. A core aspect of the delivery models will be the generation of employment opportunities and co-ordination between part time Apprenticeship opportunities.

4.6.4 Funding of over **£2.3 million** has therefore been made available over the next three years to offset the reasonable costs of supplying additional places.

5. Support for Individuals

The LSC and Jobcentre Plus have significant wide ranging provision which supports workless individuals. As a consequence of the downturn a number of additional targeted measures have been put in place. In essence these are:

- a) **Enhanced Information Advice and Guidance** delivered through extensions to the adult *nextstep* guidance offer
- b) A £100m **Response to Redundancy** package of training to support individuals who are threatened by redundancy or who have become unemployed as a consequence of the downturn
- c) An £83m package of support, delivered, via further education colleges, of **Skills Provision for those reaching 6 months of unemployment**.

The LSC has also revised its adult learner responsive offer and further information on this is contained in section 5.4 below.

5.1 Enhanced Information Advice and Guidance

The *nextstep* offer has been amended to help address the different needs of customers accessing the service during the economic downturn and to reflect the changes needed to the funding model to make this possible. **The revised funding and eligibility model will apply to new customers accessing the service from 1st January 2009.**

5.1.1 The Universal Offer

There are no changes to the universal service. The service is available to all customers regardless of employment level and employment situation. It can be delivered by group work or on a one-to-one basis dependent on customer need. This is often seen as the entry point to the service. As the service is focussed on meeting customer need, flexible use of this service is encouraged.

5.1.2 Universal Plus

This is a new element of the service effective from 1 January 2009. It is for the following customer groups:

- Jobcentre Plus customers qualified at Level 3 and above individuals facing redundancy or newly redundant who are qualified to Level 3 and above with outdated skills.

5.1.3 Changes to Eligibility

In response to the economic downturn, the following changes to eligibility have been introduced:

- All differentiated and personalised customers can access the service if they have qualifications at Level 2 and below. This lifts the 10% cap on individuals without a Level 3.
- All 18 and 19 year old Jobcentre Plus customers are able to access the service. Eligible 18 year old Jobcentre Plus customers can be referred to *nextstep* services by their Jobcentre Plus personal adviser only after discussion with their connexions personal adviser. This change is applicable across England and not just in the IES trial areas.
- Customers with qualifications at Level 3 or above, who are Jobcentre Plus customers or facing redundancy with outdated skills can access the universal plus offer.

5.2 Response to Redundancy

- 5.2.1 The LSC is making available £50m through the European Social Fund (ESF) and £50m through Train to Gain to boost skills interventions for individuals under notice of redundancy, those made recently redundant, and those that are unemployed and further from the labour market, but could be made ready for work with this skills development support package.
- 5.2.2 The funding for this activity will be offered holistically, with the Train to Gain and ESF elements of the package forming a seamless single offer, supporting the Train to Gain core offer. The North West share of the £100m response to redundancy programme is £20.7m. Details of the providers who are delivering this provision can be accessed via the links in Section C.
- 5.2.3 Individuals who have been made redundant or are under notice of redundancy, will be offered a range of education and training services to develop skills to help them to retain employment or find new employment. The aim will be to equip individuals with the skills to be employed in line with emerging skills shortages and emerging job opportunities in the same company or with a new employer. Typically programmes will be between 2 and 8 weeks.
- 5.2.4 There are three key target groups for this support:
- Individuals who are under notice of redundancy and their employer organisations;
 - Individuals who are newly redundant;
 - Individuals who are unemployed but would be ready for employment after receiving this package of skills development support.

5.3 Guaranteed Extra Help for People Unemployed for Six Months

- 5.3.1 At the Employment Summit on 12 January 2009 the Prime Minister announced a package of four measures aimed at ensuring that individuals unemployed for six months are offered continued and relevant support to get back into work quickly. The four parts of the offer are:
- A **recruitment and training subsidy** available to employers
 - A **self-employment package**
 - A new approach to **volunteering**
 - A new **training** package building on the existing IES approach that will offer a more intensive type of tailored support for those whose skills levels have proved to be a barrier to a quick re-entry into employment. The provision will have a strong labour market focus and will be promoted as the gateway for people to take a significant step up in their skills levels, thereby opening up previously inaccessible career opportunities.

Section 5.3.2 relates to the provision of the new **training** package: the Training Offer for those unemployed for 6 months.

5.3.2 The New Training Package for the 6 Month Unemployed

The provision under the 6 month training package will be targeted at local labour market opportunity but will offer more intensive skills support for those facing more significant skills barriers. After six months of unemployment, the individual will already have had (and will

continue to have) access to various short targeted interventions such as those provided through local employment partnerships and the £100m (see 5.2). However, the barriers faced by individuals who have been unable to get a job for six months are likely to be significant and to require a more sustained intervention to improve their chances of gaining sustainable employment.

The focus will be on providing training that will either upskill or reskill the individual so that they are able to get a job and continue their training while they are working, either through in-work training (Train to Gain or apprenticeships) or through part-time provision.

- 5.3.3 The training package will be available from April 2009 to Jobcentre Plus customers aged 19 or over who have been unemployed and claiming Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) for 6 months or longer. It will cover those Jobcentre Plus customers who, from April 2009, are already at the 6 month stage of their claim, as well as those reaching the 6 month gateway thereafter.

Potential participants could be identified and referred to provision by the following:

- (a) Jobcentre Plus advisers working with customers in the 6 –12 month unemployed window;
- (b) nextstep advisers identifying suitable candidates as part of their skills action planning;
- (c) Colleges directly recruiting appropriate and eligible individuals.

