West Midlands

Skills Funding Agency

Potential subcontractors list

- Acorn Training Ltd
- Armstrong Learning Group
- Birmingham Adult Education Service
- Birmingham Metropolitan College
- Burton and South Derbyshire College
- Clean Break
- County Training
- Derby College
- i2i
- Lifetime Training
- n-ergy consortium
- North East Worcestershire College (NEWC)
- Opportunity Plus UK Limited
- Pertemps People Development Group
- SOVA
- Warwickshire College
- Working Links (Employment) Limited

Name of Organisation	**Acorn Training Ltd**
Location of Delivery **Unit of Procurement/s Cluster/s**	West Midlands East Midlands
Named Contact	Gareth Fallows
Phone	01782 283598
Email	Gareth.Fallows@acorntraining.eu
Area of Activity	Functional Skills Careers Advice and Guidance Employment Brokerage Hairdressing and Barbering Customer Service Catering Preparation for Work
Description of Activity *(in 500 words)* Acorn Training is a leading provider of Welfare to Work and Skills Services based in various locations across the West Midlands and East Midlands. Acorn currently delivers the Work Programme in various locations across the UK, including a significant tier two contract with A4E in Leicestershire. The company is also a subcontractor working in partnership with Babington Business College, Dudley College and Warrington Collegiate for the delivery of Apprenticeships.	

Acorn Training is experienced in providing intensive training and support to offenders within the community and has strong relationships with the Probation Service and Jobcentre Plus, which will add significant value to the partnership.

In 2011, Acorn Training will open a hotel and two retail shops in Burslem, one of the five towns in Stoke on Trent. The aim is to create an innovative vocational learning hub around Swan Square in Burslem, to support the regeneration of the town and to create realistic working environments to individuals from a socially deprived background, learners with mental health issues and offenders. Acorn has developed a strong multi agency approach to support the holistic regeneration agenda, which includes working with Stoke on Trent City Council, European structural funding streams and Heritage Initiative to ensure skills and employment development links into economic regeneration practices.

Staff have significant experience of developing mentoring programmes and Gareth Fallows the company's Managing Director was involved in the development of the Link Up Pilot in the West Midlands back in 2002, which were extremely successful at developing mentoring programmes within Skills for Life. Gareth is also a consultant practitioner for the Functional Skills Support Programme and Senior Assessment Associate for Edexcel within Functional Skills.

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Name of Organisation	**Armstrong Learning Group**
Location of Delivery **Unit of Procurement/s Cluster/s**	North West (clusters 2 and 3) West Midlands East of England
Named Contact	Carmel Meredew – Group Bid Writer
Phone	07827 816874
Email	carmel.meredew@armstronglearning.co.uk
Area of Activity	**Adults / employability / mentoring / creative industries**

Description of Activity *(in 500 words)*

The Armstrong Learning Group has the knowledge, skills and capability to support individuals with multiple/diverse barriers to job entry. We have been a provider of welfare to work services since 2003. Our longstanding track record includes Work Programme, Flexible New Deal, New Deal FTET, Gateway to Work, New Deal for Musicians (national contract to deliver NDfM across England) and Mentoring provision.

Access to Music, a wholly owned subsidiary of Armstrong Learning, is the UK's leading designer and provider of popular music education, training and consultancy. We have a national coverage and operate from a series of centres across the UK. In addition to providing music and creative industries vocational training, our provision equips our learners with valuable life skills which can be transferred to any occupation.

Key Strengths

- **Flexibility of delivery** – ability to deliver in local establishments and provide continuity of provision through the gate via our network regional centres.

- **Creativity** – experienced in using music and the creative industries to engage participants in provision (e.g. NDfM, Access to Music and SFA ESF NEET contract)

- **Employability Skills / Job Clubs (individuals with less than 12 months to serve) –** devise negotiated individual action plans (incremental objectives, step wise progression). Individuals gain

confidence and motivation as milestones are achieved. Provision would include a range of specific return to work modules (tailored to QCF accredited provision), for example:

- **Realistic jobs** – Develops awareness of learners understanding of barriers to learning and progress/employment, encourages learners to identify own skills and strengths in order to prepare them for their desired progression route.
- **Effective job search –** Identify transferable work skills, assess own employability skills and strengths from past experiences, check the skills required for advertised local jobs
- **Finding and securing employment** – Understanding the importance of completing application forms effectively, identify and understand the associated language found on application forms, recognise the common errors made when completing application forms, generate awareness of the importance of an effective and confident telephone manner in work situations and for job search, ensure clients know how to prepare and act appropriately at a job interview, CV writing, demonstrate awareness of perceptions and impact of verbal and non verbal communication
- **Skills for work** – Time management, interpersonal skills, communication, teamwork, problem solving
- **Motivation and confidence building** – Providing an awareness of the importance of goal setting and the importance of motivation in securing employment

- **Innovation** – use specialist Mentors to engage with and retain customer involvement. We are a Mentoring and Befriending Society approved provider. Mentors provide 1:1 support and encouragement and give the mentees the confidence to achieve their goals. Our trained and experienced mentors provide empathy and understanding; they are experienced in drilling down to identify the key issues to be addressed before the individual can progress into sustained employment.

- **Continuity –** Deliver Job Club / employability provision in each establishment, ensuring that individuals have the skills and mindset required to secure employment upon their release. Training will be provided on the skills required for a comprehensive job search including: compilation of a curriculum vitae, how to undertake a structured job search, how to complete application forms, how to write speculative letters and improving and developing selection interview techniques. We will help individuals to identify local job vacancies.

