



# Wellbeing support for young people who are NEET or at risk of being NEET

The focus of this call will be to support those young people aged 16 to 24 who are NEET or at risk of becoming NEET with additional needs or those from vulnerable groups e.g. carers, care leavers, young offenders, those with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities (LDD), at risk of gang involvement and from traveller communities with a focus on mental health and wellbeing support.

As such this programme will support Key Action 4 of the revised D2N2 Strategic Economic Plan Vision 2030 (<http://www.d2n2lep.org/SEP>) Careers Inspiration for our Future Workforce by inspiring young people to make well informed choices about their education, training and careers in the future economy.

## Local Economic Context

The revised D2N2 Strategic Economic Plan Vision 2030 (<http://www.d2n2lep.org/SEP>) sets out the vision that by 2030 D2N2 will have a transformed high value economy, one which is prosperous, healthy and inclusive and amongst the most productive in Europe.

A challenge for D2N2 employers is demographic change associated with the ageing population. It will have significant implications for the labour market as in D2N2, the working age population will rise by just 1% between 2014 and 2039, growing efficiency pressures over time. By the end of 2030 the population over 64 years of age in D2N2 will have increased by 25%. With the numbers of young people joining the labour market reducing, it is increasingly important that those able to work have the support, skills and aspirations to enable them to do so.

Employers are vital to ensuring shared prosperity and opportunity. Our ambition is to engage employers in a win:win inclusion scenario, where disadvantaged people benefit from economic opportunities and employers are supported to address their skills and workforce challenges. We will directly support employers to make the changes needed whilst creating a local narrative which encourages, supports and values the skills and contribution of everyone to our local economy.

## Young People Not in Employment Education or Training (NEET) in D2N2 LEP Area

The latest ONS data for 2017 highlights the number and proportion of young people who are classified as NEET across the D2N2 LEP Area, as per the table below:-

Area	Total number of 16- and 17-year olds known to local authority	Males	Females	Proportion of which known as NEET
Derby	5580	2910	2670	5.00%
Derbyshire	15200	7650	7410	2.70%
Nottingham	6410	3200	3050	5.50%
Nottinghamshire	16080	8110	7750	1.40%

**The State of the Nation 2017: Social Mobility in Great Britain** also assesses the education, employability and housing prospects of young people living in England's 324 LA's. The index highlights where people from disadvantaged backgrounds are most and least likely to make social progress

This report shows that East Midlands is the worst region of the country for social mobility with half the local authority areas in the region are social mobility cold spots. D2N2 LEP Area has a high proportion of cold spots where social mobility is deemed an issue and the report identified the following areas as being social mobility priority areas: -

- Ashfield and Mansfield
- North East Derbyshire, Bolsover and Chesterfield
- Derby and Nottingham
- Erewash and South Derbyshire
- Newark and Sherwood

### **Local Priorities**

Educational attainment at 16, identified by the CBI as a key driver of regional productivity, is an area of marked under-performance in some parts of the D2N2 area.

Poor attainment reduces the flow of higher skilled people into the market, and with marked under-performance in many parts of D2N2, we have too many young people not realising their potential.

Employer feedback highlights issues with 'work-readiness', employability skills and lack of awareness of job and careers opportunities (at all ages). Poor or a lack of careers advice limits career aspirations, particularly for those living in areas of deprivation and who often don't have role models to aspire to.

Too few young people have meaningful experiences with employers. Research from the Education and Employers Taskforce shows young people who have four or more timely encounters with employers are 86% less likely to be NEET (Not in Education, Employment, or Training) and that they will earn up to 22% more during their career.

Our immediate priority in working with young people is to work with businesses and partners to raise the aspirations of the future workforce, by enhancing their careers advice and employability skills.

D2N2 has procured a NEET programme which operates across Derby, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire (D2N1) using the ESFA opt arrangements. Nottingham City has a bespoke Youth Engagement Initiative which supports those identified as NEET or at risk of NEET living in the city. However there still remains a cohort of hard to reach NEET young people across D2N2 who require a more personalised and intensive approach to support them back into the workplace. This call is designed to put in place added value and complementary services to existing NEET provision for those hard to reach young people.

The latest national Labour Force Survey (LFS)

([https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/781544/NEET\\_statistics\\_annual\\_brief\\_2018\\_statistical\\_commentary.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/781544/NEET_statistics_annual_brief_2018_statistical_commentary.pdf)) show that, in the period October to December 2018 (quarter four), 40.8% of young people NEET were unemployed and actively looking for work. However, some individuals may not be able to, or choose not to, participate and are recorded as inactive in the labour market, due to, for example, caring responsibilities or significant health problems. 59.2% of those NEET in the latest LFS estimates were recorded as inactive for health reasons, home/family reasons or for other reasons.