5.4 Adult Learner-Responsive Provision – Pre-Level 2 Flexibilities

- 5.4.1 The Government Investment Strategy and LSC Statement of Priorities introduces new flexibilities in pre-Level 2 provision in the adult learner-responsive model, alongside the private sector SME flexibilities in the employer responsive model.
- 5.4.2 For the 2009/10 allocations the LSC will continue to use the Summary Statement of Activity (SSoA). For pre-Level 2 learning, this will set out each college's expected contributions to key targets (SfL literacy and numeracy) and indicative learner numbers in SfL, FLT and developmental learning. Colleges will be expected to deliver their contribution to SfL PSA targets, but beyond that will have flexibility to use their funds for SfL, FLT and developmental learning to respond to local need. Within this flexibility, colleges will be expected to maintain provision in key priority areas such as LLDD and TU learning, but not to meet specific targets.
- 5.4.3 This new approach means that colleges will not be held to account for delivering the precise numbers planned in SfL, FLT and developmental learning categories in the current year 2008/09, provided they have made progress towards their agreed contribution to the SfL PSA targets. This flexibility has already been built into the in-year reconciliation process for 2008/09, where colleges' performance will be assessed against their overall adult learner-responsive volumes of SLNs.

SECTION C: ADDITIONAL ESF FUNDED ACTIVITY

The table below sets out the type of support available which is funded through ESF. It is structured as follows:

- A. Funding to support employers in challenging circumstances including support to create new Apprenticeship placements. We have included the new flexibilities funded through TTG.
- B. Funding support to individuals threatened by or recently made redundant (including those made unemployed as a result of the current economic climate) or who with limited support can re-enter the labour market including action to support Apprentices.
- C. Provision which aims to support workless adults into employment.

The LSC ESF Co-Finance Plan has two operational areas in the North West:

- The Merseyside Phasing-In Area – Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St Helens and Wirral – Yellow Shaded Tables
- The Northwest (excluding the Merseyside Phasing-In Area) – Cheshire and Warrington, Cumbria, Greater Manchester and Lancashire – Green Shaded Tables

Halton has been separated out as some of the activities available in this area are consistent with the offer available in the Merseyside Phasing-In Area whilst other activities are consistent with the Northwest (excluding the Merseyside Phasing-In Area) – Orange Shaded Tables.

For ESF funded activity the following links provide access to the full list of individual providers for the programmes set out below.

Programmes in the Merseyside 'Phasing-In' Area:

<http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/NorthWest/OverviewofLSCESFFundedActivitiesMerseysideArea.pdf>

Programmes in the rest of the Northwest:

<http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/NorthWest/OverviewofLSCESFFundedActivitiesNorthWestArea.pdf>

PART 1 – Provision in the Merseyside Phasing-In Area

Type	Product & Funding	Available to:	Description	Key Criteria	Further Info
Provision in the Merseyside Phasing-In Area					
A	<p>Business skills training delivered by Train to Gain (new flexibility)</p> <p>Funding source: TTG</p> <p>Train to Gain SME Support</p>	SMEs in the Greater Merseyside area	<p>This product has been specially introduced to providers businesses with skills in key areas which will help their survival</p> <p>Train to Gain - SME Support - Fully funded L2 and subsidised L3; Bitesize courses in: Business Improvement, Business Systems and Processes, Team Working and Communications, Sales and Marketing, IT User, IT Support, Customer Service, New Product Design, Finance and Credit, Cash Flow and Profit Management, and Risk Management.</p>	Available to business with less than 250 employees	Business Link Train to Gain Brokers
A	<p>Support for businesses who are inward investing/restructuring</p> <p>Funding source : ESF</p> <p>Programme Title: Inward Investor and Restructuring Large Company Response Programme</p>	Large and SME businesses in the Merseyside Phasing-In Area	<p>This programme will provide a rapid response fund to support skills development in companies which are inward investing, undertaking significant expansion or downsizing and creating redundancies. It is being established both to stimulate and to address demand for workforce development amongst SMEs and large companies in the North West Region.</p> <p>The skills development will be targeted on companies and their supply chains or will assist staff back into the labour market following the announcement of redundancies. The programme will provide an incentive to take up the Skills Pledge and facilitate access to Train to Gain provision.</p> <p>The importance of responding to the needs of companies is paramount. Providers are expected to develop a variety of bespoke solutions</p>	Companies need to be inward investment, restructuring or down sizing.	<p>The managing agent for this activity on Merseyside is:</p> <p>Sysco Systems Ltd</p> <p>Contact details are available via the ESF link above.</p> <p>Tender Reference: NW/EMPLOYER/S0 1 and NW/EMPLOYER/S3 1</p>

Type	Product & Funding	Available to:	Description	Key Criteria	Further Info
Provision in the Merseyside Phasing-In Area					
			depending upon the needs identified by the employer. Total value £4.8m runs to July 2011.		
A	Highly flexible business skills training Funding source: ESF Programme Title: Skillworks	SMEs based in the Merseyside Phasing-In Area	This programme has been established to stimulate and address demand for workforce development amongst Small and Medium sized companies (SMEs) in Merseyside specifically. The programme builds on the success of the SkillWorks programme and provides additionality to Train to Gain provision locally. The programme will also be utilised to extend and incentivise companies to take up the Skills Pledge and facilitate access to Train to Gain provision. The importance of responding to the needs of small and medium enterprises is paramount. Providers are expected to develop a variety of bespoke solutions depending upon the needs identified by the employer. Total value £16.7m runs to December 2010	The programme targets Small and Medium sized employers based in the geographic locations identified and their employees with targeted support. This programme is designed to promote the uptake of workforce development opportunities by SMEs, particularly those who have not previously participated in Workforce Development activity and who need support to articulate their training needs.	A number of providers are delivering this activity in the Merseyside area. Contact data is available via the link above Tender Reference: NW/EMPLOYER/S03 NW/EMPLOYER/S16 NW/EMPLOYER/S33
B	Support to individuals threatened by or recently made redundant or who with limited support can re-enter the labour market	Individuals affected by the labour market downturn in Merseyside.	The LSC is making available £50m through the European Social Fund (ESF) and £50m through Train to Gain to boost skills interventions for individuals under notice of redundancy, those made recently redundant, and those that are unemployed and further from the labour market, but could be made ready for work with this skills development support package. The funding for this activity will be offered holistically, with the Train to Gain and ESF elements of the package	Individuals, who have been made redundant (including those that have been made unemployed as a result of the economic climate) or are under notice of redundancy, will be offered a range of education and	This provision is currently being procured contracts will be in place by April 2009. Full details will then be available via the links

