



D2N2 Active Engagement Bulletin: April 2019

Welcome to the April edition of the D2N2 and One East Midlands Active Engagement & Skills bulletin; news, activities and opportunities relating to the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) for the VCS and partners. This bulletin is distributed at the start of every month; providing a round-up of recent news and highlighting what's coming up.

For information on the role of LEPs and their relevance to your work please visit the One East Midlands [policy page](#). Information specific to D2N2 can be found [here](#) at One East Midlands or on the D2N2 website at www.d2n2lep.org

If you would like to contact the Rachel Quinn at D2N2 or have items of relevance to this bulletin please contact Rachel.quinn@d2n2lep.org or tel: 07551 124225.

Inclusion Governance

Update from Jane Howson: VCSE representative on the D2N2 Board

At the D2N2 Board meeting on the 19th March it was refreshing to see lots of new faces as we welcomed a number of new members. The 5 new members significantly bolster private-sector representation within D2N2 as well as bring a welcomed gender balance at Board level. More information about our new members is given in the [D2N2 news release](#).

The meeting agreed outline terms of reference for all of the main sub-groups to the D2N2 Board. A process of recruitment is likely to commence from April onwards which will include invitations to Inclusion Representative roles on all sub groups and VCSE representatives where applicable. One East Midlands will circulate these opportunities as soon as they are launched. If you'd like to know more from me about what engagement with D2N2 is like and what to expect please do get in touch.

On the subject of sub-groups, all main Board members are expected to play an active role on at least one sub group to ensure connectivity throughout D2N2 governance. I have accepted the role of Deputy Chair of the People and Skills Board alongside Prof. Kath Mitchell of University of Derby as Chair.

Jane Howson

D2N2 Social Inclusion & Equalities Advisory Group (SIEAG)

The minutes of the final meeting of SIEAG was held on 27th February can be viewed [here](#).

ESIF Programme Updates

Open calls: ESF

There are no current ESF calls open in D2N2.

D2N2 ESIF Coordinator, Richard Kirkland is currently in discussions with the Managing Authorities for both ESF and ERDF to discuss call scheduling for unallocated ESIF funds. This work will be primarily focussed with DWP to target the higher proportion of uncommitted ESF still available. To find out more please contact Richard.kirkland@d2n2lep.org

Open calls: ERDF

One call under the [Nottingham Sustainable Urban Development Programme](#) is currently open

This call is looking to enhance access to, and use and quality of, Information and Communications Technology; enhance the competitiveness of small and medium sized enterprises; and support the shift towards a low carbon economy.

Projects put forward under this call must cover the Nottingham Sustainable Urban Development strategy area including Nottingham, Broxtowe, and parts of Ashfield, Gedling and Rushcliffe. Deadline for submission is 26th April 2019.

A technical assistance workshop for this call took place on 1st April 2019. To view the materials and information circulated please visit our [events page](#).

For more information and to find links to the Nottingham SUD Strategy open call please visit the [D2N2 TA Website](#).

D2N2 publishes new strategic overviews

The D2N2 ESIF sub-committee have agreed two new Strategic Overviews for upcoming ESF programmes they wish to see commissioned:

- [Careers & Employability Hub](#)
- [Digital Skills](#)

The ESF Strategic Overviews provide organisations with an insight into the programmes and priorities we wish to see addressed in future ESF commissioning rounds. This may be of use to those organisations who may wish to apply to deliver ESF programmes in D2N2.

Futures launch ESF Community Grants

[Futures](#) have been selected by the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) to administer the Community Grants Fund across the D2N2 LEP area and the Leicestershire LEP area.

Jointly funded by the SFA and the European Social Fund, Community Grants give small voluntary and community organisations with a turnover of less than £300,000 an opportunity to access funds to deliver projects that help engage and progress 'hard to reach' individuals towards the labour market. The grants will support participants' progression so that they are confident in their ability to move into employment.

Grants of between £5,000 and £20,000 are available for projects or initiatives that help people take steps towards a future career and reduce unemployment and inactivity. There will be three call windows:

Round 1

15th April 2019 – 17th May 2019

Round 2

15th Nov 2019 – 15th Dec 2019

Round 3

15th June 2020 – 15th July 2020

For more information visit the Futures website link above or contact Claire Penny, Futures for Business Consultant on 07709353071 or Rosemary Mansfield, Bid Specialist on 077501682416.

Fedcap Employment to deliver Inspire Local contract

Following the announcement that Working Links has entered into administration, we're pleased to advise that the contract and delivery of the Inspire Local contract was formally novated to Fedcap Employment, a not for profit charity, on the 27th February resulting in only a 6-day break in contract delivery. For more information on Fedcap Employment and the Inspire Local programme, please visit their website:

<http://www.fedcapemployment.org/index.html>

GOV.UK and ESIF Action Note Updates

Visit <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/england-2014-to-2020-european-structural-and-investment-funds> for news and updates.

Apprenticeship Levy as ESF match – Action Note 006/17

The Managing Authority for ESF has published a further action note clarifying information relating to the use of apprenticeship levy funds as match for ESF. The action note provides greater clarification on how the levy should be evidenced as a source of match and the steps that Grant Recipients need to take in doing so.

Visit the [action note](#) for further information.

Other News

Digital skills help for under-represented groups

Women returning to work and people on the Autism Spectrum are among groups set to benefit from a new £324,000 digital skills development programme in the East Midlands.

The money will fund training courses, workshops and seminars led by digital tech experts – alongside a mentoring scheme tailored to businesses’ needs – to improve digital and online skills amongst groups under-represented in the sector. This programme will particularly focus on helping women re-entering the workplace after a break and people on the Autism Spectrum to improve their employability and job opportunities.

The aim is to help people obtain the skills to take up careers as data analysts, programmers, software developers and digital marketers.

For more information please read the full [news release](#).

WEA launch intensive ESOL courses in Nottingham thanks to Midlands Engine

The WEA has recently won a bid from Midlands Engine to pilot a programme of intensive ESOL courses in Nottingham. This is part of a research project into how skills gaps that have been identified by employers can be filled by highly qualified and/or experienced refugees or other migrants. The target students are people with English as a second language who may be currently under-employed or unable to find suitable work due to their low level of English.

The intensive delivery model is highly flexible and consists of blended learning supported by our virtual learning tools but with a high proportion of face to face tutor contact. Students will have the opportunity to achieve a formal qualification. Courses begin early April.

For more information view the [course flyer](#) or email midlandsengine@wea.org.uk

Consultation: Social Value in Public Procurement

The Civil Society Strategy committed government to use its buying power to drive social change. As a result, central government plans in future to take better account of social benefits in the award of its contracts.

This is intended to have the effect of levelling the playing field for all types of businesses including small businesses, voluntary and community sector organisations and social

enterprises, encouraging employment opportunities, developing skills and improving environmental sustainability.

DCMS are currently seeking views on how government should take account of social value in the award of central government contracts. You can [respond to the consultation here](#).

The consultation closes on 10 June 2019.

This project is part-funded by the European Social Fund as part of the 2014-2020 European Structural and Investment Funds Growth Programme in England.