- **Post Release Support & Tracking** – Our customised in-house management information system could be used to track participants following their release. This will provide comprehensive information on the number of ex-offenders who secure and remain in employment. The individuals would receive continued supported from our team of mentors via a freephone number. SMS and tele-mentoring provides easy access, two-way communication and support, particularly at time of crisis.

- **Self Employment Advice** – We are experienced in providing self-employment advice and guidance. Armstrong Learning was the New Deal for Musicians prime contractor across England. Self employment was one of the key routes into employment for NDfM customers, ~30 per cent of outcomes were into self employment.

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Name of Organisation	**Birmingham Adult Education Service**
Location of Delivery **Unit of Procurement/s Cluster/s**	Birmingham
Named Contact	Ian Woodall

Phone	0121 675 6134
Email	Ian.Woodall@birmingham.gov.uk
Area of Activity	**None accredited learning/Gateway**

Description of Activity *(in 500 words)*

BIRMINGHAM ADULT EDUCATION SERVICE (BAES)
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IN SUPPORT OF OUR APPLICATION TO BE A SUBCONTRACTOR FOR OLASS DELIVERY

INTRODUCTION

BAES delivers a wide range of pre-vocational, vocational and non-vocational programmes through a network centres across the Birmingham. We are hoping to be considered as a possible sub contractor for OLASS provision in the Birmingham Area. We can also offer our expertise in relation to none accredited recreational learning across all four clusters of this tender.

The focus of this tender is around the provision of skills training in support of prison work where that work represents real employment opportunities on release,

BAES is well placed to support this, Our Strategic Mission is to provide learning that enables adults to develop and succeed by: -

(a) Developing skills that help employment;
(b) Targeted provision and support to address disadvantaged groups with low skills
(c) Providing a broad range of community focussed and delivered programmes to benefit to individuals, communities and employers in Birmingham.

Birmingham Adult Education Service is in every community within the City of Birmingham. We deliver out of 100 + community venues. In our recent inspection were given a Grade 1 for Partnerships and a Grade 2 for Employability. Last year alone we delivered 500+ vocational qualifications and secured over 140 jobs for our learners.

All BAES delivery staff are qualified teachers or working towards teaching qualifications. Birmingham Adult Education Service has its own internal CPD Centre which ensures all delivery staff are trained and constantly involved in CPD activity. All IAG staff are matrix accredited to Levels 3 or 4.

SKILLS TRAINING

BAES have a strong track record in this work that may help offender learners back in to integration. We work through Job Centres to focus on the delivery of individual work skills projects directly linked to jobs. We support basic skills learners, unemployed clients, adults with learning disabilities/difficulties and service users recovering from a range of health issues.

Our work with the JCP has become increasingly important and we are able to promote and offer courses specifically aimed at Job Seekers e.g. intensive literacy course with attached employability skills.

QUALITY OF ASSESSMENT

BAES has a high standard of assessment. Particularly in relation to basic skills. Evidence requirements/performance, criteria/knowledge is referenced and allows evidence to be tracked effectively. This is then fed into ILPs for all learners.

Learners who are dyslexic or think they might be dyslexic are entitled to an assessment or may be entitled to extra time or additional support in the classroom. Other forms of assessment include: Skills For Life assessments and ICT assessments.

ALL BAES staff also have Initial Assessment software installed which they can access in the learning environment. All "Skills Checks" are therefore guaranteed to be administered by a trained practitioner.

NON – ACCREDITED LEARNING

In terms of none accredited learning BAES can support those who are serving longer sentences, or for whom a focus on work early in their sentence is unrealistic. Here learning will contribute to a longer term aim of employment.

BAES will guarantee that the programmes are linked to vocational learning outcomes, accreditation, and where appropriate business start up programmes.
Service delivery

Birmingham Adult Education Service offer a comprehensive range of recreational courses with good opportunities for learners to progress to further learning. Courses include: drawing /painting skills, digital imaging, podcasting, video & image editing, jewellery making & silver- smithing. We could bring this expertise to any delivery partnership.

THROUGH THE GATE PROVISION

Finally BAES is strongly placed to help with the Through the Gate Arrangements that need to be guaranteed by main contractors. This is for the following reasons

- We have a strong track record of sponsoring and delivering mentoring activity in diverse communities across Birmingham. We have done this in relation to New Communities that are isolated from main stream provision. This approach has worked for us where it offers a route to employment. Therefore we feel confident that these models can be transferred to support mentoring activity for learners in custody.
- We are committed to using the Virtual Campus for the full benefit of learners. Our own main stream delivery we have a VLE that stores courses, software and learner information to allow a variety of blended learning to take place across the City and beyond.
- We are happy to sign up to data sharing protocols in each establishment, in order to ensure the progression for learners. We are particularly strongly placed to handle this process in relation to 'Through the Gate' referrals due to our extensive locally embedded learning infrastructure.

We are currently undergoing quality assurance assessment for the matrix Standard, we are confident that we will have achieved accreditation to the Standard, for this area of work, by 31 March 2013.

