



North West Network

Learning and Skills Council Procurement Round 2009/10

Application Process Briefing **Session 1 – Introduction**

John Hacking
Angeliki Stogia





About North West Network

NWN represents the interests of Third Sector (Voluntary and Community) organisations in the North West in relation to European funding programmes at regional, national and European levels

Our aim is to increase the take up of European funding by the Third sector in the North West region of England

We also aim to promote and assist the Third Sector to network and develop partnerships at local, regional, national and European levels



About this briefing

This event aims to:

- Outline the LSC ESF funded activity in the current tendering round;
- Provide a brief overview of the Invitations to Tender (ITT's)
- Explain the application process
- It also gives you as potential applicants, the opportunity to ask questions on the procurement process.



The Context

LSC approach to Commissioning aims to address national priorities:

- Delivering better Skills, better Jobs and better Lives
 - European Union's Lisbon Agenda.
- Integrating Employment and Skills
 - Leitch review examines the UK's long term skill needs, with the aim to increase skill attainments at all levels by 2020.
- NW Skills for Jobs Framework
 - Maps and links existing skills and employment provision. Additional provision commissioned to fill gaps and support smoother, continuous skills development for workless adults from pre-employment training through to continued up-skilling in the workplace.



ESF Programme 2007-13

Regional Competitiveness and Employment

- **Priority 1 (62%)** - Extending employment opportunities for unemployed and inactive people.
Linking with LSC programmes such as Entry to Employment and Foundation Learning Tiers, and Skills for Jobs, including enhancing Skills for Life and specifically targeted activity such as our Offender Learning and Skills Service.
- **Priority 2 (34%)** - Developing a skilled and adaptable workforce.
Linking with the Train to Gain programme and Apprenticeships, enhancing basic skills, Level 2, Level 3, and some Level 4+ where appropriate.



North West Challenges

Priority 1

- Reduced ESF funding has resulted in a very targeted approach to the ESF programme;
- Major challenges in the North West in relation to workless and economic activity rates - 80,000 additional workers to achieve UK norms;
- Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) is persistent and challenging.

Priority 2

- Alignment of ESF to other mainstream investment in skills;
- Focus on priority sectors.



Changing Economic Environment

- EU Programmes based on continuing employment growth
- Challenges posed by redundancies
- Challenges posed by reducing job market
- Challenges posed by changing job market



LSC Co-Financing

- Co-financing means combining the ESF money with the required match funding to providers into a single funding stream
- LSC and DWP/JCP are Co-financers in the North West
- Co-Finance Plan outlines the activity to be funded and spending allocations, also project selection and tendering arrangements
- The NW LSC Co-financing plan can be found at:
www.nwnetwork.org.uk/files/files/SFCoFinancePlan2007-2010ApprovedVersionMay08.pdf

A supplementary updated version can be found at:

www.nwnetwork.org.uk/files/files/LSC_ESF_2007-10_Supplementary_Plan.pdf



Procurement

- A two stage approach:
 - Stage 1 – Qualified Provider Framework (QPF) / Pre Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ)
 - Stage 2 - Invitations to Tender (ITT)

All funding including match will be subjected to Open and Competitive Tendering for ESF provision.

The LSC Approach

- Majority of activity was procured in late 2007 / 2008 / early 2009 with some activity still to commence;
- ESF ITT's classified as 'ADULTS', 'YOUNG PEOPLE', 'EMPLOYER' and 'OTHER';
- 3 Restricted ITT's and 11 Open ITT's - launched 5 June, closing date 20th July 2009;
- Multi annual contracts from December 2009 to July / December 2011.

Timetable

Launch ITTs	05-Jun-09
Submission Deadline	20/07/2009 5pm
Evaluation	27-Jul - 21-Aug-09
Contract Clarification	7-25-Aug-09
Contract Award Panels and RMT endorsement	31-Aug - 25 Sep-09
Applicants Notified of Outcome	28-Sep-09
Standstill Period Ends	29-Sep - 12-Oct-09
Projects Commence	Dec-09 onwards