

‘Youth Contract’ Provision for Disengaged 16 to 17 Year Olds

Questions and Answers for Providers

In the interests of transparency, this document will be updated and added to during the procurement process as providers raise questions so that all those who are interested in bidding are able to see the responses.

Q. I am interested in bidding. What date do I need to return the Pre-Qualification Questionnaire by and to whom?

The PQQ needs to be returned to us by 17.00 on 05 March 2012. You can email your completed PQQ to yplafinance@ypla.gov.uk with subject heading “YPLA Youth Contract PQQ” or submit it as a hard copy as per the Instructions to Potential Suppliers.

Q. I am interested in bidding but I cannot cover a whole region – can I still bid?

Contracts will be let on a regional basis although some sub-regional contracts are available (as set out in the Specification). We recognise that in many cases this will require organisations to work together to produce a bid and we would welcome bids from consortia of providers. Successful providers will be able to enter into sub-contracting arrangements with organisations to ensure that they can cover the full contract area.

Q. I am a private/public/voluntary and community sector organisation – can I still bid?

This is an open tender process. We welcome bids from organisations from any sector, and particularly those with strong experience of supporting 16 to 17 year olds to engage.

Q. What separate arrangements are in place for ‘Core City’ areas?

As part of the Government’s work on ‘City Deals’, we are devolving funding and responsibility for design and commissioning of this service to three city areas – Liverpool, Newcastle-Gateshead and Leeds-Bradford Wakefield. Provision in these areas will not be contracted through this process. Further information will be available on their websites in due course and we will provide links to this for information.

Q. Is this programme meant to offer education and training provision to young people?

This programme is focused on providing the support that young people need to re-engage rather than duplicating the education and training provision that is already funded by the Young People’s Learning Agency including the arrangements for flexibilities within Foundation Learning for non accredited learning. Over the period

that young people spend on this programme, we expect providers to help them to make a successful and sustainable transition from being out of education, employment or training into full-time education or training, an Apprenticeship or work with training.

Q. Work is a really good outcome for young people. Why is employment on its own not one of the sustainability outcomes for this programme?

The Government is committed to supporting all 16 to 17 year olds to engage in education or training as we raise the participation age to 17 in 2013 and 18 in 2015. Young people at this age will still be encouraged to work – through an Apprenticeship or in a job with training alongside (equivalent to around a day per week). By ensuring that young people receive education or training as well as employment, we will help them to ensure that they have the skills and qualifications to progress on into a sustainable and successful career.

Q. What are the other elements of the Youth Contract? Where can I find out more?

In addition to the new support for 16/17 year olds, the Youth Contract will provide:

- 160,000 wage incentives over the next three years, worth £2,275 each, for employers who recruit an 18-24 year-old from the Work Programme;
- An extra 250,000 Work Experience or Sector-Based Work Academy places over the next three years, ensuring that there is an offer of a Work Experience place for every 18 to 24 year-old who wants one, before they enter the Work Programme;
- At least 20,000 extra incentive payments worth £1500 each for employers to take on young people as apprentices, taking the total to 40,000 in 2012/13; and
- Extra support through Jobcentre Plus over the next three years for all 18-24 year olds, providing, a referral to a careers interview from the National Careers Service within the first 3 months, extra Jobcentre Plus advisor time after 3 months and weekly, rather than fortnightly signing, after 5 months.

Further information on the provision that is being put in place by the Department for Work and Pensions can be found at: <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/youth-contract/>.

There will also be incentives for small businesses to offer Apprenticeships for 16-24 year olds. This element is being delivered by the National Apprenticeship Service and further information is available at:

<http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk/Employers/Steps-to-make-it-happen/Incentive.aspx>.