



LWBLA ESIF BRIEFING NOTE 1: 'Everything You Need To Know In 3 Pages'

June 2014

Current Status - National

1. The draft UK plan – 'Partnership Agreement' is with the EU for sign off. (Soon).
2. Once approved the UK Government has 3 months to submit the National Operational Plan to the EU. Once this is agreed the UK can legally commit funds. (Expected in late 2014).
3. The London area is one of 38 LEP areas aggregated into the UK plan.

Current Status – London region.

1. The key decision maker is the London LEP. How it works with funders and stakeholders drives the programme.
2. The LEP has 2 management planning groups led by the GLA (adult programmes) and London Councils (youth programmes) to shape the indicative budgets and outcomes. Pragmatically they work together to produce a coherent approach to specifications and tendering.
3. London has an indicative allocation of £465m of ESF (2014-2020) and a further £37m of YEI (2014- 2017) plus Big Lottery Fund of £75m a combined total of £572m.
4. The London LEP plan is now available on the LWBLA website.
5. Every London Borough is in the plan. There is a cluster map which shows which Borough is which area/sub region.
6. The "vast majority" of ESIF funds are indicatively allocated across the largest of the match funding organisations known as the Opt-In Organisations (OIO's).
7. They main OIO's are the SFA, DWP and Big Lottery Fund.
8. Each OIO has there own procurement process/timescale & methodology – this drives all bidding, funding & contract management activity.
9. Currently (June 2014) the key priority in London is to agree the shape and content for each of the OIO programmes using task and finish groups to define specifications.



10. ESIF does not replace or buy more mainstream programmes: it creates new interventions. This can be a 'gray area' i.e. careers guidance interventions or help for SME's - it depends on how Government see this and what negotiation takes place in private between the LEP and BIS.
11. Government through BIS also play a leading role in outcome definitions and unit pricing as this is in part informed by the national plan -what is the EU buying but also correlating with unit prices in mainstay programmes. The tension being whether the measures are achievable or not, and if the cash per beneficiary is significant/insufficient.
12. Current forecast for PQQ launch on SFA website 1st December 2014.

Youth Interventions

13. Age range 15-24.
14. Young peoples Programme framework is comprised of:
 - a. Preventative NEET 15-19 year olds
 - b. NEET re-engagement 16-24 year olds
 - c. Targeted provision: NEET interventions 15-24 year olds
 - d. Enhancing the London careers offer
 - e. Employability Support
15. In addition there is the YEI - £37m for specific London Boroughs to tackle high youth unemployment (typically defined as youth unemployment over 25%).
16. The YEI Boroughs are: City of London, Camden, Hackney, Hammersmith & Fulham, Haringey, Islington, Kensington & Chelsea, Lambeth, Lewisham, Newham, Southwark, Tower Hamlet, Wandsworth and Westminster.
17. YEI has a fixed timeline – must be spent in 3 years (2017). The pressure is to get this programme commissioned.
18. Task and Finish Groups have been established for all the programme area's, the purpose is to complete 'programme commissioning templates' – what is then used for tender specifications in PQQ's/ITT's etc. They are due to complete by end of June 2014.



ESF Provision for Adults

1. £186m to be allocated over a 3/4-year timeline.
2. Draft framework produced subject to LEP approval, which lists activities, Borough clusters and defines SFA engagement.
3. Borough based skills focused interventions estimated value of £60m.
4. The adult programme does not appear to be as advanced as the Youth programme (YEI is driving this).
5. The list of indicative headline interventions are defined as 'labour market challenges' are as follows:
 - Worklessness (in particular long term unemployment & inactivity)
 - Employment rate of disabled people
 - Parental employment rate (particularly lone parents)
 - BAME employment rate
 - Offender employment rate
 - Low pay (in-work poverty)
 - Skills focussed interventions (SFA provision)
 - Adult Skills Budget Discretionary Learner Support Traineeships
Apprenticeships National Careers Service UKCES Employer Ownership of Skills 24+ Advanced Learning Loan
 - Basic Skills
 - Higher level skill needs
 - Addressing skill shortages within London's workforce

All of the above headlines have an outline description but no template or specifications are known to exist.

Victor Farlie, Executive Chair LWBLA

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