Type	Product & Funding	Available to:	Description	Key Criteria	Further Info
Provision in the Merseyside Phasing-In Area					
	Funding source: ESF & TTG Programme Title: Response to Redundancy		forming a seamless single offer, supporting the Train to Gain core offer. Total value £9.8m runs from April 2009 to December 2010	training services to develop skills to help them to retain employment or find new employment.	above.
B	Support for both individuals and employers by increasing the number of Apprenticeship opportunities Funding source: ESF Programme Title: Employer Pool and Integrated Career Development Mentoring Programme	Apprentices to be supported with employer placements. This programme is also available to support Apprentices affected by redundancy	The aim of the programme is to offer employers and individuals the chance to access a wider range of employment / Apprentice opportunities by pooling part time employment opportunities in different employers to create a full time Apprenticeship opportunity. This programme also aims to increase participation and achievement on the Apprenticeship programme by young people, whilst providing opportunities for employers to meet their workforce development and employment needs. Operated by two managing agents operating across the whole of the North West the programme is also being used to find new employer placements for Apprentices made redundant Total value £900k across the Merseyside area and runs to July 2011	Any employer or young person seeking Apprenticeship training	The approved providers are: CITB Economic Solutions Tender Reference: NW/EMPLOYER/S3 4
C	Training to support adults into work Funding source: ESF	Unemployed and Workless Adults	Skill Boost is a programme to maximise the opportunities for local people, particularly from disadvantaged groups and areas, to gain access to sustainable employment and training. LSCGM is seeking providers to deliver and co-ordinate an on demand "Skill Boost" component designed to	Workless Individuals with a focus on engaging those in priority groups: Residents of DAF wards; Incapacity Benefit Claimants; Lone parents;	The provider delivering this activity in the Merseyside area is:

Type	Product & Funding	Available to:	Description	Key Criteria	Further Info
Provision in the Merseyside Phasing-In Area					
	Programme Title: Skill Boost		deliver customised training linked with identified employer vacancies Total value £1.75m runs to December 2010	ex offenders; people with Sfl needs; Learners with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities.	Sysco Business Skills Academy Contact data is available via the link above. Tender Reference: NW/ADULT/S06
C	Training to support adults into self employment Funding source: ESF Programme Title: Enterprise Routeway	Unemployed and Workless Adults	A programme to engage unemployed/workless individuals in a programme of skills based activities (based on a tiered approach) that will explore potential opportunities provided by starting their own business, and then provide a customised programme of skills support with clear progression paths that will support unemployed/workless people to start their own business. It is envisaged that progression from this programme should be into self-employment, to more appropriate Business Start up support such as the New Entrepreneur Scholarships, Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI) funded activity, regionally funded enterprise activity delivered locally by A4E and its sub-contractors etc or, where appropriate, progression to further skills training and support - e.g. through the Train to Gain service if [self] employment is an unsuitable option. Total value £1.1m runs to December 2010	Workless individuals with a priority on long term unemployed people; Lone parents; Women returners to the labour market; Black and Minority Ethnic groups; Learners with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities; young people/ NEET young people; Older people; Alcohol/ substance misusers; people in receipt of benefits; homeless people and ex offenders; etc.	The provider delivering this activity in the Merseyside area is: Train 2000 Contact data is available via the link above Tender Reference: NW/ADULT/S07
C	Training to support workless adults into work Funding source:	Unemployed and Workless Adults	This programme aims is to help people develop employability skills to enable them to enter sustainable employment in growth and key employability priority sectors within Merseyside, for example: Port and Maritime industries, Logistics,	Residents who are aged 19 or more, but not yet receiving a state pension; who are not currently in employment	A number of providers are delivering this activity in the Merseyside area.

Type	Product & Funding	Available to:	Description	Key Criteria	Further Info
Provision in the Merseyside Phasing-In Area					
	ESF Programme Title: Priority Sector Routeway		Sport & Leisure, Tourism & Hospitality and Retail The programme will deliver sector focussed activity and will be a key strand of the Liverpool/Merseyside City Region City Employment and Skills Strategy (CES). This programme will also support emerging Local Employment Partnership (LEP) activity and complement achievement of the Skills and Jobs pledges. Total value £6.6m runs to December 2010	and who want to develop the skills and qualifications necessary to find work in the local labour market, with a focus on residents of DAF wards.	Contact data is available via the link above Tender Reference: NW/ADULT/S08 NW/ADULT/S16
C	Training to support workless adults into identified vacancies Funding source : ESF Programme Title: Routeways to Employment	Unemployed and Workless Adults	This aim of the programme is to directly help individuals into employment, with a particular focus on people from disadvantaged groups or areas. Providing access to additional support and employability interventions to enable them to successfully gain sustainable employment. The module is designed to deliver a customised approach linked to individual needs, facilitating and underpinning the progression of individuals into the labour market. A customised programme of support to enhance employability and equip unemployed/ workless people from deprived areas who are disadvantaged in the labour market to secure sustainable employment by linking people who want to work with employers/ sectors with identified skills shortages, and providing skills & personal development programmes to enhance employability Total value £2.4m runs to December 2010	Adults aged 19 and over, particularly from the 5 DAF wards, who are not currently in employment but who want to work and lack skills and qualifications necessary to compete in the local job market, targeting the following groups: Incapacity Benefit claimants; Lone parents; adults in workless households; people aged 50+; people with Skills for Life needs below Level 2; Income Support claimants; adults with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities; Ex offenders; Homeless People; people from BRM	A number of providers are delivering this activity in the Merseyside area. Contact data is available via the link above Tender Reference: NW/ADULT/S18

