



Report of Head of Migration Yorkshire

Report to the Director of Communities, Housing and Environment

Date: 21 May 2021

Subject: To accept funding to continue the Connecting Opportunities project to support migrants in Leeds City Region 2021-2023

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

Summary of main issues

1. Migration Yorkshire, based in Leeds City Council, has been offered a grant to extend the 'Connecting Opportunities' project. This project delivers a comprehensive, specialist, package of support responding to individual and local needs, in order to address the complex barriers faced by marginalised and vulnerable new migrants in integrating into their local areas, and seeking and obtaining employment.
2. Connecting Opportunities is delivered through a partnership of organisations, for which there will be variations to their grant agreements.
3. The project and funding will be managed by Migration Yorkshire and delivered across Leeds City Region by a partnership of experienced, specialist organisations.

Recommendations

The Director of Communities, Housing and Environment is recommended to:

Accept a grant agreement for £2,400,266 for the maximum extended period from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2023 from The National Lottery Community Fund to continue to manage the Connecting Opportunities programme of support for migrants across Leeds City Region.

Approve variation and extension to the existing partnership agreements with delivery partner organisations outlined in the report, with revised targets and funds totalling up to £2,000,000 for continued local delivery of the Connecting Opportunities programme

Enter into partnership agreements with other organisations that the Head of Migration Yorkshire believes are required to deliver the Connecting Opportunities programme.

Enter into such other documents that the Head of Migration Yorkshire believes are needed to enable Leeds City Council to deliver the Connecting Opportunities programme.

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The report outlines the proposal for Leeds City Council to accept an extension and additional grant funding from the Community Fund to continue to manage the Connecting Opportunities programme for migrants across Leeds City region and distribute the grant to local delivery partner organisations.

2. Background information

- 2.1 In 2015, the Leeds City Region Local Enterprise Partnership announced the 'Integration of marginalised and vulnerable new migrants programme' which "aims to provide targeted support to address the complex barriers faced by marginalised and vulnerable new migrants in seeking and obtaining employment."
- 2.2 The 'Integration of marginalised and new migrants programme' is funded through the European Social Fund (ESF) 2014-2023, and is match funded and managed by the Community Fund. A call for applications was announced by the Big Lottery Fund with a deadline of 20th November 2015.
- 2.3 Migration Yorkshire, based in Leeds City Council, submitted an application as the lead bidder under the proposed project name 'Connecting Opportunities' in November 2016 and offered a grant in a letter on 23rd February 2017.
- 2.4 A key Decision was taken on 4th April 2017 to accept the funding and arrangements for the programme. The initial programme was due to end on 30th June 2019 and the funders formally offered a further grant extension to extend the programme until 30th June 2021. A key decision was taken on 22nd July 2019 to accept this funding and continuing arrangements for the programme.
- 2.5 This programme extension ends on 30 June 2021, and the funders (The National Lottery Community Fund, formerly known as the Big Lottery Fund) have offered a further grant extension on 10th March 2021 to continue the programme until 30th June 2023, when it will end due to ESF funding ceasing.

3. Main issues

- 3.1 The total value of the grant agreements will be over £500,000 requiring a key decision for acceptance of the grant and variation to the existing agreements with delivery organisations.
- 3.2 The 'Connecting Opportunities' project delivers a comprehensive, specialist, package of support responding to individual and local needs, in order to address the

complex barriers faced by marginalised and vulnerable new migrants in integrating into their local areas, and seeking and obtaining employment. The participants in the project will have a wide range of experiences, issues and vulnerabilities, and skills and the project will therefore provide a wide range of interventions tailored to the individual's circumstances.

- 3.3 Connecting Opportunities will provide support to new migrants in Leeds City Region over two years with delivery proposed to begin on 1st July 2021. The total grant funding for the whole project is £2,400,266
- 3.4 The project will be managed by Migration Yorkshire and delivered across Leeds City Region by a partnership of experienced, specialist organisations who will work closely together and with Migration Yorkshire to ensure that each individual receives a consistent approach for a holistic assessment and package of support.
- 3.5 The current partnership agreements expire on 30th June 2021, and the variations will extend these agreements for 21 months with effect from 1st July 2021 until 31st March 2023 with revised targets and funds, due to the delivery of services by partners finishing on 31st March 2023. The total value of these agreements will be up to £2m. Migration Yorkshire as lead partner will continue until 30th June 2023 to close down the project and administer final financial/evidence claim requirements.
- 3.6 The partner organisations in Connecting Opportunities, for which there will be variations to grant agreements are:
 - The Children's Society
 - Halifax Opportunities Trust
 - Horton Housing Support Limited
 - Leeds Asylum Seekers Support Network
 - Nova Wakefield District Limited
 - PATH (Yorkshire) Limited
 - SOLACE Surviving Exile and Persecution
 - Touchstone - Leeds
 - WomenCentre Limited
- 3.7 Migration Yorkshire's project management provides overall responsibility and co-ordination for the project. This includes formal partnership arrangements with partner organisations, distribution of funding, progress of services, monitoring and reporting to the funders.

4. Corporate considerations

4.1 Consultation and engagement

- 4.1.1 Throughout the development and planning, regular consultation, meetings and conversations have taken place with the funders, local authorities, local delivery partners, strategic partners and other organisations.
- 4.1.2 Questionnaires and focus groups have been held with vulnerable and marginalised new migrants on an ongoing basis.

4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

- 4.2.1 An equality, diversity, cohesion and integration screening has been undertaken which concluded that equality has been taken into account, attached as appendix 1.

4.3 Council policies and best council plan

4.3.1 This arrangement will contribute to all the ‘Best city...for communities’ aims in the Leeds 2030 Vision:

- People are safe and feel safe;
- The city is clean and welcoming;
- People are active and involved in their communities; and
- People get on well together;

4.3.2 It will also contribute to the ‘Best city ... for communities’ priority to:

- Increase a sense of belonging that builds cohesive and harmonious communities

4.4 Resources and value for money

4.4.1 The total grant funding offered for the period is £2,400,266. Of this, the total value of partnership agreements to be varied is up to £2m.

4.4.2 The grant funding will provide funding for all costs during the period for which Leeds City Council and Migration Yorkshire will provide support.

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

4.5.1 This is a Key Decision due to the sums of money involved and is subject to call-in.

4.5.2 This report does not contain any exempt or confidential information under the Access to Information Rules.

4.6 Risk management

4.6.1 Risk management information is contained in Appendix 2.

5. Conclusions

5.1 The funding provides an opportunity to continue deliver comprehensive support to overcome complex barriers for marginalised and vulnerable migrants through a partnership of experienced specialist organisations across Leeds City Region.

6. Recommendations

6.1 The Director of Communities, Housing and Environment is recommended to:

6.1.1 Accept a grant agreement for £2,400,266 for the maximum extended period from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2023 from The National Lottery Community Fund to continue to manage the Connecting Opportunities programme of support for migrants across Leeds City Region.

6.1.2 Approve variation and extension to the existing partnership agreements with delivery partner organisations outlined in the report, with revised targets and funds

totalling up to £2,000,000 for continued local delivery of the Connecting Opportunities programme.

- 6.1.3 Enter into partnership agreements with other organisations that the Head of Migration Yorkshire believes are required to deliver the Connecting Opportunities programme.
- 6.1.4 Enter into such other documents that the Head of Migration Yorkshire believes are needed to enable Leeds City Council to deliver the Connecting Opportunities programme.

7. Background documents¹

None.

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.