



Leading learning and skills

# **Learning and Skills Council**

## **Response to Redundancy**

### **LSC Regional Requirements**

#### **(North West Extract)**

**January 2009**

**Published for information purposes only. Speculative Proposals will not be accepted.**

## **North West Regional Requirements**

### **The Offer**

Within the North West, our experience of handling redundancy situations to date has identified that employees affected have diverse training needs. Some individuals will need upskilling in their current occupation whilst some individuals will seek training for new occupations and employment opportunities. In order to meet these diverse needs the LSC North West needs to procure flexible and responsive provision, we therefore welcome proposals from groups of providers who collectively can offer a wide range of vocational training options.

We wish to deliver this demand led offer throughout the whole of the North West which includes the Merseyside ESF Phasing-In Area (Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St Helens and Wirral) to all of the identified target groups. Because of ESF funding providers will need to set out within their proposals which geographical locations they propose to undertake activity.

Providers must be able to deliver this offer to: those in work under notice of redundancy, individuals who have recently become redundant or individuals who are unemployed but would be ready for employment after receiving skills development support. Providers will need to ensure that they are able to deliver a seamless service which supports individuals' pre-redundancy through into employment and post employment training when needed which will normally be funded under Train to Gain. Where providers are unable to directly support individuals through the full range of services, they must outline the partnership arrangements that they will have in place to deliver this offer.

Where it is not possible to carry out training at employer premises ie where employees have already left employment or where employer premises are not suitable, then providers must ensure that they are able to offer training in locations which are convenient for individuals.

This offer is predominately focused on providing short term interventions for those individuals who are affected by the economic downturn, ie those in work under notice of redundancy, individuals who have recently become redundant or individuals who are unemployed but would be ready for employment after receiving skills development support. However, it is recognised that in some circumstances that individuals will require longer periods of support. This offer is not seeking to provide support for the hardest to reach unemployed individuals as they are already catered for through programmes such as the LSC's ESF funded Skills for Jobs and Sustainable Employment Programmes and Jobcentre Plus provision.

### **Adding Value**

Within the Northwest and the Merseyside Phasing-In Area the LSC already has a range of support available which focuses on supporting individuals into work. Providers are required to identify how they will link with other partners and agencies, particularly IAG service deliverers and Jobcentre Plus in each of the sub-regions to ensure that this offer complements and builds on support programmes already in place. Providers need to acquaint themselves with the range of provision already in place and demonstrate the added value they will bring through this new provision.

Within the Northwest (excluding the Merseyside Phasing-In Area) providers will need demonstrate how their activity will bring added value to current activities including those funded through LSC and Jobcentre Plus Co-finance Plans. LSC ESF funded programmes currently operating within the Northwest (excluding the Merseyside Phasing-In Area) are:

- Sustainable Employment Programme
- Skills for Jobs
- Inward Investor and Restructuring Company Response Programme

**Published for information purposes only. Speculative Proposals will not be accepted.**

**Published for information purposes only. Speculative Proposals will not be accepted.**

Within the Merseyside Phasing-In Area providers will need to demonstrate how their activity will bring added value to the current activities including those funded through LSC and Jobcentre Plus ESF Co-finance Plans and activities funded through the Complementary Strand. The Complementary Strand brings ESF funding to the Core City Employment Strategy Investment Programme – which draws together and pools a range of mainstream and non-mainstream funding programmes, and will help to target the area’s high levels of worklessness, increase employment levels locally and reduce the number of residents who are in receipt of benefits. LSC ESF funded programmes currently operating within the Merseyside Phasing-In Area are:

- Sustainable Employment Programme
- Skillworks
- SkillsBoost
- Enterprise Routeway
- Priority Sector Routeway
- Inward Investor and Large Company Response Programme

Funding and Volumes

A total of £10,950,000 is available for the Northwest (excluding the Merseyside Phasing-In Area) and £9,828,000 for the Merseyside Phasing-In Area. The table below identifies the funding available and the minimum number of volumes of participants that should be supported from each of LSC North West’s sub-regions. The funding identified for the Merseyside Phasing-In Area is exclusively available for that area, all other amounts are indicative.

<b>Geographical Area</b>	<b>Funding Available</b>	<b>Participant Volumes</b>
Northwest - Cheshire & Warrington	£1,443,000	962
Northwest - Cumbria	£702,000	468
Northwest - Greater Manchester	£5,712,000	3,808
Northwest – Halton	£276,000	184
Northwest - Lancashire	£2,817,000	1,878
Merseyside Phasing-In Area	£9,828,000	6,552
<b>Total</b>	<b>£20,778,000</b>	<b>13,852</b>

The minimum volumes of participants required are based on the all participants requiring £1,500 of support; LSC North West does not expect that all participants will require the maximum level of support and that the actual volume of participants supported will be significantly higher.

Providers seeking to deliver in the Merseyside Phasing-In Area should actively consider provision which meets need in the Halton area. Where providers are seeking to deliver activity in both the Merseyside Phasing-In Area and other areas of the North West it may be necessary for the LSC to enter into 2 separate contracts for this activity.

This offer aims to equip individuals with the skills required to either enable them to continue in, enter or re-enter sustainable employment and progress onto further training support via Train to Gain. We also recognise that there are a number of other positive progression routes for these individuals such as: self employment, employment, social enterprise work and training.

Due to the changing economic and political landscape it may be necessary for LSC Northwest to amend contracts during their lifetime to re-focus this offer to particular target groups, employment

**Published for information purposes only. Speculative Proposals will not be accepted.**

sectors, skills needs and geographical hotspots. In such circumstances successful contractors will be expected to adapt their offer accordingly.

Providers are required to:

- Clearly identify the target groups that they are proposing to working with, identifying the volumes of participants that will be supported from each of the Northwest sub-regions. Where activity will only be available to parts of the sub-regions, providers must identify which local authority areas will be covered.
- Describe the sectors, occupational areas and target groups that will be supported including the volumes of participants that will be assisted.

For Information Only

**Published for information purposes only. Speculative Proposals will not be accepted.**