Type	Product & Funding	Available to:	Description	Key Criteria	Further Info
Provision in the Merseyside Phasing-In Area					
				communities and women returners.	
C	<p>Training to support workless adults into identified vacancies</p> <p>Funding source : ESF</p> <p>Programme Title: Sustainable Employment Programme</p>	Unemployed and Workless Adults	<p>The LSC has undertaken to procure tailored pre-employment training where the training need arises from a LEP. This is the focus of this tender specification.</p> <p>In addition to the pre-employment training, and in order to increase the sustainability of LEP employment, the LSC wishes to link the pre-employment training, funded by this Invitation to Tender, to post- employment training funded predominantly by Train to Gain. Together these elements configure the Sustainable Employment Programme.</p> <p>LEPs are the primary focus of the Sustainable Employment Programme but the programme may be extended to non LEP employment opportunities.</p> <p>Total value £2.2m runs to December 2010</p>	<p>Adults aged 18 and over who are living in or seeking work in an organization based in the relevant geographical locations. Priority will be given to the following groups: lone parents; workless households, Incapacity Benefit claimants; Income Support claimants; ex offenders and offenders under supervision within the community; people with learning difficulties and/ or disabilities; BME, Over 50s; homeless people</p>	<p>A number of providers are delivering this activity in the Merseyside area.</p> <p>Contact data is available via the link above</p> <p>Tender Reference: NW/ADULT/S23</p>
C	<p>Training to support workless adults into employment</p> <p>Funding source : ESF</p> <p>Programme Title: Routeway to Employment for People with</p>	Unemployed and Workless Adults	<p>A programme to enhance supported employment opportunities for young people and adults with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities. The aim is for young people and adults to achieve equality of opportunity, social inclusion and integration into the mainstreams of society and sustainable employment in integrated settings.</p> <p>Total value £4m runs to December 2010</p>	<p>Learners with Learning Difficulties and/ or Disabilities including adults that may have found it difficult to enter employment or return to training due to the lack of previous educational attainment; unemployed or economically inactive adults who are seeking work; young people (YP)</p>	<p>A number of providers are delivering this activity in the Merseyside area.</p> <p>Contact data is available via the link above</p> <p>Tender Reference: NW/OTHER/S01</p>

Type	Product & Funding	Available to:	Description	Key Criteria	Further Info
Provision in the Merseyside Phasing-In Area					
	Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities			16+ NEET or in learning and at risk of unemployment.	
C	<p>Training to support adults with a track record of offending</p> <p>Funding source : ESF</p> <p>Programme Title: Skills for Jobs for Offenders</p>	Workless adults with a history of offending	<p>Offenders are part of the workless cohort and often face multiple barriers to engagement. The target group for this tender are those offenders for whom employment has been assessed as a need and this is entered on their sentence plan. (The assessment will be using the criminal justice sector's OAsys process). Whilst many offenders will be serving their sentence in the community some 'in reach' work in prisons might be required. Applicants will need to take account of the Offender Learning and Skills Service (OLASS) delivered in prisons and the community as well as the Job Centre Plus service which is also present in the North West prisons.</p> <p>The overall strategic aim of services sought under this specification is to support the delivery of an integrated employment and skills system, known as Skills for Jobs for offenders.</p> <p>Skills for Jobs aims to tackle worklessness by reducing the number of individuals not in employment through more effective engagement, and to move individuals into sustainable jobs through coaching, skills development, ongoing support, and the achievement of qualifications. This will be achieved by linking people who want to work with employers/sectors where there are vacancies and preparing individuals to secure and sustain employment.</p>	Offenders 19+ with OAsys-identified ETE needs serving sentences under NPS-Greater Merseyside supervision, or in custody in NW prisons in the final 12-16 weeks of their sentence, who will return to Greater Merseyside on release.	<p>A number of providers are delivering this activity in the Merseyside area.</p> <p>Contact data is available via the link above</p> <p>Tender Reference: NW/OTHER/S02</p>

Type	Product & Funding	Available to:	Description	Key Criteria	Further Info
Provision in the Merseyside Phasing-In Area					
			Total value £1m runs to December 2010		
C	<p>Training Package for the 6 Month Unemployed</p> <p>Funding Source: LSC Adult Responsive Budget</p> <p>Title: Training Package for 6 Month Unemployed</p>	<p>Jobseekers (JSA) who have been unemployed for 6 months or longer from April 2009. It will cover those JSA claimants that are already at that stage of their claim, as well as those reaching it thereafter.</p>	<p>The provision under the 6 month training package will be targeted at local labour market opportunity but will offer more intensive skills support for those facing more significant skills barriers. After six months of unemployment, the individual will already have had (and will continue to have) access to various short targeted interventions such as those provided through local employment partnerships and the £100m (see 5.2). However, the barriers faced by individuals who have been unable to get a job for six months are likely to be significant and to require a more sustained intervention to improve their chances of gaining sustainable employment.</p> <p>The focus will be on providing training that will either upskill or reskill the individual so that they are able to get a job and continue their training while they are working, either through in-work training (Train to Gain or apprenticeships) or through part-time provision.</p>	<p>Jobseekers (JSA) who have been unemployed for 6 months or longer from April 2009. It will cover those JSA claimants that are already at that stage of their claim, as well as those reaching it thereafter.</p>	<p>This provision is currently being procured contracts will be in place by April 2009.</p> <p>Full details will then be available on LSC NW's web pages.</p>
C	<p>Support to individuals threatened by or recently made redundant or who with limited support can re-enter the labour market</p>	<p>Individuals affected by the labour market downturn in Merseyside.</p>	<p>The LSC is making available £50m through the European Social Fund (ESF) and £50m through Train to Gain to boost skills interventions for individuals under notice of redundancy, those made recently redundant, and those that are unemployed and further from the labour market, but could be made ready for work with this skills development support package. The funding for this activity will be offered holistically, with the Train to Gain and ESF elements of the package forming a seamless single offer, supporting the</p>	<p>Individuals, who have been made redundant (including those that have been made unemployed as a result of the economic climate) or are under notice of redundancy, will be offered a range of education and training services to</p>	<p>This provision is currently being procured contracts will be in place by April 2009.</p> <p>Full details will then be available via the links above.</p>

Type	Product & Funding	Available to:	Description	Key Criteria	Further Info
Provision in the Merseyside Phasing-In Area					
	Funding source: ESF & TTG Programme Title: Response to Redundancy		Train to Gain core offer. Total value £9.8m runs from April 2009 to December 2010	develop skills to help them to retain employment or find new employment.	

