**ESB Briefing - February 2019**

**European Social Fund**

* Board Members were advised that there are a number of ESF projects that are coming to an end on 31st March 2019. In preparation for this we agreed to "opt-in" to a second stage of ESFA match funding.
* This opt-in arrangement means that we are able to match fund our ESF, and we pay an admin fee of 10% of the project value to the ESFA for procuring the activity and managing it.
* The LEP provides some bespoke information into the specification that training providers have to bid for and has some involvement in the final stage of the procurement process.
* There are 4 possible projects that the ESFA asked if we wished to opt in to.
* We agreed to opt in to all 4, and they have now been through a procurement process.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Priority** | **Title** | **Contract value** | **To engage** | **Won by** | **Other** |
| 1.1 | **Skills Support to the Unemployed**.   | £3,150,000 | 2077 jobseekers | People Plus | Winners hold the existing contract for this project. |
| 1.2 | **NEET (or at risk of becoming NEET)** | £1,620,000 | 1029 | CLIP, Community Learning in Partnership (based in Market Rasen) | Winners hold the existing contract for a similar, but smaller project. |
| 1.4 | **Community Grants** | £990,000 | 20k max grant.Average unit learner cost £1410.66 | No Successful Applicant.  CH to work with the ESFA to re-procure  | This procurement seeks an organisation to develop and manage a grant system, for third sector or small organisations to engage and train/support unemployed, particularly in innovative ways.  Not currently delivered in our area.  |
| 2.1 | **Skills Support to the workforce** | £7,200,000 | 3925 | Hull College | Currently delivered by Calderdale College. |

* Contracts have now been awarded.
* Contract holders are required to work with the LEP Officer to ensure maximum impact
* Existing contracts are still running until 31st March 2019
* Delivery: 1st April 2019 to 31st July 2021
* SSW is not open to public sector organisations (i.e. NHS and LA's)

**Apprenticeship Panel – 30th January 2019**

* The panel was joined by Bev Moxon, Intermediaries Manager, National Apprenticeship Service.
* The aim of the session was to test if the actions in the Employment and Skills Board plan are the right actions, and if more should be added.
* It was agreed that Point 4 of the ESB action plan: "Increase the participation of SMEs in Apprenticeships through raising awareness of reforms affecting them" should be amended to remove the word reforms.
* It was also agreed that more information about organisations that have successfully transferred unspent levy could be shared.
* A good discussion was held about the barriers facing young apprentices and business (both levy and non-levy payers) in engaging with Apprenticeships, including people's perceptions, standards that are set by large employers don't always suit smaller businesses and transport.
* Full notes to be circulated shortly.

Update: The Education and Skills Funding Agency has offered LEPs a range of practical support and advice on developing toolkits for employers, accessing data about number of local levy payers, and tailored webinars. An expression of interest was submitted on 11th February and further information will be available shortly.

**Work Experience and Inspiration Workshop – 6th February**

* Branston Ltd hosted the workshop on behalf of the Employment and Skills Board.
* The workshop was attended by Year 10 and 12 pupils, careers leads and teachers as well as Employment and Skills Board members.
* The aim of the session was to understand what each group (employer, educator, young person) hopes to achieve through a work experience placement, or from any kind of work inspiration, and what their barriers are.
* One of the barriers that schools face is understanding who the local employers are, and nurturing existing employer relationships. All three schools attending used The World of Work website.
* Full notes to be circulated shortly.

Update: The Education and Skills Funding Agency has offered LEPs the chance to pitch for £5k to work with employers to raise awareness of Industry Placements and T levels. We would like to hold at least 3 sessions around the county (working with existing events such as FSB or IoD) and to link the outcomes from the workshop and work inspiration into it. Our proposal was submitted on 11th February and further information will be available shortly.

**Skills Spotlight**GLLEP have developed a new monthly skills newsletter to raise awareness of the wide range of initiatives that are taking place. Register on the LEP website for updates PLEASE.

**Enterprise Coordinators**

The role of the Enterprise Coordinator is to work with secondary schools to understand what they already do in relation to giving students information to prepare for, and experiences of, the world of work. The coordinator will match the school with an employer to help them do this better/more often/cover locally important sectors.

Employers who volunteer to become an Enterprise Adviser become part of an Enterprise Adviser Network (the EAN), meeting 4 times a year to share best practice.

The first EC has been funded by the LEP and the Career and Enterprise Company.
Liz.Draper-Smethurst@lincolnshire.gov.uk Tel: 07557 169914 and a second will be recruited shortly.