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Name of Organisation	**Birmingham Metropolitan College**
Location of Delivery **Unit of Procurement/s Cluster/s**	West Midlands
Named Contact	Paul Cornick
Phone	0121 503 8505
Email	Paul.Cornick@bmetc.ac.uk
Area of Activity	**Custodial and Through the Gate Delivery**

Description of Activity *(in 500 words)*
Birmingham Metropolitan College (BMET) is a large urban college funded primarily by the Skills Funding Agency and YPLA to support over 8000 16-18 learners, 20,000 19+ learners to gain new skills and or qualifications. Recognised by Ofsted as Good, with Outstanding features (2011), BMET is a high profile college and strategic stakeholder serving the needs of its local community, including meeting the diverse needs of employers and learners alike. Further, BMET is a leading member of the 157 Group of colleges and features strongly within the local and national education landscape, advising government and local government on matters relating to education, skills and training policy. Recognised as a regional centre for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects, by the Learning and Skills Improvement Service, BMET is proud to be able to offer an inclusive and broad range of technical, academic and vocational learning aims that spans across FE/HE boundaries. BMET is a significant contributor to the regional and local employability agenda, helping to tackle youth and adult unemployment across the West Midlands region. Working with many high profile employers such as Caterpiller, NHS, BMW, Cadbury and Jaguar Land Rover the college is a significant provider of work based skills programmes, including apprenticeships. Working with Local Authorities, Jobcentre Plus, Work Programme Primes and the Voluntary and Community sector the college utilises its Adult Skills Budget to complement other funding streams to meet the employability priorities of Government. Furthermore, by using detailed Labour Market Information (LMI), provided by UKCES and the SSC network, the college has a robust and detailed understanding of the structure of local and regional labour market, regional skill stocks, skills gaps and workforce vacancies. The college has extensive experience and expertise with regards to skills delivery in a custodial setting together with a comprehensive 'Through the Gate' offer. In particular the college is working with a significant number of Prison estates, including Birmingham, Brinsford, Hewell, Stafford, Drake Hall, Featherstone and Swinford. Further the college has extensive strategic partnerships covering local authorities, third sector, business clubs, employers and government agencies.
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Name of Organisation	Burton and South Derbyshire College
Location of Delivery **Unit of Procurement/s Cluster/s**	West Midlands Cluster 2 - Swinfen Cluster 4 - Foston Hall
Named Contact	Howard Boswell
Phone	01283 494500
Email	howard.boswell@bsdc.ac.uk
Area of Activity	Education and Training
Description of Activity *(in 500 words)* Burton and South Derbyshire College is a general further education college that has a strong emphasis on vocational skills. This has resulted in a wide curriculum offer designed to help our	

learners enter the world of work suitably prepared for their chosen vocational route. The college has a strong track record of working with employers in all sectors with household names such as Toyota and JCB.

We work closely with Job Centre Plus and have achieved high levels of job entry rates for unemployed clients entering the jobs market.

Our vocational areas include construction, engineering, motor vehicle, retail, care, manufacturing, welding and self employment. We are able to offer nationally recognised qualifications and short bespoke elements of training. All this is supported by pre employment training that helps clients to prepare for work and sustain active employment.

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Name of Organisation	**Clean Break**
Location of Delivery **Unit of Procurement/s Cluster/s**	Women's Estate, London post-release: North East 1 (Low Newton) North West 2 (Styal) Yorks & Humberside 4 (New Hall and Askham Grange) South West 1 (Eastwood Park) West Mids 4 (Drake Hall and Foston Hall) London 1 (Downview, Holloway, Send) Kent & Sussex 2 (East Sutton Park)
Named Contact	Imogen Ashby / Elly Shepherd
Phone	020 7482 8600
Email	lucy.perman@cleanbreak.org.uk elly.shepherd@cleanbreak.org.uk
Area of Activity	Theatre based education interventions with women offenders

Description of Activity *(in 500 words)*

For this contract, Clean Break can provide arts based education (theatre and writing) to women in prison through residencies and workshops, and to women leaving prison through our London based theatre, education and training programme.

Our driving belief is that theatre and drama makes a meaningful difference to the lives of women offenders and women ex offenders. Through our 32 years of experience, we have shown that the theatre provides an excellent route into women's untapped potential, and are particularly relevant and accessible to marginalised and excluded learners who have failed in, and been failed by, formal education settings. Recent research conducted with New Philanthropy Capital demonstrated savings of £6.90 for every £1 invested in Clean Break through reduced re offending and increased economic activity.

Prison Residencies and Workshops

We have run numerous award winning residencies (Koestler Bronze Award 2011, Koestler Gold Award 2010) in prisons, using theatre and writing to work with and educate women in prisons across the UK. We reach approximately 400 women a year in prisons through our residencies and workshops.

The aims of residencies are to:

- generate material that is relevant and exciting and that the prisoners can relate to.
- develop relevant artistic skills (writing, performing etc)
- enable every member of the group to have a role and to contribute
- increase the soft skills (including group work skills and self confidence) of participants
- improve life chances for women by offering internally and externally accredited qualifications and progression opportunities.

We inspire the prisoners through theatre and writing using Clean Break's extensive track record of engaging this "hard to reach" client group. Prison staff at HMP Askham Grange,
where we conducted a recent residency, observed that our work 'enabled each individual to have a sense of achievement' (staff member, HMP Askham Grange July 2011).

The prisoners also talked about the value of the work in their feedback:
'I could see the difference in other group members'
'I can read off script and have confidence in my work.'
'Thank you for helping me believe in myself.'

Resettlement Work

We work intensively with around 100 women offenders / those at risk at our London based studios, including those recently released from prisons into the London area and women on ROTL from London prisons. We have a wide programme of courses ranging from Self Development courses to accredited performance based courses (OCN Level 3). All women on our courses receive holistic one on one support from experienced staff and travel and childcare expenses to facilitate their learning. In addition we support approximately 20 women a year to move into supported long term volunteering with arts organisations. We have enormous success moving our women onto meaningful activities - of our last cohort of graduating students, 71% were in further education, long term volunteering placements or work six months after leaving Clean Break. Additionally, of the New Philanthropy Capital sample group, 66% were confirmed to have not re-offended nine months after leaving (the remaining 33% were not in contact with us).

