

Partnership opportunity with Jobcentre Plus in East and South East Scotland District

Jobcentre Plus wants to work together with partners to improve the job prospects for people and communities facing the most complex and intractable barriers to employment. This will focus on:

- immediate employment issues and
- the prospects of future employment.

Location: East and South East Scotland District

Details of the partnership opportunity

The District Manager has been given some increased flexibility to make decisions on how best to help local people into work. Part of this approach has seen the introduction of a Jobcentre Plus Flexible Support Fund (FSF). Jobcentre Plus are willing to have meaningful discussions around how we can make best use of the fund to develop and implement collective solutions for improving employment outcomes.

The operation of the FSF Fund will include a grant funding mechanism to support partnership working to address local labour market conditions and needs, including tackling persistent worklessness and complex barriers to employment in the most disadvantaged areas of East and South East Scotland.

Partnership bids can cover all Jobcentre Plus claimant groups, but organisations may wish to consider some specific groups when developing applications. For example, Youth unemployment, Lone Parents, Older Workers or claimants with health conditions.

Jobcentre Plus Grant Funding priority is to improve employment outcomes for all.

The District Manager would like to continue the good work with partners to use the Flexible Support Fund to assist customers to overcome barriers to find and progress into sustained employment prior to the Work Programme. Clearly this will be focussed on quick and easily accessible support to move people into work as quickly as possible depending on their individual circumstances.

Subject to the rules governing the use of FSF there are many ways in which funding could be used:

- To make grants to local organisations and partnerships, including voluntary and community sector organisations (eg to contribute or influence existing activities, support new initiatives etc) who have a proven track record;
- To purchase provision that aligns with inter-related provision from other local partners to tackle common priorities;
- To make effective links between public services eg health, housing, transport, employment and skills, and organisations including related support to clients, particularly through the voluntary and community sector;
- To achieve greater effect (where appropriate) by aligning or pooling money with funding from local partners for common purposes with identifiable gains;
- To engage locally with wider government initiatives whose outcomes contribute to DWP objectives.

This list is not definitive and should not constrain your thinking on how the fund could help increase the effectiveness of solutions. The fund cannot support any activity which conflicts with DWP Ministers' policy or to duplicate any provision which would normally be funded by Government or Partners (including local government, Skills Development Scotland or voluntary sector) or commercial providers.

In considering our approach, the DM is keen to allow room for innovation and also ensure that we identify 'what works' including those modules within existing provision which are most effective.

Grants will be approved for delivery to 31 March 2012, with the potential to continue to March 2013 where it is proven by outcomes that this approach is working well and following further discussions with Jobcentre Plus on level of funding available.

Your application should state clearly achievable outcomes, measures and indicators, as well as how they will be achieved and how cost effectively they will be delivered.

How to apply or for more information

Contact Derek Russell on Tel: 01786 432 698 / 07981682938

Email: Derek.russell@jobcentreplus.gsi.gov.uk for an application form.

Closing date for applications

First round for bids should be submitted to Jobcentre Plus by 9 September 2011.

Second round for bids should be submitted to Jobcentre Plus by 30 September 2011.