

North Tyneside Council

Report to Cabinet

10 March 2014

ITEM 7(f)

External Funding - Not in Education, Training and Employment (NEET).

Portfolio(s): Children, Young People and Learning

Cabinet Member(s): Ian Grayson

Report from Service Area

Children, Young People and Learning

Responsible Officer: Jean Griffiths

Tel: (0191) 643 8783

Wards affected: All

PART 1

1.1 Purpose:

The purpose of the report is to seek approval to accept funding from the European Social Fund (ESF) to support young people Not in Education, Training and Employment (NEET). The value of the funding offered to North Tyneside is £320K for delivery within the period January 2014 to July 2015.

1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Cabinet:

1. approves the offer of the funding; and
2. authorises the Head of Children, Young People and Learning in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Learning and the Head of Finance and Commercial Services to take all necessary steps to deliver the revised NEET programme.

1.3 Forward Plan:

28 days notice of this report has been given and it first appeared on the Forward Plan that was published on 3 February 2014.

1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

Cabinet and Council are committed to ensuring young people are in education, training or employment. This report supports the following related aspirations and outcomes in Our North Tyneside Council Plan:

Our People – Be supported to achieve their full potential, especially our children and young people.

Our Economy-Have local people that have the skills which businesses need.

This funding will provide intensive support for young people that are not in education or employment to re-engage them into learning, training or work. It will provide personal mentoring, support that will better prepare them for work and training linked to local employer's requirements.

1.5 Information:

Background

- 1.5.1 Gateshead Council as the lead Authority for the skills agenda for the planned Combined Authority led a joint application for European Social Fund funding made available from the Skills Funding Agency. The joint bid was on behalf of the 7 Council's in the NELEP area as this was the minimum geography that a bid could be submitted.
- 1.5.2 This is the latest round of European Social Fund contracts to support 'Not in Education, Training and Employment' (NEET) young people and follows the completion of the previous programme that ended in December 2013. The Authority was independently delivering the previous programme as that was the requirement from the funding agent at that time. A joint application was the only available process to access this new round of funding.
- 1.5.3 This application was successful and will provide £320K of European funding to North Tyneside to support young people aged 16-24 back into work or training. The NEET programme will be commissioned, in compliance with the EU procurement regime where appropriate, on behalf of the Authority by Gateshead Council as the responsible authority for the joint funding application.
- 1.5.4 The Local Authorities, including North Tyneside are working closely with Gateshead Authority via formal project management arrangements to determine the local delivery required and will be included in any procurement decision making processes, including selection panels where appropriate.
- 1.5.5 In 2013/14 the budget from the previous project was £128k, this new funding would provide an annual budget of £202K. Acceptance of this funding would enable continuation and expansion of support to the unemployed and disengaged young people in North Tyneside.
- 1.5.6 The funding will provide information, advice and guidance; mentoring support and progression tracking of young people to access a range of partner provision that will support them into work or further learning. In addition the funding will provide formal training to young people linked to employment opportunities.
- 1.5.7 It is anticipated that this funding will support 200 young people, including 170 receiving formal training.
- 1.5.8 The support service will be directly delivered by Connexions officers and the training element will be initially delivered by local training providers including the Council's Adult Learning Alliance team, Tyne Met College, Barnardos and the National Youth Association. Further procurement for additional providers will be undertaken when appropriate.

1.6 Decision options:

The following decision options are available for consideration by Cabinet:

Option 1

Cabinet may approve the recommendations as set out in paragraph 1.2 of this report

Option 2

Cabinet may decide not to approve the recommendations in this report and may request officers to look at other options.

Option 1 is the recommended option.

1.7 Reasons for recommended option:

Option 1 is recommended for the following reasons:

1. The Authority will continue to access resources to support young people who are not in education, employment or training i.e. (NEET).
2. An integrated programme of intensive support will be offered which includes training, advice and guidance, work experience and personal development to address young people's barriers and accelerate their move back into mainstream education, training, work or apprenticeships.

The programme will provide critical engagement activities and appropriate pathways to enable NEET young people to progress into mainstream Further Education and Training.

3. Acceptance of this funding will ensure young people in North Tyneside are not disadvantaged in terms of the levels of support available in our neighbouring council's.

1.8 Appendices:

None

1.9 Contact officers:

Jean Griffiths, Head of Children, Young People and Learning; tel. (0191) 643 8783.

Anthony Gollings, Finance Business Manager; tel. (0191) 643 8071

1.10 Background information:

Education to Employment: Getting Europe's Youth into Work (at mckinsey.com).

http://www.mckinsey.com/insights/social_sector/converting_education_to_employment_in_europe

Hidden talents: Supporting the most disengaged young people into employment, education and training (Local Government Association, March 2012).

http://www.local.gov.uk/hidden-talents/-/journal_content/56/10180/3838596/ARTICLE

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and other resources

The European Social Fund will fully fund the programme; there is no additional cost to the Council.

2.2 Legal

As Gateshead Council will undertake any necessary commissioning arrangements, the responsibility to ensure that the commissioning process is compliant with the EU procurement regime rests with them rather than this Authority. In accordance with the Local Government Act 2000 and the regulations made under that Act in relation to responsibility for functions, Cabinet is responsible for determining this matter.

2.3 Consultation/community engagement

2.3.1 Consultation has been carried out with the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Learning.

2.3.2 Engagement with external training providers to the Authority has been undertaken and an element of the funding will be directed to these providers within a formal procurement process. To date this has included Tyne Metropolitan College, National Youth Association and Barnardo's. Further engagement with additional providers will be possible at a later date in the delivery programme.

2.4 Human rights

There are no human rights implications directly arising from this report.

2.5 Equalities and diversity

The programme is available to all eligible young people in the borough.

2.6 Risk management

Any proposals agreed would be appropriately risk managed to ensure the Council and any partners are not exposed to unmanageable operational risks.

2.7 Crime and disorder

A proportion of 19 plus NEET young people will be in contact with the Youth Offending Team, engaging them in productive work experience and training and moving them into mainstream Further Education provision will help reduce rates of re-offending.

2.8 Environment and sustainability

There are no environmental and sustainability implications directly arising from this report.

PART 3 - SIGN OFF

- Chief Executive X
- Deputy Chief Executive X
- Head of Service X
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s) X
- Chief Finance Officer X
- Monitoring Officer X
- Strategic Manager Policy, Partnerships, Performance and Communications X