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Name of Organisation	**County Training**
Location of Delivery **Unit of Procurement/s Cluster/s**	Shrewsbury Prison and Stoke Heath YOI
Named Contact	Kevin Humphreys
Phone	01743 255101
Email	Kevin.humphreys@shropshire.gov.uk
Area of Activity	**Vocational training, skills for life delivery, employability skills delivery**

Description of Activity *(in 500 words)*

We have training centres and staff close to both institutions, our Shrewsbury centre is one mile away from the prison and we have centres in Whitchurch and Market Drayton which are within 5 miles of Stoke Heath. We currently deliver Apprenticeships and the Work Programme as sub contractors to ESG and CIRCO. We have previously delivered OLASS provision and skills for life to offenders on release and to probation service clients and to prisoners in custody. We have exceptional links with local JCP offices and employers. We have delivered this type of provision in Shropshire for over 25 years and we are part of Shropshire Council. In our last OFSTED in February 2011 we were graded as 2 for every part of our delivery.

We could deliver a wide range of vocational qualifications, Skills for Life and ESOL, and employability skills qualifications which would cover all of the search for work skills, personal and social development etc

Our tutors are used to working with offenders and disaffected learners and we have a strong track record of enabling learners to complete qualifications and move into work.

As we currently offer both Apprenticeships and the Work Programme in the area we can demonstrate a verity clear progression route, outstanding LMI and Links with JCP and high quality delivery.

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Name of Organisation	**Derby College**
Location of Delivery **Unit of Procurement/s Cluster/s**	Derby City / Derbyshire West Midlands Cluster 4 - HMP Drake Hall and Foston Hall
Named Contact	Helen Stevenson
Phone	Landline: 01332 387456 Extn 4768 Mobile: 07971323661
Email	helen.stevenson@derby-college.ac.uk
Area of Activity	**Custodial and Community delivery of education and unitised sector vocational training**

Description of Activity *(in 500 words*)

Derby College has sites in Derby city and Derbyshire and has had extensive experience of delivering education & training in custodial settings during OLASS 1 in the East Midlands and OLASS 2 in the West Midlands. During this period and continuing throughout OLASS 3 the college has utilised core funding to provide additionality and support vocational delivery of cleaning services in Foston Hall.

Community Cohesion & Social Action are integral to our Strategic Plan with recognition that requisite to effective rehabilitation and resettlement is the seamless transition from custody to community. We have extensive linkages with community organisations to offer holistic support across all pathways and work closely with Women's work.

Derby College is committed to modular and unit accreditations delivered under the Qualifications & Credit Framework and are working to the offer of roll on roll off provision wherever practical. We took part in the Unit Trials earlier this year and were the only provider to link the delivery of units to Employer led pre-employment training programmes (PETs) for the unemployed.

We work in close partnership with the Probation Service in both Derby City Centre and Derbyshire including delivery on Approved premises and established discreet provision for Horticultural qualifications at our land based site at Broomfield, the innovation and quality of which was evidenced by a Butler Trust nomination and award. Within the city

centre we have an adult only provision which facilitates inclusion and minimises safeguarding issues incorporating a dedicated Work Club and Workplace Skills unitised programme. In 2012 we are looking to replicate this provision in Alfreton.

The college is matrix accredited and delivers a face to face Next Step provision working in highly effective partnership with Jobcentre plus with co-location one day per week.

Our Skills for the Unemployed offer linked to labour market vacancies is established underpinned by a local partnership plan with Jobcentre plus with the majority of delivery via sector-based work academies (sbwas) with 80 job outcomes secured over the past 6 months.

We have a rolling programme of sbwas engaging both local and national employers who provide work experience and guaranteed job interviews linked to real vacancies to compliment the specific sector based skills training provided. These include Royal Derby Hospital for their facilities posts and Dunelm as part of their expansion plan for their Derby store.

Integral to our ongoing work with Employers is to secure local jobs for local people from disadvantaged groups and establish their policies and practices in relation to recruiting Staff with offending backgrounds. For those considering self employment the college is trialling Qualifying with a Business (QWAB).

We offer provision that spans across all subject sector areas and are one of the largest providers of Apprenticeships in the East Midlands offering a wide range of occupations including Engineering and Manufacturing, Construction, Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care, Retail and Commercial Enterprise, Health Public Services and Care, ICT and Leisure, Travel & Tourism. In addition we have our own internal Apprenticeships, work experience, ROTL and volunteering opportunities.

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Name of Organisation	**i2i**
Location of Delivery **Unit of Procurement/s Cluster/s**	North East, North West, Yorkshire and Humber, West Midlands, East Midlands
Named Contact	Mark Cosens
Phone	07796095152
Email	Mark.cosens@enteri2i.com
Area of Activity	Innovative sports based employability learning

Description of Activity *(in 500 words)*

i2i i2i successfully delivers mainstream welfare to work and skills services to over 16,000 disadvantaged jobseekers per year in five regions; NE, NW, Y&H, WM and EM.
i2i Coaching Academy For 7 years i2i has consistently delivered among the highest job outcome rates in the industry. This has been most pronounced in achieving up to 64 per cent job outcomes by using the power of sport (mainly football). Principles and metaphors from sport are applied to prepare customers

for employment. This has proven a highly effective method to engage, inspire and progress hard-to-help jobseekers with ingrained and complex barriers and disadvantages to entering the world of work. i2i has delivered over 20 versions of i2i Coaching Academy, developing a suite of approx 40 modules that can be tailored to customer and specification demands. The i2i Coaching Academy is unique and has been successfully tested in working with ex/offenders.

i2i proposes to deliver a portion of OLASS 4 provision for a forward-thinking and innovative prime contractor.

