

Active Inclusion

Active Inclusion Open Call



Strategic Overview

The aim of the Active Inclusion open call is to progress activities prioritised by the LEP for the purposes of addressing poverty and social exclusion in the D2N2 area. In particular the call is to provide targeted support to those most disadvantaged in the current labour; those with multiple barriers to progression and least able or likely to benefit from 'organic' local growth, and to do so in a way which is locally appropriate and sensitive to the needs of those communities and individuals.

D2N2's approach to Investment Priority 1.4 'Active Inclusion' to date has been informed by the **D2N2 Social Inclusion Framework** – October 2014. Further research undertaken to inform development of the 'Community Programme' alongside review and feedback from existing provision provides additional detail to inform current priorities.

From 2016-2019 the majority of 1.4 activity is delivered through the Big Lottery Fund co-financed programme *Building Better Opportunities (BBO)*. This open call is additional to (and should complement) current and future BBO delivery. Delivery under the Active Inclusion theme should not duplicate provision which is eligible under Priority 1.1 (Employment), 1.2 (NEET and Young People) and 2.1 (Skills).

Programme Value

The Active Inclusion Open Call allocates all remaining ESF priority 1.4 funds not yet programmed for detailed projects (*Health & Wellbeing programme* and *Active Inclusion Community Grants*) or for national co-financed activity delivered in D2N2 (*Building Better Opportunities*).

At December 2017 the LEP anticipates this to be £4,200,000.00 however this value may change subject to confirmation of future funding for BBO.

Theme 1: Multiple & Complex Needs (1.4.1)

Theme 1 aims to support people with multiple and complex barriers to participation to address these underlying issues and to move closer to the labour market.

Theme 2: Progress Towards Work (1.4.3)

Theme 2 aims to engage marginalised individuals and support them to engage or re-engage with education, training or employment. Activity must be additional to existing skills and employability provision and focus on those furthest from the labour market and with complex needs.

Eligible Activities:

- Basic skills and ESOL training, including additional support with basic skills in preparation for apprenticeships;
- support for those who need pre-traineeship and pre Work Programme assistance, to prepare them for the next step;
- support complementing other skills provision, such as crosscutting and 21st century skills, including team working, effective communication, problem solving, critical thinking and self-direction; money management support and advice and financial literacy programmes in order to address deep seated debt issues which make moving from benefit into work more challenging;

- digital and internet literacy courses to aid job searching, access to benefits and progress in work; volunteering and training opportunities (as a pathway back to work) for marginalised individuals / groups / communities to help them access jobs in low carbon sectors or land drainage flood risk management or work that supports property level protection against flooding;
- local 'Community Grant' type activity to support small scale voluntary sector activity which can be crucial to reaching out to these groups;
- first contact engagement activities (for example, arranging events in places that people feel comfortable to visit);
- local networks and groups to support people to get a job or access learning (for example, Jobs Club or Learning Champion type activity) to provide people with a safe environment and peer support.

Target Beneficiaries:

- People living in the D2N2 area who experience poverty and / or social exclusion due to:
 - Disability
 - Mental health problems
 - Alcohol and substance misuse
 - Other forms of ill-health
 - History of offending behaviour
 - Multiple or complex needs
- People living in the D2N2 area who face barriers to employment, including the following:
 - Low levels of literacy, numeracy and IT skills
 - Low educational attainment and qualifications
 - Lack of employment experience and/ or poor work history
 - Caring responsibilities
 - Lack of stable housing
 - Limited access to transport
 - Digital exclusion
 - Multiple barriers –for instance two or more of the above
- People living in troubled families
- Care leavers
- Young people who are not in Education, Employment or Training

The D2N2 area will benefit from:

- At least 3,275 participants receiving targeted support

Place Based Priorities and Targeted Support

Whilst all activities within this theme should be available to eligible beneficiaries across D2N2 area, we would encourage applicants to ensure that their bids adequately address the needs and challenges of particular beneficiary groups as detailed below. Applicants are encouraged to form consortia or engage with specialist delivery partners to ensure these needs are met. In so doing, applicants should set out clearly defined referral processes between quality assured projects which reduce duplication, bring added and social value and do not create competitiveness between themes and providers.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing support available for individuals with multiple & complex needs • Addressing homelessness as a barrier to progression • Targeted employability and progression support for refugees and migrants • Reducing the gap in employment levels for people with physical and learning disabilities • Supporting older, long term unemployed people who are now experiencing additional barriers to work • Supporting women 'returners' facing different aspects of social exclusion • Increasing support levels for the financially excluded |
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Contracting and funding allocation:

The programme will be procured through the ESF Managing Authority (DWP) open call process. The call will be published in **August 2018**. We will be looking for contracts to be issued from **March 2019**, with delivery commencing after this point. The ESF funding allocation to support this activity is £4,200,000 and is proportioned across the two themes as set out in the table below. Applicants will need to have eligible match funding for the balance of costs which must be from a source other than the European Union. We would ask applicants to review the changes to the ESF Operational Programme 2017, which may include the ability to provide match funding from a variety of different sources.

The intention is to award one contract for theme 1.4.1 which must cover the whole D2N2 area. D2N2 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.

For theme 1.4.3 the scale of delivery should appropriately reflect the scale of the issues being addressed. Projects with LEP-wide relevance should, where possible, be delivered at LEP level for coherence. Targeted delivery may take place at lower geographical levels where evidence of distinct local need can be provided. No delivery smaller than Local Authority district level will be considered. The desired total minimum contract value is £680,000.

Where applicants are bidding for a specified area(s) the % of funding and targets will be divided based on the number of beneficiaries requiring support, based on evidence. Proposals should: deliver activities eligible for ESF; clearly address an issue of exclusion and not duplicate activities eligible under other priorities; must cover the whole of any specified area; and be in line with the D2N2 LEP Commissioning Principles and Delivery Criteria. For this open call an emphasis on local partnership, added value and social value will be considered as part of the strategic assessment process

Full details of the bidding and contracting requirements will be provided within the specification.

Investment Priority	1.4	
	1.4.1	1.4.3
Theme	1.4.1	1.4.3
2018-2020 (£) ESF	£2,500,000	£1,700,000
Match funding	£2,500,000	£1,700,000
Average Allocation per Participant	£3,000	£1,500
Targets		
No of Participants	1,670	2,270
Men		
Women		
No of Unemployed		
Long Term Unemployed		
No of Inactive		
Ethnic Min		
Disability		
Basic Skills		
Single		
Below 25		