PART 2 – Provision in the Northwest – Cheshire & Warrington, Cumbria, Greater Manchester and Lancashire

Type	Product & Funding	Available to:	Description	Key Criteria	Further Info
Provision in the Northwest – Cheshire & Warrington, Cumbria, Greater Manchester and Lancashire					
A	<p>Business skills training delivered by Train to Gain (new flexibility)</p> <p>Funding source: TTG</p> <p>Train to Gain SME support</p>	SMEs in the Merseyside area	<p>This product has been specially introduced to providers businesses with skills in key areas which will help their survival</p> <p>Train to Gain - SME Support - Fully funded L2 and subsidised L3; Bitesize courses in: Business Improvement, Business Systems and Processes, Team Working and Communications, Sales and Marketing, IT User, IT Support, Customer Service, New Product Design, Finance and Credit, Cash Flow and Profit Management, and Risk Management.</p>	Available to business with less than 250 employees	Business Link Train to Gain Brokers
A	<p>Support for businesses who are inward investing/restructuring</p> <p>Funding source: ESF</p> <p>Programme Title: Inward Investor and Restructuring Company Response Programme</p>	Large and SME businesses in the Northwest area	<p>This programme will provide a rapid response fund to support skills development in companies which are inward investing, undertaking significant expansion or downsizing and creating redundancies. It is being established both to stimulate and to address demand for workforce development amongst SMEs and large companies in the North West Region.</p> <p>The skills development will be targeted on companies and their supply chains or will assist staff back into the labour market following the announcement of redundancies. The programme will provide an incentive to take up the Skills Pledge and facilitate access to Train to Gain provision.</p> <p>The importance of responding to the needs of companies is paramount. Providers are</p>	Companies need to be inward investment, restructuring or down sizing.	<p>The managing agents for this activity in Northwest are: CX Limited Economic Solutions Sysco Systems Ltd</p> <p>Contact details are available via the ESF link above.</p> <p>Tender Reference: NW/EMPLOYER/S31</p>

Type	Product & Funding	Available to:	Description	Key Criteria	Further Info
Provision in the Northwest – Cheshire & Warrington, Cumbria, Greater Manchester and Lancashire					
			<p>expected to develop a variety of bespoke solutions depending upon the needs identified by the employer.</p> <p>Total value £2.7m runs to July 2011.</p>		
B	<p>Support to individuals threatened by or recently made redundant or who with limited support can re-enter the labour market</p> <p>Funding source : ESF & TTG</p> <p>Programme Title: Response to Redundancy</p>	<p>Individuals affected by the labour market downturn in the Northwest.</p>	<p>The LSC is making available £50m through the European Social Fund (ESF) and £50m through Train to Gain to boost skills interventions for individuals under notice of redundancy, those made recently redundant, and those that are unemployed and further from the labour market, but could be made ready for work with this skills development support package. The funding for this activity will be offered holistically, with the Train to Gain and ESF elements of the package forming a seamless single offer, supporting the Train to Gain core offer.</p> <p>Total value £10.7m runs from April 2009 to December 2010</p>	<p>Individuals who have been made redundant (including those that have been made unemployed as a result of the economic climate) or are under notice of redundancy, will be offered a range of education and training services to develop skills to help them to retain employment or find new employment.</p>	<p>This provision is currently being procured contracts will be in place from April 2009.</p> <p>Full details will then be available via the links above.</p>
B	<p>Support for both individuals and employers by increasing the number of Apprenticeship opportunities</p> <p>Funding source ESF</p>	<p>Apprentices to be supported with employer placements.</p> <p>This programme is also available to support Apprentices affected by redundancy</p>	<p>The aim of the programme is to offer employers and individuals the chance to access a wider range of employment / Apprenticeship opportunities by pooling part time employment opportunities in different employers to create a full time Apprenticeship opportunity.</p> <p>This programme also aims to increase participation and achievement on the Apprenticeship programme by young people, whilst providing opportunities for employers to</p>	<p>Any employer or young person seeking Apprenticeship training</p>	<p>The approved providers are: CITB Economic Solutions</p> <p>Tender Reference: NW/EMPLOYER/S34</p>

Type	Product & Funding	Available to:	Description	Key Criteria	Further Info
Provision in the Northwest – Cheshire & Warrington, Cumbria, Greater Manchester and Lancashire					
	Programme Title: Employer Pool and Integrated Career Development Mentoring Programme		<p>meet their workforce development and employment needs.</p> <p>Operated by two managing agents operating across the whole of the North West the programme is also being used to find new employer placements for Apprentices made redundant</p> <p>Total value £1.4m and runs to July 2011.</p>		
C	<p>Training to support workless adults into identified vacancies</p> <p>Funding source: ESF</p> <p>Programme Title: Skills for Jobs: Routeways into Sustainable Employment Programme</p>	Unemployed and Workless Adults	<p>This programme is one of the two the key programme in the Northwest area to support the longer term workless into sustainable employment</p> <p>The overall strategic aim of services sought under this specification is to support the delivery of an integrated employment and skills system.</p> <p>Skills for Jobs aims to tackle worklessness by reducing the number of individuals not in employment through more effective engagement, and to move individuals into sustainable jobs through coaching, skills development, ongoing support, and the achievement of qualifications. This will be achieved by linking people who want to work with employers/sectors where there are vacancies and preparing individuals to secure and sustain employment.</p> <p>Total value £7.1m runs to December 2010</p>	<p>Routeway 1: Learners with learning difficulties and disabilities, aged over 19, currently within FE provision who would be unlikely to achieve level 1 or 2 via the current FE system, for whom learning in a workplace setting would be more relevant.</p> <p>Routeway 2: Aged over 19; lone parents; people from workless households; Incapacity benefit claimants; people from BME communities; people over 50 years of age; people with skill levels below level 2 and people with disabilities/difficulties that add to</p>	<p>A number of providers are delivering this activity in the Northwest area. There is some variation in across the sub-regions.</p> <p>A full list of providers and what is available in each area is available via the link above</p> <p>Tender Reference: NW/ADULT/S01 NW/ADULT/S02 NW/ADULT/S03 NW/ADULT/S04 NW/ADULT/S12</p>