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Name of Organisation	**Lifetime Training**
Location of Delivery **Unit of Procurement/s Cluster/s**	All clusters in each of the following Units of procurement; East of England, London, North West, South Central, South West and West Midlands
Named Contact	Vanessa Farr
Phone	01173143038
Email	Vanessa.farr@lifetimetraining.co.uk
Area of Activity	Vocational skills training (and Apprenticeships)

Description of Activity *(in 500 words)*

Lifetime would like to support the delivery of Apprenticeships to the target group and is able to offer a number of flexible delivery models. Lifetime currently delivers pre-apprenticeship programmes – Lifetime Academies - that could be adapted for delivery of this contract's required outputs/outcomes, and that offer a direct connection to prisons as places of work.

Lifetime's Academy content is directly aligned to a L2 Apprenticeship framework and is delivered on a group and 121 basis via classroom, practical working environments and employer based activity. Academies offer participants transferable skills and career pathways with support to help them secure and remain in employment – enabling them to complete a full Apprenticeship. Academies currently move 80 per cent of learners into an Apprenticeship or Job Outcome. We offer Academies in Fitness, Early Years Care and Hospitality and each contain;

- Vocational and Workplace behaviour training
- Employability skills
- Soft skills development including confidence and interpersonal skills
- Mentoring
- In-work mentoring
- Level 1 Key Skills – communication and application of number

Academy content has been informed and developed in response to feedback from employers about the need for multi-skilled staff. Academies will support offenders and ex-offenders to become flexible employees able to fill employers' skills gaps by providing training in team work, problem solving and customer service.

Lifetime Tutors deliver the Academies and use an individualised and person centred approach to work with participants from a variety of backgrounds and characteristics, including ex-offenders and offenders. Lifetime have a staff resource dedicated to supporting each stage of the programme from offering impartial IAG through to employment and support onto Level 3 Apprenticeships. Delivery is designed to be flexible, maximising engagement, retention and positive progressions. Lifetime Tutors are supported by;

Academy Relations Executives - develop partnerships with referral agencies. They offer impartial IAG to learners including CV clinics and interview role-play.

Community Engagment Managers - support learners into employment and Apprenticeships by developing networks of employers and opportunities. Group and 1:1 surgery sessions will be held with learners, employers and support agencies to reduce barriers to reoffending and to maximise outcomes.

Mentors - support the learner whilst on an Academy and into sustained employment by helping them to understand employer expectations. Mentors offer sector background and mentoring expertise; understanding and motivating learners. At employer sites where LFA participants have been placed or are working, Lifetime will train mentors to work directly with the participant and to provide in work support. These mentors will be existing employees.

Learning Support Team – will address particpants additional support and learning needs and provide enhanced IAG

Lifetime is also offering Apprenticeship delivery as method of supporting sustained employment. Where participants have been placed in employment Lifetime's team of Regional Trainers can support them to complete a full Apprenticeship. Lifetime has a direct contract with the Skills Funding Agency of over £20m in FY11/12 for Apprenticeship delivery enabling access to significant Adult skills funding. We operate across 7 sectors with Leisure and Fitness, Hospitality and Customer Service accounting for over 80 per cent of total delivery – supporting the roles that offenders may undertake in prisons.

Lifetime is an Ofsted Grade 2 provider, is Matrix accredited, holds Investors in People and TQS parts A & B.

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Name of organisation	**n-ergy consortium**
Location of delivery **Unit of procurement/s cluster/s**	Kent and Sussex clusters 1,2,3 and 4 South Central clusters 1and 2 South West clusters 1 and 2 West Midlands clusters 1,2,3 and 4 East Midlands clusters 1,2 and 3 Yorkshire and Humber clusters 3 and 4 North West cluster 3
Named contact	John Bevan
Phone	08456 525201
Email	jbevan@n-ergygroup.com
Area of activity	Adults and young people (offenders and ex-offenders**)**

Description of activity *(in 500 words*)

n-ergy consortium

The n-ergy consortium consists of three business units, n-ergy group, n-ergy source and n-ergy works. The three business units are involved with the education, training, IAG and the

employability of offenders and ex-offenders.
The key strategic aims for n-ergy consortium ltd in engaging with this group are therefore:-

1. To strive to ensure that ex-offenders are not isolated economically and divorced from the mainstream socially

2. To provide appropriate education, training and developmental programmes for ex-offenders to give them new skills and increased confidence which will make them more employable

3. To provide support and guidance to offenders and ex-offenders when attempting to secure suitable employment

4. To develop ex-offenders as individuals and provide them with skills to compete in an ever changing employment market

5. To help reduce reoffending by giving ex offenders skills for employment and helping them to contribute positively to their communities.

Below is a summary of the principal functions of the three parts of n-ergy consortium.

n-ergy group ltd delivers annually 2,000 vocational and 330 employability programmes to both offenders and ex-offenders, which helps develop the individual, giving them new skills and confidence to return to employment. n-ergy group ltd endeavours to provide a seamless service for this client group from custody into the community and then to employment.

n-ergy source is the recruitment division and has secured an employability contract to deliver employment programmes (The Way4ward Project) for offenders and ex-offenders in the South West. Further tenders have been submitted to deliver this and other services in other areas of Wales.

