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D2N2 Active Engagement Bulletin: February 2019

Welcome to the February 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

D2N2 Board met on the 22nd January with discussions dominated by progress against objectives from the LEP review. Governance formed a large part of those discussions, with much focus placed on the structure, function and membership of the future 'Place Board' – important as this will then provide a template for the other 'Business' and 'People & Skills' Boards alongside it. I ensured that the need to embed an inclusion voice across all of these structures was heard.

Paul Harris has taken on the Board lead role overseeing the development of Local Industrial Strategy. Unfortunately it appears that the expected guidance from government may not now be forthcoming so development of the LIS will be a journey of discovery in many ways!

Lastly, I am pleased to report that a large number of applications were received for the recently advertised private sector Board places. Nominations committee (of which I am a member) is now assessing those applications. Worth noting that the LEP review also encourages LEPs to improve diversity, especially with regard to gender mix, on LEP boards. This is forming part of our assessment process.

ESIF committee did not take place but will instead be held on 14th February – Happy Valentines day.

Jane Howson

D2N2 Social Inclusion & Equalities Advisory Group (SIEAG)

The final meeting of SIEAG is due to be held on 27th February. The meeting will debate and agree new processes for inclusion voice within D2N2 (via appointed representative to key boards) and for VCS engagement. Feedback will be provided in the March bulletin.

D2N2 *Building Better Opportunities* bulletin launched

BBO Stakeholder Managers across D2N2 have recently launched their partner update with news and updates from across the programme. To read and subscribe please follow the following link:

<https://mailchi.mp/0247ee513360/building-better-opportunities-stakeholder-managers-e-bulletin?e=9188545ea5>

ESIF Programme Updates

Open calls: ESF

There are no current ESF calls open in D2N2.

Open calls: ERDF

There are no current ERDF calls open in D2N2.

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.

ESIF Communications Survey 2019 - Have Your Say

Your views about the communication activities that have been used for England's ERDF, ESF, EAFRD Programmes during 2018 will help shape the communication activities for the coming year. Government would therefore like to invite you to provide your feedback through our short survey.

Please click on the link below to go to the survey. It should only take you 15 minutes to complete but will provide really valuable information to ensure we are providing you with what you need.

[Take me to the survey](#)

Please complete the survey by **Friday 8th February 2019**.

Other News

Campaign to increase local uptake of the Time to Change Employer Pledge

The Time to Change (TTC) Employer Pledge demonstrates the commitment of employers to change how people think and act about mental health in the workplace and make sure that employees who are facing these problems feel supported. By signing the Pledge they join a growing movement of almost 1,000 employers in England across all sectors from FTSE 100 companies and leading retailers to government departments and local authorities.

Unfortunately the number of local employers who have made this commitment to date is particularly low and Nottingham City Council, in particular, are asking for support in promoting the Time to Change Employer Pledge within your own organisation and through your supply chains and other networks.

Why should organisations sign the TTC Employer Pledge?

Mental health is an issue organisations cannot ignore:

- 1 in 4 British workers are affected by conditions like anxiety, depression and stress every year
- Mental ill-health is the leading cause of sickness absence in the UK, costing an average of £1,035 per employee per year
- 95% of employees calling in sick with stress give a different reason
- Looking after the mental health of employees makes business sense: tackling stigma can make a real difference to sickness absence rates, staff wellbeing, productivity and retention. Since signing the Employer Pledge, 95% of employers said it had a positive impact on their organisation

Employers also benefit from the FREE, ongoing specialised support and training offered through Time to Change.

To find out more visit [Employer Pledge](#)

Careers and Enterprise Company invest in Derbyshire to prepare the most vulnerable for the world of work

The Careers & Enterprise Company has awarded £1.7m to 20 organisations to support some of the most vulnerable young people with their career pathways and transition to the working world.

The investment is part of The Careers & Enterprise Fund 2018. This share of the fund will be targeted at programmes supporting disadvantaged groups including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND); Looked After Children and Care Leavers; and Gypsy, Roma and Traveller young people.

The funding is targeted at improving employer engagement and support, resulting in greater employer confidence and the creation of more meaningful employer encounters for young people.

Projects funded through this investment include an intensive mentoring programme for Looked After Children in Derbyshire through the Derbyshire Virtual School.

For more information read the full article on the [Careers and Enterprise Company website](#).

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.