

Questions from Aintree ITT Briefing Event on 10th October 2008

Question

Answer

For the Skills for Jobs for Offenders Cumbria Tender Specification - please could you define the eligible target group in terms of those serving a sentence in the community and/or in prison?	Offenders serving their sentence in the community or in prison are eligible. Offenders must be in their final 2 years of their sentence or due for release within 2 years to be eligible.
Does the train the trainer tender specification require an employer contribution?	The tender specification does not require an employer contribution in terms of funding requirements, however one may need to be collected for state aid requirements, i.e. if De Minimis is not available to an
Does NW Employer 31 require an employer contribution for employee's facing redundancy?	The employer contribution can be waived for those facing redundancy, however one may need to be collected for state aid requirements, i.e. if De Minimis is not available to an
Question raised re the train the trainer spec, however is applicable to all. Can a provider bid on behalf of a cluster?	Yes. The LSC would expect to see the members of the cluster named in the partnership/sub-contractor section of the bid.
Can more details be provided regarding the innovative activity within Andy Fawcett's presentation?	The LSC will ask Government Office North West to publish the paper presented to the Regional Committee on innovative activity on their website ASAP.

<p>What can the LSC do in terms of sub-contractor disputes with lead providers?</p>	<p>The LSC has a contractual relationship with the lead provider and as such cannot get involved in specific sub-contractor disputes as this is between the sub-contractor and lead provider. However, the LSC asks for letters of support to be provided from all sub-contractors, it asks for updated sub-contracted volumes/cash during contract clarification and will review this on a 6 monthly basis. Part of this review is to ensure that what a lead provider stated in their bid is delivered in practice.</p>
<p>Do the letters of support need to be scanned and attached to Bravo? Can emails be used instead of letters?</p>	<p>The letters need to be scanned and attached to the bid within Bravo. Clarification has been sought from colleagues in our Procurement team and only applications against NW/OTHER/S10 need to submit letters of support from partners and sub-contractors.</p>
<p>Is there an acceptable level of management and admin costs (as reported in Part B of the questionnaire)</p>	<p>The LSC wants to see as much funding as possible going to front line delivery. 15% is considered acceptable, however this must be based on actual costs and not as a</p>
<p>Are there any penalties for lead providers not using named partners/sub-contractors?</p>	<p>As described above, the LSC will check and review sub-contractor activity. If a provider does not use any of the named partners, this could ultimately result in the contract being removed as through Open and Competitive Tendering (OCT) rules it could be seen as being materially different to the bid. The LSC does recognise that partners may change during a project (particularly one spanning several years) and therefore would want to ensure the sub-contractor base is managed and kept in line with the original application.</p>

<p>How much is needed in the application forms, why would the same response to a question against different tender specifications score differently?</p>	<p>Each element of the Application Form provides a maximum text size. Tender responses need to be specific to a particular ITT as evaluation will be undertaken against the requirements of the ITT, therefore generic responses are unlikely to score well.</p>
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Questions from Preston ITT Briefing Event o

Question

Is there a minimum requirement in terms of OfSTED inspection grades for those providers that are subject to inspection by OfSTED?
Can young people in jobs without training be supported via the Employer Pool ITT?
When will Skillworks activity commence?
Can volunteers be supported via the Sports Coaching ITT?
Adult Apprenticeship ITT - Does the technical certificate have to be delivered after the NVQ delivery?
Are employer contributions required for the Level 4 ITT?
Do the additional Level 2/3s need to be on the SQS List?

on 13th October 2008

Answer

A number of the ITTs identify the following 'evidence of inspection grades of 3 or above or external quality assurance such as the Training Quality Standard accreditation or application made to become accredited, awarding bodies' external verification reports, ISO9000 accreditation and Investor in People status will serve to support providers' applications.'

Yes, indirectly these individuals can be supported.

June 2009.

Yes, volunteers can be supported, the ITT refers to unpaid adults working in the sport, fitness and outdoor occupations.

No, the ITT indicates that the technical certificate can be completed first and then the NVQ achieved subsequently.

Yes, the ITT does indicate that employer contributions are required. However, a broadcast message will be issued detailing the amounts required for each sector subject area.

Yes, the additional Level 2s need to be the SQS list and the additional Level 3s need to be on the Sector Compact.

Questions from Haydock ITT Briefing Event on 14th October 2008

Question

Answer

<p>Are other tenders (above the trainers trained ITT) able to have unpaid volunteers as participants?</p>	<p>The following ITTs indicate that volunteers can be supported: NW/EMPLOYER/S22, NW/EMPLOYER/S23, NW/EMPLOYER/S24, NW/EMPLOYER/S25, NW/EMPLOYER/S26, NW/EMPLOYER/S27,NW/EMPLOYER/S28 and NW/EMPLOYER/S29. However, ESF regulations stipulate that volunteers may only be supported where they are recruited through targeting a wider employed workforce.</p>
<p>Please can the LSC clarify what providers are bidding for in terms the 2nd L2 and L3 ITT, i.e. considering only one sector compact has been agreed to-date for L3?</p>	<p>We will be contracting against this ITT in May/June and so the position should be clearer by then. Providers should contact their Sector Skills Councils when considering what qualifications to bid for.</p>
<p>Is there any additional support for completing applications?</p>	<p>The NW Network and the Merseyside Network for Europe both offer additional support to Community and Voluntary Sector providers. The LSC can't offer advice in terms of specific bids, but can respond to technical questions or points of clarification in terms of ITTs or the Questionnaire/bid</p>
<p>Is the LSC looking for anything specific in terms of the Functional IT Skills ITT?</p>	<p>The LSC is looking to fund ITQ Level 1 that is specific to an individuals job role.</p>
<p>Do letters of support need to be uploaded to Bravo</p>	<p>Only the NW/OTHER/S10 ITT requires letters for support from sub-contractors and partners.</p>
<p>Can we put the presentations and other documents in the packs online?</p>	<p>Yes</p>