To enhance our seamless service from training the individual while in prison to the advice and guidance offered before they leave, and the securing of employment after they have left, n-ergy group has set up a seperate but associated business unit which is a social enterprise to employ ex-offenders and offer them worthwhile employment. The work of n-ergy works is described below.

n-ergy works is a recently formed social enterprise and is driven by a social purpose which is to offer employment to one of the hardest to reach groups – ex-offenders. The organisation is currently in the process of bidding for contracts from both the public and private sectors in the areas of grounds maintenance, cleaning and general maintenance. Once secured, n-ergy works will employ ex-offenders returning or relocating to the community areas in which we have secured contacts. We will provide them with employment, a vehicle to further develop their skills, increasing their confidence and self-esteem which will facilitate progression to other employment and training opportunities either with n-ergy works or elsewhere.

To summarise:

- **n-ergy group** deliver vocational programmes to offenders in custody in Wales and England including all G4S and Serco managed prisons

- **n-ergy source** deliver employment support programmes in the South West prisons and in Wales (4 recruitment offices have been established in four prisons including HMP Parc, Bridgend)

- **n-ergy works** will employ ex-offenders on permanent contracts to deliver community based projects delivering cleaning and ground maintenance services

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Name of organisation	**NORTH EAST WORCESTERSHIRE COLLEGE (NEWC)**
Location of delivery **Unit of procurement/s cluster/s**	WEST MIDLANDS Cluster 3 **HEWELL PRISON** Redditch
Named contact	KAREN TROTH
Phone	01527 548877
Email	ktroth@ne-worcs.ac.uk
Area of activity	**All levels including entry, level 1, level 2 and level 3 in Literacy and Numeracy. ESOL. Various levels of employability skills.** **ICT training at various levels & types of IT programmes.** **The following courses can be offered at a variety of levels : health & safety courses; first aid; business courses; a wide range of hospitality courses; health, fitness & sport related courses; A wide variety of construction courses including brickwork, carpentry/joinery, plastering & tiling. These courses that NEWC can offer match the required list on table 4 that was included as an attachment on ACTOR. In addition NEWC could offer other provision that is listed below against each dept.**

Description of activity *(in 500 words*)

NEWC is a successful General Further Education College which enjoys a strong reputation both locally and nationally. The College is currently recognized for quality in the form of the Training Quality Standard, Customer Service Excellence Award and LSIS Beacon College status.

It operates on two main campuses in Bromsgrove and Redditch, as well as a purpose built business

centre and a construction centre all within 5 miles radius of Hewell prison.

Ofsted inspection in June 10 found the College to be 'A lively, modern, safe and friendly place to study' and 'as a good college with some outstanding features'.

NEWC currently works in partnership with Hewell prison in a number of ways including supporting resettlement events, offering information, advice & guidance for both employment & training. In addition we successfully deliver IMI level 1 motorcycle maintenance at Hewell. NEWC also supports prisoners out on licence & we link up with the Liaison Officer & offer places on a wide variety of courses including construction, functional skills, web design , photoshop, teacher training, hospitality, sport etc . In addition the college has had a specialist tutor supporting staff in Hewell to obtain literacy & numeracy qualifications at various levels and has been used to support CCNVQ qualification and Prison Officer Recruitment Tests.

Partnerships are key to NEWCs success including hosting Harley-Davidson's European Training School which provides training to Harley-Davidson technicians from across Europe and beyond. NEWC arranged a donation from Harley Davidson to Hewell prison of four motorcycles to support the training at Hewell.

The College provides its Higher Education in partnership with the Universities of Gloucestershire, Warwick, Wolverhampton and Worcester,

The College's two major sites have both been substantially redeveloped in recent years with around £35m having been spent on rebuilding, refurbishing and purchasing new facilities that have created one of the modern, well appointed Colleges in the UK.

NEWC has very sound financial management and employs around 500 full and part time staff and engages an additional 200 on an agency basis.

The College has been accredited for the Investors in People award and satisfaction levels over most aspect of employment are higher- and often significantly higher- than in benchmark colleges nationally.

Key features of NEWCs academic structure:

Social Studies & Sixth Form Childhood/Early Years; BA Social Work ;A Levels ;Health & Social Care; Foundation Learning

Service Industries Hair & Beauty; Hospitality & Catering; Sports ;UPS

Arts & Technology Art & Design; Media & Music; Performing Arts; Production Arts; Automotive; Engineering; Computing

Business, Construction & Enterprise Construction; Community; Skills for Life; Unemployed Schemes; Business/Travel & Tourism; Teacher Training; Business & Professional; Apprenticeships at all levels with more than 300 employers

Quality & Professional Development Quality Assurance; Professional Development ;Higher Education Coordination; Equality & Diversity Coordination

Many of the College's staff work in "business support" departments, which ensure the effective running of the organisation. These departments include estates, staff development, student advice and guidance, nurseries, finance, management, information and personnel.

Please note that inclusion on the list of potential subcontractors does not give any guarantee that a subcontract will be awarded.

Name of organisation	Opportunity Plus UK Limited
Location of delivery **Unit of procurement/s cluster/s**	South West South Central West Midlands
Named contact	Susan Hughes
Phone	01803 540707
Email	susanhughes@opsw.co.uk
Area of activity	Self-Employment / Enterprise Training and Support Programmes

Description of activity

Opportunity Plus UK Limited is an innovative enterprise training provider which supports individuals who are most disadvantaged in the labour market to explore alternative routes to employment. We are realistic about the multiple barriers which some individuals can face when trying to find and sustain employment and so we promote a 'create your own opportunities' ethos.

We use self-employment as a realistic and achievable route to paid work which can allow individuals to create flexible employment to accommodate their social and health needs. Our programmes can help learners to identify a suitable business type, research their idea, learn the skills/techniques required, develop a business plan and prepare to launch their business.