Type	Product & Funding	Available to:	Description	Key Criteria	Further Info
Provision in the Northwest – Cheshire & Warrington, Cumbria, Greater Manchester and Lancashire					
				<p>preventing them entering the workplace will be specifically targeted.</p> <p>Routeway 3: workless people though not necessarily claiming benefits eg women returners, people over 50, people with skill levels below level 2, and people from BME communities</p>	
C	<p>Training to support workless adults into work</p> <p>Funding source : ESF</p> <p>Programme Title: The Sustainable Employment Programme</p>	Unemployed and Workless Adults	<p>This programme is one of the two the key programme in the Northwest area to support the longer term workless into sustainable employment. The key difference with the Skills for Job programme is that the Sustainable Employment Programme supports individuals to access identified employment opportunities through Local Employment Partnership (Jobcentre Plus initiative)</p> <p>In addition to the pre-employment training, and in order to increase the sustainability of LEP employment, the LSC wishes to link the pre-employment training, funded by this Invitation to Tender, to post- employment training funded predominantly by Train to Gain. Together these elements configure the Sustainable Employment Programme.</p> <p>LEPs are the primary focus of the Sustainable</p>	<p>Individuals aged 18 and over including lone parents; participants of NDDP; IB claimants; recipients of Severe Disability allowance, Income support, Carers allowance; people on JSA New Deals; disadvantaged groups (ex-offenders, refugees, drug/ alcohol misusers, homeless people); people claiming JSA for under 6 months and unemployed customers not claiming benefits.</p>	<p>A number of providers are delivering this activity in the Northwest area. There is some variation in across the sub-regions.</p> <p>A full list of providers and what is available in each area is available via the link above</p> <p>Tender Reference: NW/ADULT/S19 NW/ADULT/S20 NW/ADULT/S21 NW/ADULT/S22</p>

Type	Product & Funding	Available to:	Description	Key Criteria	Further Info
Provision in the Northwest – Cheshire & Warrington, Cumbria, Greater Manchester and Lancashire					
			Employment Programme but the programme may be extended to non LEP employment opportunities. Total value £3.58m runs to December 2010		
C	<p>Training to support adults with a track record of offending</p> <p>Funding source : ESF</p> <p>Programme Title: Skills for Jobs for Offenders</p>	Workless adults with a history of offending	<p>Offenders are part of the workless cohort and often face multiple barriers to engagement. The target group for this tender are those offenders for whom employment has been assessed as a need and this is entered on their sentence plan. (The assessment will be using the criminal justice sector's OAsys process). Whilst many offenders will be serving their sentence in the community some 'in reach' work in prisons might be required. Applicants will need to take account of the Offender Learning and Skills Service (OLASS) delivered in prisons and the community as well as the Job Centre Plus service which is also present in the North West prisons.</p> <p>The overall strategic aim of services sought under this specification is to support the delivery of an integrated employment and skills system, known as Skills for Jobs for offenders.</p> <p>Skills for Jobs aims to tackle worklessness by reducing the number of individuals not in employment through more effective engagement, and to move individuals into sustainable jobs through coaching, skills development, ongoing support, and the achievement of qualifications. This will be achieved by linking people who want to work with employers/sectors where there are</p>	Offenders 19+ with OAsys-identified ETE needs serving sentences under NPS- Greater Merseyside supervision, or in custody in NW prisons in the final 12-16 weeks of their sentence, who will return to Greater Merseyside on release.	<p>A number of providers are delivering this activity in the Northwest area.</p> <p>Contact data is available via the link above</p> <p>Tender Reference: NW/OTHER/S02</p>

Type	Product & Funding	Available to:	Description	Key Criteria	Further Info
Provision in the Northwest – Cheshire & Warrington, Cumbria, Greater Manchester and Lancashire					
			vacancies and preparing individuals to secure and sustain employment. Total value £2m runs to December 2010		
C	<p>Training Package for the 6 Month Unemployed</p> <p>Funding Source: LSC Adult Responsive Budget</p> <p>Title: Training Package for 6 Month Unemployed</p>	<p>Jobseekers (JSA) who have been unemployed for 6 months or longer from April 2009. It will cover those JSA claimants that are already at that stage of their claim, as well as those reaching it thereafter.</p>	<p>The provision under the 6 month training package will be targeted at local labour market opportunity but will offer more intensive skills support for those facing more significant skills barriers. After six months of unemployment, the individual will already have had (and will continue to have) access to various short targeted interventions such as those provided through local employment partnerships and the £100m (see 5.2). However, the barriers faced by individuals who have been unable to get a job for six months are likely to be significant and to require a more sustained intervention to improve their chances of gaining sustainable employment.</p> <p>The focus will be on providing training that will either upskill or reskill the individual so that they are able to get a job and continue their training while they are working, either through in-work training (Train to Gain or apprenticeships) or through part-time provision.</p>	<p>Jobseekers (JSA) who have been unemployed for 6 months or longer from April 2009. It will cover those JSA claimants that are already at that stage of their claim, as well as those reaching it thereafter.</p>	<p>This provision is currently being procured contracts will be in place by April 2009.</p> <p>Full details will then be available on LSC NW's web pages.</p>
C	<p>Support to individuals threatened by or recently made</p>	<p>Individuals affected by the labour market downturn in the Northwest.</p>	<p>The LSC is making available £50m through the European Social Fund (ESF) and £50m through Train to Gain to boost skills interventions for individuals under notice of redundancy, those made recently redundant, and those that are</p>	<p>Individuals who have been made redundant (including those that have been made unemployed as a result</p>	<p>This provision is currently being procured contracts will be in place from April 2009.</p>