The focus of this call will therefore be to bring added support to those young people with additional needs or those from vulnerable groups e.g. carers, care leavers, young offenders, those with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities (LDD), at risk of gang involvement and from traveller communities. It will also have a strong focus on mental health and wellbeing support.

To support both alignment with existing provision and to develop coordinated referral pathways for learners each unitary or upper tier local authority (Derby and Nottingham City Councils and Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire County Councils) have appointed Stakeholder Managers to bring added value to ESF and mainstream programmes. The successful applicant will be required to work closely with Stakeholder Managers in each local authority area to develop coordinated referral pathways and avoid duplication with other existing or future programmes.

#### **Examples of activities that may be supported include:**

- Increasing the uptake for both traineeships and apprenticeships through dedicated marketing or outreach work and supporting individuals to remain on projects and programmes (e.g. mentoring, paying trainees' costs day to day transport costs,).
- Providing education, training and careers guidance (particularly to women) to inform on local job options, business developments and local skills shortages.
- Brokering opportunities with employers to take on young people who are NEET (including those with complex barriers) and support for employers to take on young NEET people.
- Impartial careers advice and guidance to support transitions from education and training.
- Mentoring / peer mentoring and/or group work approaches to coaching;
- In-work employment support for job retention and progression.

- Money management support including digital and internet literacy courses.
- Volunteering and training opportunities.
- improved identification and tracking of NEETs, those at risk of becoming NEET and marginalised 15-18-year olds;
- extending the reach of services through improved LMI reporting, to support and improve Careers Education Information Advice Guidance provision – including outreach activities;
- personalised case-loaded approach to support young people, including coaching and mentoring;
- improved employability skills provision;
- measures to assist young people secure skills support and accredited training;
- supported work experience, placements and internships, to form a “work anchor” (encompassing both paid and structured volunteering opportunities) that develop the skills and track record of individuals and to act as “demonstration/trial” environments for recruiting partner employers linked to job matching and after care support;
- involvement in direct experiences of the workplace and/or other learning environments;
- enterprise skills as a credible route out of unemployment, including advice, support and guidance, and financial incentives for self-employment, business start-up, social enterprise and freelance activity (particularly in sectors such as IT and creative). This will build on and extend the geographical spread of existing provision in the GBSLEP area;
- a focus on tackling in an holistic manner the multiple barriers and complex needs of individuals, particularly those from marginalised and vulnerable/target groups including Care Leavers, members of gangs, homeless young people, young lone parents, Young Offenders (and those at risk of offending), young people with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND), and young people with learning difficulties/disabilities;
- mental health, anxiety, depression interventions, including support for young people with emotional, confidence, behavioural and social difficulties;
- brokering opportunities with employers and matching young people to vacancies, particularly in the LEP growth sectors and sectors with significant job replacement;
- bespoke programmes such as sector specific pre-apprenticeship programmes aligned to growth and providing support not available elsewhere (e.g. driving qualifications, kit and equipment, matching young people to employers);
- addressing additional barriers and support - such as transport costs, childcare costs, accommodation;
- re-engagement and transition support and assisting participants with their personal and social skills;
- increasing young people’s exposure to industry including via traineeships, forthcoming T-Levels and apprenticeships;

- capturing learning and good practice that leads to sustainable interventions and measures to reduce the number of residents 'at risk of becoming' NEET.

### **Contracting and funding allocation**

The programme will be procured through the ESF Managing Authority (DWP) open call process.

The ESF funding allocation to support the programme is £494,784. Applicants will need to have eligible match funding at 50% which must be from a source other than the European Union.

Proposals should: deliver activities eligible for ESF; cover the whole D2N2 area; and be in line with the D2N2 LEP Core Delivery Principles. The Managing Authority may award more than one contract should applications of sufficient quality and scale be received that in combination provide for LEP wide coverage without duplication of activities or geography. There is a requirement for all contracts to clearly evidence how they will interact with each other to ensure they complement existing and future planned provision.

This document provides the strategic intent for this programme. Full details of the bidding, contracting and confirmed criteria will be provided within the published specifications.

The table below provides an indicative breakdown of the funding allocation and targets.

<b>Investment Priority</b>	<b>1.2</b>
	Wellbeing support for young people who are NEET or at risk of being NEET
ESF	£494,784
Match Funding	£494,784
<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Volumes TBC</b>
<b>Priority Groups</b>	Participants (under 25 years of age) who are unemployed or inactive
	Unemployed including long term unemployed
	Inactive
	Ethnic Minorities
	Disabilities
	Basic Skills
	Single adult household with dependent children