All of our programmes can lead to a Level 1-3 Award in a range of vocational qualifications, so if an individual determines that self-employment is not a suitable route for them, the skills they have learnt can be transferrable to employment opportunities.

We deliver a number of workshops to inspire learners, improve confidence and motivation and generate business and marketing ideas. We also have a range of over 15 courses which lead to skills achievement and accredited qualifications in:

- Business Start-Up
- Advice, Information & Guidance
- Cleaning & Support Services
- Progression
- Hair & Beauty
- Employability Skills
- IT User Skills

Our trained tutors will ensure that the appropriate support services are in place for when a learner is ready to start their own business upon release, or alternatively, provide them with employment support services if this route is more appropriate.

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Name of Organisation	**Pertemps People Development Group**
Location of Delivery **Unit of Procurement/s Cluster/s**	• West Midlands • North East • North West (Merseyside only) • Yorkshire and the Humber (York and Humberside only)
Named Contact	Gareth Edwards
Phone	0121 450 8350
Email	gareth.edwards@ppdg.co.uk
Area of Activity	Welfare to Work and Skills

Description of Activity *(in 500 words*)

PPDG offers extensive expertise in supporting the end-to-end learning journey for offenders in custody. As the leading ESF/NOMS CFO provider we can demonstrate unrivalled capacity to engage offenders in learning and, through effective joint working, progress them into employment. We bring excellent understanding of the custodial learning offer and are well integrated within the Prison and Probation service and offender learning networks.

PPDG current exceeds all targets on our North East (Phase 1) provision (January 2010 – August 2011):

- **Starts:** 2975 Target: 2164 (137%)
- **Job outcomes:** 507 Target: 203 (250%)
- **Further learning:** 625 Target: 426 (147%)
- **NEETs into ETE:** 53 Target: 19 (279%)

PPDG has the flexibility to both deliver end-to-end OLASS 4 provision in identified units or specific elements of the service, including:

- Outreach and engagement
- Diagnostics and action planning
- Careers information, advice and guidance
- Employability
- Personal and Social Development
- Confidence and Motivation
- Job search
- Skills for Life assessment and training
- Vocational training including employer-led routeways
- Signposting and “wrap around” services
- Self-employment
- Key skills
- Apprenticeships
- Volunteering
- Mentoring
- Referral onto mainstream provision

We also bring wide experience of supporting the full range of offender groups, achieving parity of outcomes for:

- Young offenders
- Gangs
- Lifers
- Women offenders
- Gypsies, travellers and show people
- PPOs
- Vulnerable offenders
- Those with low/no skills
- Those with health problems

Our experience of working with offender groups is enhanced through our extensive track record of delivering mainstream employment and skills provision. Since 1997, we have supported over 110,000 disadvantaged people into employment through both voluntary and mandatory community-based programmes, such as:

- Employment Zone
- Flexible New Deal
- Work Programme
- NEETs provision
- E2E/Foundation Learning
- Apprenticeships
- Working Neighbourhoods Fund
- Transition Fund
- Jobcentre Plus support contract
- Future Jobs Fund

Through such programmes we have developed excellent partner and employer links across all of the selected regions. Links to over 25,000 local and national employers ensures our learners receive the most up-to-date labour market information and helps us align our training to local opportunities. Our bespoke Client Match system matched learners to suitable local jobs based on their skills and preferences. Employers span a range of industries and include Tesco, The Range, Gala Casinos, Premier Inn, Nordic Pioneer, Spellar Metcalfe, West Midlands Safari Park and Link Lockers.

The quality of our provision and contract management is assured via the following accreditations:

- OFSTED/ALI: Grade 1 & 2 (G 1 Leadership & Management, Capacity to Improve & Equality of Opportunity)
- ISO 9001:2008
- Matrix Advice & Guidance
- Investors in People
- Positive About Disabled People
- Young Persons Charter, Bronze & Silver
- Investors in Excellence Award
- Remploys ‘Leading the Way’ award
- DWP Merlin Standard Assured (Supply Chain Excellence)
- DWP Provider Assurance Testing – Strong Assurance

PPDG brings fully **qualified, vetted and experienced staff in place** to support OLASS 4 delivery. Our trainers are qualified/working towards a Certificate in Education/Certificate or Diploma to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (CTLLS/DTLLS) and are Matrix IAG accredited. We have in place a “Prison Awareness” package as part of our staff induction to prepare staff for the challenges of the prison environment.

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Name of Organisation	**SOVA**
Location of Delivery **Unit of Procurement/s Cluster/s**	East Midlands East of England Greater London North East North West South East West Midlands Yorkshire and the Humber
Named Contact	Anna Mellish
Phone	0114 270 3720
Email	businessdevelopment@sova.org.uk
Area of Activity	**Young people and adults, IAG including mentoring and support**

Description of Activity *(in 500 words)*

SOVA is a national voluntary organisation which champions social inclusion. Through over 240 staff, and more than 1,000 trained volunteers, we deliver 65 projects across England and Wales working with the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people in society. In the last financial year SOVA supported more than 8,500 people; providing everything from employability training and mentoring, to mediation and reparation services and care leavers' support.

A registered charity and company limited by guarantee with a turnover of £7.78m in 2010/11, SOVA has been working to transform lives and improve communities for more than 35 years. Established through partnership with the Inner London Probation Service, SOVA began expanding through its work with social services in 1982 to recruit, train and deploy volunteers to offer support and advice within local communities.

SOVA's aim is to inspire and support the people it works with to make positive changes to improve their lives and fulfil their potential. As a previous provider of OLASS services our model offers a solution that assists with improving offenders skills levels, along with the opportunity to move into sustainable employment. Our service offer is flexible, allowing prime providers to hand pick interventions as required.

