

'Youth Contract' Provision for Disengaged 16 to 17 Year Olds

Key information for potential providers

1. Background

In November 2011, the Government announced almost £1 billion of funding over the next three years to support the participation of 16-24 year olds in education, training and work – the **Youth Contract**. This will provide new **Wage Incentives, extra Work Experience places** and **extra Jobcentre Plus support** for unemployed 18-24 year olds, as well as incentives for employers to offer young people an **Apprenticeship**.

Through the Youth Contract, the Government is investing £126 million in England over the next three years to support disengaged 16 to 17 year olds to move into education, training or employment with training. This will help to support the Government's overall commitment to full participation for this age group as we raise the participation age to 17 in 2013 and 18 in 2015.

The main aim of this programme is to support 16 to 17 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) and at risk of long-term disengagement to move into education, training or employment with training and to sustain this outcome.

2. Target Group

The core target group for this programme will be:

- 16 to 17 year olds;
- Currently not participating in education, employment or training (NEET);
- With low levels of attainment (No GCSEs at A*-C)

We know that there are a number of risk factors that make young people more likely to become disengaged, including factors such as truancy, exclusion, teenage parenthood and coming from a troubled or workless family. Successful providers will work closely with local authorities to agree which of these factors will be used to prioritise locally the target group for this provision.

3. Payment Model

Payment by results will be a key element of this programme. There will be three payment points:

- An initial payment when a young person has begun the programme and an action plan has been agreed.
- A re-engagement payment when the young person enters one of the re-engagement outcomes (3 to 6 months after the initial payment).
- A sustainability payment when the young person has been engaged in one of the sustainability outcomes for six months from the date of re-engagement.

Providers will be able to propose a unit cost up to a maximum of £2,200 per young person. The maximum length of the programme for any young person will be 12 months

4. Outcomes

At the re-engagement point, we will count as a positive outcome:

- Participation in full-time education or training funded by the YPLA/EFA.
- Participation in an Apprenticeship or a job with accredited training equivalent to 280 guided learning hours per year (around one day per week).
- Participation in part-time education, including re-engagement provision, funded by the YPLA/EFA.

At the sustainability payment point, we will count as a positive outcome only:

- Sustained participation in full-time education or training leading to an accredited qualification funded by the YPLA/EFA.
- Sustained participation in an Apprenticeship.
- Participation in full-time employment with part-time training equivalent to at least 280 guided learning hours per year (around one day per week).

5. Partnership Working

We will expect successful providers to demonstrate strong arrangements for partnership workings. In particular, local authorities will have a key role in helping to deliver this programme, working with providers to agree the target groups within their area and ensure a close fit with other local provision.

6. Commercial Process

Contracts will be let on a regional or sub-regional basis following an open competition run by the Young People's Learning Agency. This will be a two-stage process – the deadline for completed Pre-Qualification Questionnaires is **05 March 2012**.

Organisations invited to tender will need to provide further information by **02 May 2012**.

We expect to let the contracts in June 2012.

In three areas – Liverpool, Newcastle-Gateshead and Leeds-Bradford-Wakefield – local arrangements will be made for commissioning this programme.

7. Links

Specification and further information:

- <http://www.contractsfinder.businesslink.gov.uk>

- Policy context – *Building Engagement, Building Futures*:
www.tinyurl.com/buildingengagement