

European Social Fund

Newsletter- March 2010



Changes to the LSC- Focus on ESF

On 23rd March, GLE hosted an event for London Borough officers to look at the changes to the Learning and Skills Councils (LSC) and the impact that this will have on the current LSC ESF programme.

Paul Crosswell and Mary Vine-Morris from the LSC talked to the delegates about the overall changes to the organisation and the focus of the new Skills Funding Agency ESF programme and the Regional Planning Group which will have a strategic overview of 14-19 provision in London.

Information was presented on the main changes to the LSC and the effect that this will have on the ESF programme. The main points were:

- The Skills Funding Agency will have responsibility for all procurement for adult and 14- 19 ESF provision (with direction from the Regional Planning Group and the Young Persons Learning Agency)
- The Skills Funding Agency will retain responsibility for the National Apprenticeships service which will fund apprenticeships for those aged 16- 19 as well as 19+
- Indicative areas of focus for future provision are: vocational skills training, ESOL provision, apprenticeships and support for those in employment to achieve basic skills levels 2 and 3 and apprenticeships
- The next funding round is planned for June 2010. Further information will be available in due course.
- Local authorities will be encouraged to participate in the procurement process. Further information will follow.

The Regional Planning Group will provide the regional lead for London, working in partnership with boroughs, employers and providers in managing the new duties on local government for 16-19 education with effect from 2010/11. The elected board for this group contains representatives of the Young People Forum at London Councils, the Skills Funding Agency, the Association of Directors of Children's Services, the London Skills and Employment Board and the Young Persons Learning Agency. Local authorities will feed into this process through their 14 -19 teams.

If you would like your contact details passing on to your borough representative, please contact Rosie Maguire at rosemary.m@gle.co.uk with your name, job title, borough and contact details.

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ESF Community Grants Programme- a chance for boroughs to get involved!

Are you interested in adding real value to voluntary and community sector employment programmes in your borough?

In February 2010 the London Councils Grants Committee agreed to take over responsibility for the London ESF Community Grants programme from the LDA for the period 2011-13. The programme supports small voluntary and community sector organisations to build their capacity to deliver employability and skills activities to hard to reach groups, develop their capacity to manage grant funding and deliver soft outcomes.

London Councils' grants budget is currently fully committed. However, it would like to open this opportunity to London boroughs and other funding partners. This funding stream can be used to add value to partners' programmes, but would need to be matched with either cash or similar activities. For every £1 you can commit, you can access £1 of ESF funding.

For further information on this, contact Stephen Boon on 020 7940 1565 / stephen.b@gle.co.uk

NOMS announces timescales for their next funding round

The National Offender Management Service has announced the timescales for their next funding round. This ESF co-financing programme aims to provide a link between offenders and existing skills and employment services for offenders.

The first Invitation to Tender (ITT) will be issued by 30th April for organisations who have been successful in the Pre- Qualification Questionnaire stage. This stage will be completed by July 2010. The final ITT will be issued on 16th August with a closing date of 13th September. Contract decisions will be made in October 2010.



Helping ESF projects to be more environmentally sustainable

Green Mark is a recognised environmental certification, specifically designed to cater to the needs and limited resources of third sector organisations, SMEs and public sector bodies. Developed by London Metropolitan University, it is attainable yet extensive, and includes a high level of support, auditing services and environmental consultancy.

GLE are the managing and delivery agent for Green Mark and through their work with SMEs, charities and third sector organisations are;

- delivering the sustainability cross-cutting theme
- helping organisations achieve significant cost and resource savings
- implementing real environmental performance changes

Organisations can also gain significant financial savings through Green Mark. For example, a recent recertification of an ESF project indicated that from a stationery bill of £14,000 per annum, with Green Mark recommendations, the organisation has reduced this cost to £11,500, a saving of £3,500.

Successful achievement of Green Mark certification means that a provider has the information and tools to evidence eligibility for funding streams and maintain their sustainability requirements. For more information, contact Sam Manley on 020 7940 1562 / sam.m@gle.co.uk / www.greenmark.co.uk

What support can you get to access ESF?

GLE provides intensive support to help boroughs take full advantage of the ESF funds available in London. GLE has won ESF Technical Assistance funding to help ensure that London's boroughs are well placed to access ESF funding.

Our support includes:

- A dedicated ESF [webpage](#)
- Tailored workshops for your local authority
- In-depth support with applications
- Information and advice via telephone or email
- Workshops for new tendering rounds
- Workshops to support delivery of borough ESF projects
- Support with building a consortia for ESF projects, both with other boroughs and third sector partners

Upcoming events

The next borough officers' forum will be held at GLE's offices on Wednesday 26th May, 10-13.00.

GLE will also be hosting a **networking event for borough officers and third sector organisations** who are looking to access ESF in the future. This will be held at GLE offices on Wednesday 2nd June 2010, 10.00 - 13.00. This event will be aimed at supporting links between boroughs and third sector organisations in their area. For more information contact Rosie Maguire on 020 7940 1559.

ESF Success in London

Do you run a successful ESF project in your borough? Can you think of an ESF funded project which is successfully supporting people in your local area? If so, we would like to hear from you. Please contact Joanna Allan on 020 7940 1552 / joanna.a@gle.co.uk

Further information sources

For more information, please contact Rosemary Maguire at rosemary.m@gle.co.uk / 020 7940 1559

To participate in the bi-monthly borough officer forums, contact Arjun Singh-Much lle at arjun.s@gle.co.uk / 020 7940 1574

If you would like to sign up to the quarterly LDA European Programmes Management Unit's ESF and ERDF newsletter, please send your name, organisation name, address, email and telephone number to esf@lda.gov.uk, quoting that you are interested in subscribing to the EPMU newsletter.

For more information on ESF and links to the co-financing websites, go to www.londoncouncils.glegroup.co.uk/fundingprogs/ESF.php

For more information on the London Regional Planning Group, please visit www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/children/education14to19/regionalplanninggroup.htm

For information on the next NOMS procurement round, please visit the Ministry of Justice Procurement website <http://procurement.hmprisonservice.gov.uk/about/procurementinitiatives/esfprogramme200713/>

For more information on Green Mark, visit www.green-mark.co.uk