

Report of Head of Projects and Programmes, Employment and Skills service

Report to the Director of City Development

Date: 20 May 2020

Subject: Mental Health Support for Young People Programme

Are specific electoral wards affected? If yes, name(s) of ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Has consultation been carried out?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Will the decision be open for call-in?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, access to information procedure rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary

1. Main issues

- The Best Council Plan 2019-20, sets out the Council’s ambition for Leeds to have a strong economy and to be a compassionate city, tackling poverty and reducing inequalities. Supporting residents into work and further training is an important contributor to this ambition. In 2018-19 the Employment and Skills service helped 5,127 people into work and 7,010 adults learn new skills
- In February 2019 the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) as the Managing Authority for European Social Funding (ESF) issued the call for the Mental Health Support for Young People as part of the wider ESIF 2014-2020 programme. The call was for an employability programme that supports 'NEETs' (young people who are not in education, employment, or training), young people with mental health problems – including young people with emotional, behavioural and social difficulties to receive sufficient or appropriately differentiated approaches that reflect their particular needs or circumstances.
- The Managing Authority allocated approximately £3.5m million across the Leeds City Region for this call. Central to all ESIF programmes is a match funding requirement of 50% of total project costs. In May 2019, the Employment and Skills Service submitted a bid to deliver a £2.91m programme to support residents in Leeds and Bradford with a focus on disadvantaged young people aged 15-24 with mental health issues. The Council acting as the Lead Partner submitted the bid along with City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council (CBMDC) and other delivery partners. In Leeds, Barca and Specialist Autism Services will be delivery

partners and bring with them approximately £700k of match funding. Bradford Council will deliver under the same project with various delivery partners who will be managed by CBMDC. The Council has committed up to £465k match funding which is made up of staff time dedicated to the programme. As Lead Partner the Council will enter into a Service Level Agreement with Delivery Partners.

- DWP have accepted the bid from the Council and it is expected that the new programme will commence delivery in summer 2020 and will run for 3 years and 3 months, therefore ending around September 2023. The programme across both Leeds and Bradford is anticipated to support roughly 1,800 residents across Leeds and Bradford and deliver around 400 NEET to EET progressions.

2. Best Council Plan Implications (see the [latest version of the Best Council Plan](#))

- The programme will contribute to the delivery of the Best Council Plan 2019/20 priorities of Inclusive Growth and Child-Friendly City, and the calls to action in the Leeds Talent and Skills Plan and the Leeds Inclusive Growth Strategy. Targeted support will contribute to the achievement of Best Council Plan outcomes to ensure that all residents can do well at all levels of learning, have the skills they need for life and to earn enough to support themselves and their families.

3. Resource Implications

- In the current financial climate of reduced resources, the ESIF programme is a significant source of external funding which contributes 50% towards the costs of Council priority projects and programmes.
- The commitment from the Council is taken from existing staff resource and as such, no additional costs will be incurred to deliver the programme.

Recommendations

The Director of City Development is asked to:

- a) Authorise entering into a formal contract with DWP as part of the Mental Health Support for Young People Programme and enter into a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council, BARCA and Specialist Autism Services (SAS) as programme Delivery Partners.
- b) Approve total expenditure of up to £930k by the Council, inclusive of £465k maximum match funding to deliver the Mental Health Support for Young People Programme over the next three years and three months, 2020-2023;

Note that the Head of Projects and Programmes in the Employment and Skills Service will be responsible for the implementation, anticipated to commence July 2020 and end September 2023.

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The report seeks authorisation to act as Lead Partner and enter into a formal contract with DWP and a Service Level Agreement with City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council, BARCA and SAS.
- 1.2 This report also seeks authorisation to approve total expenditure of £930k and commit £465k maximum of Council match-funding to deliver the Mental Health Support for Young people Programme.

2 Background information

- 2.1 The current European Structural and Investment Fund Programme (ESIF) commenced in 2014 and is a seven year programme designed to support a range of economic development, skills, environmental improvement and social inclusion activities. The Leeds City Region was awarded one of the largest allocations in the country with a total value of £304m.
- 2.2 The Leeds City Region ESIF Programme was launched in spring 2015. Executive Board was presented with a report from the Director of City Development on 16 March 2016 which summarised the Council's planned activity under ESIF either as the lead applicant or a key delivery partner at that time.
- 2.3 The Employment and Skills Service leads on or contributes as a Delivery Partner on a number of programmes through this funding. These include:
 - Employment Hub programme - launched in 2015 the Council is currently delivering this £5.56 m programme (including £2.78m Council match) which is supporting 6,000 of the city's most vulnerable residents into work and or training. The programme will end in June 2022 with the last referral on to programme in December 2021.
 - Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) - in January 2019 the Council commenced delivery to support young people (15-24) who are either NEET or who are at risk of becoming NEET. This programme is delivered in partnership with the Council's Children's and Families Directorate and the Prince's Trust. Over 1,200 young people will be supported throughout the 3 years of delivery.
 - Routeways - Also in January 2019 a further programme commenced to establish clear links between education and business and promoting apprenticeships in schools as a positive career progression. This programme aims to increase student contact with, and understanding of, business in schools and Further Education resulting in more young people entering and staying in the labour market. Throughout the duration of the programme it is expected that 1,700 young people will be supported during delivery.
- 2.4 The new programme will be aligned with this existing provision to create one single service offer to residents, partners and referral sources.