Type	Product & Funding	Available to:	Description	Key Criteria	Further Info
Provision in the Northwest – Cheshire & Warrington, Cumbria, Greater Manchester and Lancashire					
	<p>redundant or who with limited support can re-enter the labour market</p> <p>Funding source : ESF & TTG</p> <p>Programme Title: Response to Redundancy</p>		<p>unemployed and further from the labour market, but could be made ready for work with this skills development support package. The funding for this activity will be offered holistically, with the Train to Gain and ESF elements of the package forming a seamless single offer, supporting the Train to Gain core offer.</p> <p>Total value £10.7m runs from April 2009 to December 2010</p>	<p>of the economic climate) or are under notice of redundancy, will be offered a range of education and training services to develop skills to help them to retain employment or find new employment.</p>	<p>Full details will then be available via the links above.</p>

PART 3 – Provision in the Halton Area

Type	Product & Funding	Available to:	Description	Key Criteria	Further Info
Provision in the Halton Area					
A	<p>Business skills training delivered by Train to Gain (new flexibility)</p> <p>Funding source: TTG</p> <p>Train to Gain SME Support</p>	SMEs in the Halton area	<p>This product has been specially introduced to providers businesses with skills in key areas which will help their survival</p> <p>Train to Gain - SME Support - Fully funded L2 and subsidised L3; Bitesize courses in: Business Improvement, Business Systems and Processes, Team Working and Communications, Sales and Marketing, IT User, IT Support, Customer Service, New Product Design, Finance and Credit, Cash Flow and Profit Management, and Risk Management.</p>	Available to business with less than 250 employees	Business Link Train to Gain Brokers
A	<p>Support for businesses who are inward investing/restructuring</p> <p>Funding source : ESF</p> <p>Programme Title: Inward Investor and Restructuring Company Response Programme</p>	Large and SME businesses in the Halton Area	<p>This programme will provide a rapid response fund to support skills development in companies which are inward investing, undertaking significant expansion or downsizing and creating redundancies. It is being established both to stimulate and to address demand for workforce development amongst SMEs and large companies in the North West Region.</p> <p>The skills development will be targeted on companies and their supply chains or will assist staff back into the labour market following the announcement of redundancies. The programme will provide an incentive to take up the Skills Pledge and facilitate access to Train to Gain provision.</p> <p>The importance of responding to the needs of companies is paramount. Providers are expected to develop a variety of bespoke solutions</p>	Companies need to be inward investment, restructuring or down sizing.	<p>The managing agent for this activity in Halton:</p> <p>Sysco Systems Ltd</p> <p>Contact details are available via the ESF link above.</p> <p>Tender Reference: NW/EMPLOYER/S0 1 and NW/EMPLOYER/S3 1</p>

Type	Product & Funding	Available to:	Description	Key Criteria	Further Info
Provision in the Halton Area					
			depending upon the needs identified by the employer. Total value £215k runs to July 2011.		
B	Support to individuals threatened by or recently made redundant or who with limited support can re-enter the labour market Funding source: ESF & TTG Programme Title: Response to Redundancy	Individuals affected by the labour market downturn in Halton.	The LSC is making available £50m through the European Social Fund (ESF) and £50m through Train to Gain to boost skills interventions for individuals under notice of redundancy, those made recently redundant, and those that are unemployed and further from the labour market, but could be made ready for work with this skills development support package. The funding for this activity will be offered holistically, with the Train to Gain and ESF elements of the package forming a seamless single offer, supporting the Train to Gain core offer. Total value £276k runs from April 2009 to December 2010	Individuals, who have been made redundant (including those that have been made unemployed as a result of the economic climate) or are under notice of redundancy, will be offered a range of education and training services to develop skills to help them to retain employment or find new employment.	This provision is currently being procured contracts will be in place by April 2009. Full details will then be available via the links above.
B	Support for both individuals and employers by increasing the number of Apprenticeship opportunities Funding source: ESF Programme	Apprentices to be supported with employer placements. This programme is also available to support Apprentices affected by redundancy	The aim of the programme is to offer employers and individuals the chance to access a wider range of employment / Apprentice opportunities by pooling part time employment opportunities in different employers to create a full time Apprenticeship opportunity. This programme also aims to increase participation and achievement on the Apprenticeship programme by young people, whilst providing opportunities for employers to meet their workforce development and	Any employer or young person seeking Apprenticeship training	The approved providers are: CITB Manchester Solutions Tender Reference: NW/EMPLOYER/S34

Type	Product & Funding	Available to:	Description	Key Criteria	Further Info
Provision in the Halton Area					
	Title: Employer Pool and Integrated Career Development Mentoring Programme		employment needs. Operated by two managing agents operating across the whole of the North West the programme is also being used to find new employer placements for Apprentices made redundant Total value £36k and runs to July 2011		
C	Training to support adults into work Funding source: ESF Programme Title: Skill Boost	Unemployed and Workless Adults	Skill Boost is a programme to maximise the opportunities for local people, particularly from disadvantaged groups and areas, to gain access to sustainable employment and training. LSCGM is seeking providers to deliver and co-ordinate an on demand "Skill Boost" component designed to deliver customised training linked with identified employer vacancies Total value £60k runs to December 2010	Workless Individuals with a focus on engaging those in priority groups: Residents of DAF wards; Incapacity Benefit Claimants; Lone parents; ex offenders; people with SfL needs; Learners with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities.	The provider delivering this activity in Halton is: Halton Borough Council Contact data is available via the link above. Tender Reference: NW/ADULT/S10
C	Training to support workless adults into work Funding source: ESF Programme Title:	Unemployed and Workless Adults	This programme aims is to help people develop employability skills to enable them to enter sustainable employment in growth and key employability priority sectors within Merseyside, for example: Port and Maritime industries, Logistics, Sport & Leisure, Tourism & Hospitality and Retail The programme will deliver sector focussed activity and will be a key strand of the	Residents who are aged 19 or more, but not yet receiving a state pension; who are not currently in employment and who want to develop the skills and qualifications necessary to find work in the local labour market, with a	The provider delivering this activity in Halton is: Halton Borough Council Contact data is