Case Management
SOVA has considerable experience of case managing offenders in custody including projects such as PS Plus and NOMS CFO Phase 1. Our Case Management model includes initial needs assessment, followed by direct delivery of services, or referral to delivery partners for more specialist support and programmes. Our model extends beyond the gate to ensure offenders are supported in successful transition from custody to community.

Employability
SOVA has proven experience of helping long term unemployed people - especially offenders - into sustainable employment. We are an end-to-end sub-contractor for the Work Programme and are experiencing high degrees of success with engaging offenders and placing them into work. In addition our current NOMS CFO Yorkshire and Humberside programme is exceeding targets for helping offenders into sustained employment.

Mentoring

SOVA's network of community volunteers help individuals to lead purposeful and law-abiding lives with close support and supervision from paid project staff. We combine our tried and tested models to recruit and train offenders to deliver peer support in prison and we support the offender to successfully transition from custody to community. We focus on ensuring that offenders continue with community-based programmes of learning which will assist them to secure paid employment.

Employer Engagement
Building on existing links with local and national employers, SOVA can facilitate a relationship between employers and prisons; helping to quash stereotypical images of offenders and allowing offenders to showcase their talents and benefit from the experience and advice of the employer.

SOVA's strengths include:

- commitment to bring about positive changes for individuals and communities
- established local, regional and national partnerships
- participant-focused engagement and participation
- participant-orientated distance travelled tool to monitor and support real individual progress
- established reputation providing ETE services in the criminal justice field
- pool of c.1,000 active accredited volunteers

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Name of Organisation	**Warwickshire College**
Location of Delivery **Unit of Procurement/s Cluster/s**	Delivery locations: Leamington Spa Rugby Moreton Morrell Henley in Arden Pershore
Named Contact	Clive Plummer
Phone	07793 588628
Email	cplummer@warkscol.ac.uk
Area of Activity	**Further Education College**

Description of Activity *(in 500 words)*

Warwickshire College are highly experienced in the delivery of Academic Skills, Work / Employability Skills and Vocational Skills teaching and training. The college is used to the provision of service outside of college premises, with reference to the first two items of provision below. The college is also skilled in the provision of bespoke courses, tailored to client / candidate requirements.

Academic Skills:
Delivery encompasses initial assessment, diagnostics, learning style assessment, tuition, mock testing and exam entry for literacy and numeracy up to and including Level 2. Embedded literacy and IT is also included, focusing on those with entry level computer skills.

Work / Employability Skills:
Delivery encompasses Information, Advice and Guidance, CV writing, interview skills, communication and presentation skills, journey planning for work and job search activities.

Vocational Skills: **The college offers hundreds of vocational courses, adult apprenticeships and legislative certification programmes across all of the main industry sectors. We also work closely with JCP and both local and regional business in order to help match the vocational training to job outcomes.**
Please note that inclusion on the list of potential subcontractors does not give any guarantee that a subcontract will be awarded.

Name of Organisation	**Working Links (Employment) Limited**
Location of Delivery **Unit of Procurement/s Cluster/s**	London – all clusters South West – all clusters East Midlands – all clusters West Midlands – all clusters North East – all clusters
Named Contact	Kamini Sanghani
Phone	07812 740 554
Email	Kamini.sanghani@workinglinks.co.uk
Area of Activity	Employability programmes; Pre apprenticeships; Employer engagement.

Description of Activity *(in 500 words)*

Working Links has been supporting people who face multiple barriers to employment since 2000. We offer sector specific training and specialise in providing practical support for people to apply for jobs. We have helped over 220,000 people to move into employment including 40,000 ex-offenders. In our careers advice and guidance (CIAS), and NOMs ESF through-the-gate ETE support contracts (Wales New Day and London Moving On) we work in almost half of the prisons in England and Wales.

For OLASS 4 Working Links can support prime contractors with:

- Employer engagement activity;
- The delivery of employability programmes; and
- The delivery of pre-apprenticeships, apprenticeships, or sector specific training for offenders nearing the end of their sentences.

Employer Engagement

On current contracts we employ Employment Services Teams who conduct labour market analyses and support local employers to bridge skills gaps and fulfil their recruitment needs. We have an existing database local and national employers who we have worked with; many of whom we have developed partnerships with in order to develop sector specific training. For example on our Work Programme contract in Scotland we recently joined forces with internet retailer Amazon to provide staff for their new 1,000,000 sq ft warehouse and distribution centre in Dunfermline. We adopted a partnership approach to our recruitment service, working with five local recruitment agencies, and so far 40 of our customers have secured jobs as a result of them completing our sector specific training ‘routeway’, which included embedded maths and literacy workshops.

Further, in the South West we have developed a bespoke three day room attendant training programme in partnership with the Premier Inn in Torquay. The success of our programme resulted in 12 of our customers securing employment.

Employability
We employ trained tutors who deliver 1-1 and group employability training. This includes support with CV writing, interview skills, and information about securing jobs in specific sectors.

Apprenticeships and Sector Specific Routeways
As part of our employer engagement activity we offer advice on access to apprenticeships and can deliver apprenticeships in Customer Services, Hospitality, Warehousing, Retail, Business Administration and Care.

Working Links understands that the learning and skills provision in prisons needs to be responsive to population changes, regime demands, and the skills gaps in the labour market. We welcome the opportunity to discuss how we can work with Lead Contractors and their other partners to meet these needs throughout the contract duration.

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Skills Funding Agency

Cheylesmore House Quinton Road Coventry CV1 2WT
T 0845 377 5000 **www.skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk**
A partner organisation of the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills

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