The LEP is given a target to ensure that schools improve their performance against Gatsby Benchmarks 5 and 6 *\* See information at the end of the briefing.*

*This scheme is the result of a piece of work led by Lord Young, the Small Business and Enterprise Adviser in 2014, who had a vision to improve the relevance of enterprise across the education system, and, following the publication of Enterprise for All (2014), he set out to connect schools and colleges with the world of business.*

**Institute of Technology Bid**
A collaborative bid from across Greater Lincolnshire has been submitted to DfE for an Institute of Technology. IoTs will deliver Level 4, 5 and 6 technical qualifications, and in the case of the Greater Lincolnshire bid, specialising in Agri-tech, food manufacturing; advanced manufacturing, energy and digital. Qualifications will be delivered from nearly all FE College main campus, and UoL Holbeach campus.

If successful, the lead for the bid at the University of Lincoln will attend the next ESB to provide more information.

**Career Hub Bid**

Board Members were reminded that last year a bid to secure some funding from the Career and Enterprise Company (CEC) for a Career Hub.

A Career Hub aims to bring 20 – 40 schools together (either virtually or in a network) to increase performance across **all** of the Gatsby benchmarks *\* See information at end of this briefing.* How the Hub achieves that is for the LEP and the Schools to decide. The CEC provides 100% funding for a Career Hub lead who will make sure the hub delivers what it sets out to.
The first round was highly competitive process and we were not successful. A new round of funding has opened and the CEC has supported some LEPs by providing 10 days of consultancy support to help develop the initial bid ideas. Funding is initially for one year only, and the closing date for bids is 22nd February.

A bid was submitted and the LEP are preparing for pitch and interview on 14th March.

**Midlands Engine Skills Strategy**
The LEP has received information about a 'Midlands Engine' skills strategy and the Employment and Skills Board should be aware so that it can influence its development and fit with what is already taking place locally.

 Collaborative Skills Networks & High Apprenticeship Growth

* Aim to link business needs with skills ecosystem on ME-wide geography
* Aim to grow apprenticeship activity
* 6 CSNs- 6 skills strategies. Aligned to sector deals where they exist
* Apprenticeship campaign

Centre for Automotive Skills

* Hub & spoke model of delivery to meet changing skills needs of the sector
* Higher level technical skills; emphasis on electrification
* Aimed to support SME supply chain as well as large companies to maintain competitiveness
* Link to WMCA activity

Further Education Innovation Fund

* Link colleges & SMEs to build innovation and so increase productivity
* **Objective 1:** foster two-way, impact orientated knowledge exchange and applied research between colleges and employers
* **Objective 2:** develop new skills to support the deployment of new technologies, processes or techniques and tackle business challenges.

Skills Escalator

* Led by MEU
* Aims to link businesses with FE/HE to build more joined up and visible pathways
* Flexible learning and development opportunities
* Pilot approach in EM with focus on engineering & manufacturing sector

**Further Information

The Gatsby Benchmarks are a framework of 8 guidelines that define the best careers provision in schools and colleges:

1. A stable careers programme**

Every school and college should have an embedded programme of career education and guidance that is known and understood by pupils, parents, teachers and employers.

**2. Learning from career and labour market information**

Every pupil, and their parents, should have access to good-quality information about future study options and labour market opportunities. They will need the support of an informed adviser to make best use of available information.

**3. Addressing the needs of each pupil**

Pupils have different career guidance needs at different stages. Opportunities for advice and support need to be tailored to the needs of each pupil. A school’s careers programme should embed equality and diversity considerations throughout.

**4. Linking curriculum learning to careers**

All teachers should link curriculum learning with careers. For example, STEM subject teachers should highlight the relevance of STEM subjects for a wide range of future career paths.

**5. Encounters with employers and employees**

Every pupil should have multiple opportunities to learn from employers about work, employment and the skills that are valued in the workplace. This can be through a range of enrichment activities including visiting speakers, mentoring and enterprise schemes.

**6. Experiences of workplaces**

Every pupil should have first-hand experiences\* of the workplace through work visits, work shadowing and/or work experience to help their exploration of career opportunities, and expand their networks.

**7. Encounters with further and higher education**

All pupils should understand the full range of learning opportunities that are available to them. This includes both academic and vocational routes and learning in schools, colleges, universities and in the workplace.

**8. Personal guidance**

Every pupil should have opportunities for guidance interviews with a careers adviser, who could be internal (a member of school staff) or external, provided they are trained to an appropriate level. These should be available whenever significant study or career choices are being made. They should be expected for all pupils but should be timed to meet their individual needs.

*Ian Dickinson – 11th March 2019*