Type	Product & Funding	Available to:	Description	Key Criteria	Further Info
Provision in the Halton Area					
	Priority Sector Routeway		Liverpool/Merseyside City Region City Employment and Skills Strategy (CES). This programme will also support emerging Local Employment Partnership (LEP) activity and complement achievement of the Skills and Jobs pledges. Total value £90k runs to December 2010	focus on residents of DAF wards.	available via the link above Tender Reference: NW/ADULT/S11
C	Training to support workless adults into identified vacancies Funding source : ESF Programme Title: Sustainable Employment Programme	Unemployed and Workless Adults	The LSC has undertaken to procure tailored pre-employment training where the training need arises from a LEP. This is the focus of this tender specification. In addition to the pre-employment training, and in order to increase the sustainability of LEP employment, the LSC wishes to link the pre-employment training, funded by this Invitation to Tender, to post- employment training funded predominantly by Train to Gain. Together these elements configure the Sustainable Employment Programme. LEPs are the primary focus of the Sustainable Employment Programme but the programme may be extended to non LEP employment opportunities. Total value £75k runs to December 2010	Adults aged 18 and over who are living in or seeking work in an organization based in the relevant geographical locations. Priority will be given to the following groups: lone parents; workless households, Incapacity Benefit claimants; Income Support claimants; ex offenders and offenders under supervision within the community; people with learning difficulties and/ or disabilities; BME, Over 50s; homeless people	The provider delivering this activity in Halton is: Economic Solutions Contact data is available via the link above Tender Reference: NW/ADULT/S23
C	Training to support workless adults into employment Funding source :	Unemployed and Workless Adults	A programme to enhance supported employment opportunities for young people and adults with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities. The aim is for young people and adults to achieve equality of opportunity, social inclusion and integration into the mainstreams of society and	Learners with Learning Difficulties and/ or Disabilities including adults that may have found it difficult to enter employment or return to	The provider delivering this activity in Halton is: Shaw Trust

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Provision in the Halton Area					
	ESF Programme Title: Routeway to Employment for People with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities		sustainable employment in integrated settings. Total value £116k runs to December 2010	training due to the lack of previous educational attainment; unemployed or economically inactive adults who are seeking work; young people (YP) 16+ NEET or in learning and at risk of unemployment.	Contact data is available via the link above Tender Reference: NW/OTHER/S01
C	Training to support adults with a track record of offending Funding source : ESF Programme Title: Skills for Jobs for Offenders	Workless adults with a history of offending	Offenders are part of the workless cohort and often face multiple barriers to engagement. The target group for this tender are those offenders for whom employment has been assessed as a need and this is entered on their sentence plan. (The assessment will be using the criminal justice sector's OAsys process). Whilst many offenders will be serving their sentence in the community some 'in reach' work in prisons might be required. Applicants will need to take account of the Offender Learning and Skills Service (OLASS) delivered in prisons and the community as well as the Job Centre Plus service which is also present in the North West prisons. The overall strategic aim of services sought under this specification is to support the delivery of an integrated employment and skills system, known as Skills for Jobs for offenders. Skills for Jobs aims to tackle worklessness by reducing the number of individuals not in employment through more effective engagement, and to move individuals into	Offenders 19+ with OASys-identified ETE needs serving sentences under NPS-Greater Merseyside supervision, or in custody in NW prisons in the final 12-16 weeks of their sentence, who will return to Greater Merseyside on release.	The provider delivering this activity in Halton is: The Manchester College Contact data is available via the link above Tender Reference: NW/OTHER/S02

Type	Product & Funding	Available to:	Description	Key Criteria	Further Info
Provision in the Halton Area					
			<p>sustainable jobs through coaching, skills development, ongoing support, and the achievement of qualifications. This will be achieved by linking people who want to work with employers/sectors where there are vacancies and preparing individuals to secure and sustain employment.</p> <p>Total value £46k runs to December 2010</p>		
C	<p>Training Package for the 6 Month Unemployed</p> <p>Funding Source: LSC Adult Responsive Budget</p> <p>Title: Training Package for 6 Month Unemployed</p>	<p>Jobseekers (JSA) who have been unemployed for 6 months or longer from April 2009. It will cover those JSA claimants that are already at that stage of their claim, as well as those reaching it thereafter.</p>	<p>The provision under the 6 month training package will be targeted at local labour market opportunity but will offer more intensive skills support for those facing more significant skills barriers. After six months of unemployment, the individual will already have had (and will continue to have) access to various short targeted interventions such as those provided through local employment partnerships and the £100m (see 5.2). However, the barriers faced by individuals who have been unable to get a job for six months are likely to be significant and to require a more sustained intervention to improve their chances of gaining sustainable employment.</p> <p>The focus will be on providing training that will either upskill or reskill the individual so that they are able to get a job and continue their training while they are working, either through in-work training (Train to Gain or apprenticeships) or through part-time provision.</p>	<p>Jobseekers (JSA) who have been unemployed for 6 months or longer from April 2009. It will cover those JSA claimants that are already at that stage of their claim, as well as those reaching it thereafter.</p>	<p>This provision is currently being procured contracts will be in place by April 2009.</p> <p>Full details will then be available on LSC NW's web pages.</p>
C	Support to individuals	Individuals affected by the	The LSC is making available £50m through the European Social Fund (ESF) and £50m through	Individuals, who have been made redundant	This provision is currently being

Type	Product & Funding	Available to:	Description	Key Criteria	Further Info
Provision in the Halton Area					
	<p>threatened by or recently made redundant or who with limited support can re-enter the labour market</p> <p>Funding source: ESF & TTG</p> <p>Programme Title: Response to Redundancy</p>	labour market downturn in Halton.	<p>Train to Gain to boost skills interventions for individuals under notice of redundancy, those made recently redundant, and those that are unemployed and further from the labour market, but could be made ready for work with this skills development support package. The funding for this activity will be offered holistically, with the Train to Gain and ESF elements of the package forming a seamless single offer, supporting the Train to Gain core offer.</p> <p>Total value £276k runs from April 2009 to December 2010</p>	(including those that have been made unemployed as a result of the economic climate) or are under notice of redundancy, will be offered a range of education and training services to develop skills to help them to retain employment or find new employment.	<p>procured contracts will be in place by April 2009.</p> <p>Full details will then be available via the links above.</p>