3 Main issues

- 3.1 As 'NEETs' (young people who are not in education, employment, or training), young people with mental health problems – including young people with emotional, behavioural and social difficulties – may only get support from generic approaches

to support NEETs, and so do not receive sufficient or appropriately differentiated approaches that reflect their particular needs or circumstances.

- 3.2 Mental health problems are a key personal risk factor in determining whether someone becomes NEET. A report by the Institute for Education found that “the influence of physical and particularly mental health problems on NEET status cannot be overstated”, impacting on GCSE attainment, contributing to them dropping out of post-16 education and training and therefore leading to them becoming NEET.
- 3.3 To reduce and prevent NEET figures from increasing this programme will support young people’s mental health through one to one and group work as well as aligning support from CAMHS and IAPT’s.
- 3.4 With the impact of Covid-19 lockdown disproportionately effecting young people in terms of both mental health and employment prospects, it is even more important that sufficient support is put in place to complement existing employment and skills programmes.

4 Corporate considerations

4.1 Consultation and engagement

- 4.1.1 The Leeds City Region ESIF Strategy was subject to wide consultation across the city region during its development in 2013/14. Smaller stakeholder sounding groups continue to be used to develop programmes under each thematic objective prior to release. Leading up to the launch of calls for proposals, regional information sessions were held, generally led by the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) and the relevant Managing Authority.
- 4.1.2 Implementation of the strategy is monitored by the Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership Board, the Leeds City Region Chief Executives’ and the Leaders’ Board meetings. A Council cross-directorate ESIF officers’ group has been engaged in the development of local programmes since 2014.
- 4.1.3 The Executive Member for Learning, Skills and Employment, and Executive Member for Strategy and Resources (and Executive Lead for ESIF) have been consulted on the issues in this report.

4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

- 4.2.1 The assessment of the Leeds City Region ESIF Strategy by central Government incorporated consideration of a range of equality and diversity issues. Each individual project has to address gender and diversity issues, and some projects will have specific targets for participation of priority groups including women and BAME.
- 4.2.2 While open to all jobseekers between 15 and 24, the programme is specifically aimed at supporting groups identified as being disadvantaged in the labour market. An EDCI screening was completed in April 2020 (Appendix 1) and the assessment confirmed that due consideration has been given to all equality groups.

4.3 Council policies and the Best Council Plan

- 4.3.1 The programme contributes directly the Best Council Plan 2019/20 – 2020/21 Priorities to support Inclusive Growth, and access to economic opportunities, supporting communities and raising aspirations, by providing skills programmes and employment support. It also reflects the ambitions of the Leeds Talent and Skills Plan and the Leeds Inclusive Growth Strategy. Targeted support will contribute to the achievement of Best Council Plan outcomes to ensure that all residents can do well at all levels of learning, have the skills they need for life and to earn enough to support themselves and their families.

Climate Emergency

- 4.3.2 A key part of the Best Council Plan priority on 'Sustainable Infrastructure' is how we tackle the risks of climate change. Following the council's declaration of a climate emergency in March 2019, due consideration has been given to the climate impact. The delivery of this programme will have no adverse impact on the climate.

4.4 Resources, procurement and value for money

- 4.4.1 In the current financial climate of reduced resources, the ESIF programme is a significant source of external funding which contributes 50% towards the costs of Council priority projects and programmes.
- 4.4.2 The ESF funding will bring in an additional investment pot of up to £1m to Leeds over three years that would otherwise not be available to support some of the city's most vulnerable residents move closer to the labour market and back into work or training.
- 4.4.3 The Council may wish to enter into contracts with providers to deliver elements of the programme in Leeds, subject to further consideration of priority groups' need for specialist services and the most effective means of delivering the project. This will be carried out through a procurement process in accordance with the Council's Corporate Procurement Rules.

4.5 Legal implications, access to information, and call-in

- 4.5.1 This is a significant operational decision and is not subject to Call In. There is no access to information or other legal implications relating to these proposals.

4.6 Risk management

- 4.6.1 The Employment and Skills Service will lead on the delivery arrangements on behalf of the Council and contract manage all delivery partners. The service has extensive experience and sufficient resources in place to successfully deliver a project of this nature. The service has rigorous and robust contract management and performance procedures in place to reduce and mitigate these risks.

5 Conclusions

- 5.1 The Council has ambitious plans to promote and deliver inclusive economic growth, connecting local residents to opportunity and improving their health and wellbeing.
- 5.2 This project will offer tailored preventative and remedial support to residents who are disadvantaged in the labour market. The programme will support around 1,100

people in Leeds to improve their skills and significantly increase their prospects of moving into sustained employment.

- 5.3 The Council's Employment and Skills Service will manage delivery in Leeds, capitalising on established networks to source local referrals, deliver outcomes and provide specialist support for participants. The project, will be aligned with existing services and other ESIF provision including the NEET and Routeways contracts already delivered through Employment and Skills.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 The Director of City Development is asked to:

- a) Authorise entering into a formal contract with DWP as part of the Mental Health Support for Young People Programme and enter into a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council, BARCA and Specialist Autism Services (SAS) as programme Delivery Partners.
- b) Approve total expenditure of up to £930k by the Council, inclusive of £465k maximum match funding to deliver the Mental Health Support for Young People Programme over the next three years and three months, 2020-2023;

- 6.2 Note that the Head of Projects and Programmes in the Employment and Skills Service will be responsible for the implementation, anticipated to commence July 2020 and end September 2023.

7 Background documents¹

- 7.1 There are no background documents.

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.