



## **THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND IN LONDON: KEY FACTS**

### **2007 to 2013 Programme**

#### **Funding**

£371 million ESF

£371 million national match funding

£742 million in total

#### **Targets**

Total number of people who will be helped to improve their skills and job prospects = 285,000

Number of people not in work who will be helped in to jobs by the end of their ESF course = 35,000

Number of the most disadvantaged people who will make positive progress towards jobs = 24,000

Number of disadvantaged young people who will be re-engaged in learning or a job = 14,000

Number of people who will gain (full) qualifications (including basic skills qualifications) = 49,000

#### **Regional priorities**

##### *Priority 1 – Extending employment opportunities*

Parallel to other major labour market programmes and funding in London, the individuals who will require further additional targeting will be those who are furthest from the labour market and will require longer term support measures. ESF funding will be prioritised to help the groups set out below:

- people with parental and/or carer responsibilities (lone parents being a key group);
- people with health problems (including people with mental health issues and those on incapacity benefit);
- disabled people;
- people from black, Asian and minority ethnic groups (including white minority ethnic groups), taking account of the variations in outcomes amongst these groups;
- recent migrants with the right to work;
- people aged 50+ with low or no qualifications; and

- low income, single earner households with children where one parent is not working.

### *Priority 2 – Developing a skilled and adaptable workforce*

The objective of Priority 2 is to develop a skilled and adaptable workforce to increase productivity, innovation and competitiveness, but also focus on those who lack basic qualifications to increase sustainable employment and social inclusion.

Given the current achievement rates and needs of communities in inner, and some parts of outer, London, and the current direction of mainstream funding for adults, ESF will increasingly need to be linked to employability skills (as demanded by the employer) and complement the major regeneration opportunities (such as the 2012 Olympics).

ESF funding will be directed towards ensuring that people can get to Level 1 standards in basic skills, linked to employment requirements, and can then progress to mainstream Level 2 and Level 3 support. It will be critical that ESF support fits into a clear and tailored progression route with learning routes tied to the employment focus.

There is already much infrastructure and budget support in place to deliver against the priority of increasing higher level skills. Any projects supported will have to demonstrate added value to the LSC Train to Gain (higher level pilot) and the LSC Adult Apprenticeships programme. A greater focus will be given to target groups or communities which are achieving a lower than average proportion of higher level qualifications.

### **Co-financing Organisations**

Department for Work and Pensions

Learning and Skills Council

London Councils

London Development Agency

### **2000 to 2006 Programme**

Achievements

Number of people helped into jobs since 2000 = 39,000

Number of people gaining qualifications since 2000 = 133,000

Updated 06/11/2008

## **Case study: Newco Employment and Training**

Newco Employment and Training, part of Newco Products and the London Borough of Newham, aims to support unemployed disabled people into work through training and guidance. It offers information, advice, guidance, accredited training and employment support to people who are unemployed and have a disability or health condition.

Participants often face many barriers to accessing employment or learning. The project aims to help them overcome these barriers by working individually with each person and addressing their particular needs. It believes in developing a good rapport with participants to encourage them to concentrate on what they can do, not what they cannot do.

The project is funded by the Learning and Skills Council and European Social Fund. It began in 2005 and was due to complete by March 2007. Its contract has been extended to June 2008 which will give it the opportunity to help more people.

Newco Employment and Training has so far helped over 30 participants gain an NVQ at either Level 1 or 2, and some have completed both. 35 people have gained a locally accredited certificate and 13 an accredited certificate. So far over 20 participants have left benefit and gained employment, and five have completed a six month work contract and then been found a second job. Partly because of its success with the LSC contract, the project was commissioned by the London Development Agency to continue work with people who face barriers because of their health or a disability.

One of the successful participants is Eugene who is profoundly deaf, visually impaired and has a learning difficulty. He had worked in the past, but when his previous company closed he found it impossible to find another position.

Eugene was referred to Newco Employment and Training. The project suggested that Eugene use his skills to gain an NVQ in performing manufacturing operations. Eugene liked being in the factory environment, especially as there were a lot of other deaf people there that he could communicate with, and he enjoyed the camaraderie. He proved to be very good at practical work and when a supported fixed term job became available he applied and was successful.

Towards the end of his contract, Eugene became concerned that he would again be unemployed, as it was still proving very difficult to find permanent employment in the open labour market. However, a full time unsupported post became available and the project helped Eugene fill in his application form. He was invited to interview, and accompanied by a British Sign Language communicator. He performed really well before the panel and was offered the job purely on merit - a huge achievement for him.

To recognise his achievements Eugene was nominated for the Adult Learners' Week awards in 2007 and was selected as the winner of the national ESF Learning Works Award.