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D2N2 Active Engagement Bulletin: July 2018

Welcome to the July 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

Recruitment activity at D2N2 has continued to take a lot of the Board's time in the last month. Interviews for the CEO role took place at the end of June and we hope that announcements regarding the CEO position and the Chair will be made early in July.

The other item taking much of Board time is the refresh of the Strategic Economic Plan. A specific workshop to look at SEP priorities was held in Derby in late June. I was unable to attend but Rachel was present to represent Inclusion perspectives and the thoughts from SIEAG. I am informed that the discussions were very positive about this being a key priority alongside the 'people' elements of our strategy. I look forward to reviewing the draft later this month.

Jane Howson

D2N2 Social Inclusion & Equalities Advisory Group (SIEAG)

A lively SIEAG meeting took place on 13th June 2018. Items on the agenda included:

- A [presentation](#) on the scope and future direction of the D2N2 Growth Hub;
- Future ESF call planning;
- Revised D2N2 Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan (for the D2N2 Strategic Economic Plan).

A copy of the draft minutes of the meeting are available [here](#). The next meeting will take place on the 6th September 2018. Please direct any queries in relation to SIEAG activity or send any items you would like discussed at that meeting to: rachel.quinn@d2n2lep.org



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ESIF Programme Updates

D2N2 Community Programme: Active Inclusion Grants Programme call REOPENED

A reminder that the Department for Work & Pensions announced the reopening of the call for the D2N2 Active Inclusion Grants Programme. This call is for managing agent(s) to manage the grants programme across the D2N2 area. The deadline for applications is **20th August 2018**. Please note this is now a single stage application process only.

This call has been reopened pending clarification of issues raised in relation to defrayal that may have prejudiced against some potential applicants. Full details of the call and links to additional background information can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/european-structural-investment-funds/active-inclusion-in-d2n2-oc08s18p1107>

Prospective applicants who are interested in delivering the programme can contact Rachel Quinn, D2N2 Careers, Employability and Inclusion Manager at Rachel.quinn@d2n2lep.org for more information

A Technical Assistance workshop to support potential applicants will take place on Thursday 5th July 2018 from 10.00am to 1.30pm, including lunch, at Erewash CVS, Granville Avenue, Long Eaton, Nottinghamshire, NG10 4HD.

The workshop, which is funded by the D2N2 Technical Assistance programme, is free to attend and will include a networking lunch.

The event will give information on the local strategic priorities for the D2N2 ESF programme and is designed to support potential applicants interested in applying to support the delivery of the Active Inclusion Community Grants or potential delivery partners. **NB. This event is not suitable for organisations wishing to access the small grants fund once it is open for applications.**

To book your place and for more information, please follow the link below:

https://active_inclusion_in_d2n2_050718.eventbrite.co.uk

Previous technical assistance workshops to support potential applicants in the last call were held on the 30th August and 6th September 2017. Post event pages, including all presentations, can be viewed at on the [D2N2 TA website](#).



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ESFA Programme Extensions

On Wednesday 23rd of May 2018 LEPs were informed that the ESFA can extend their ESF opt-in arrangements to support the delivery of programmes from April 2019. The extension of opt-in arrangements will allow the ESF programme to utilise match funding from the ESFA and draw down additional ESF resources which would otherwise have to be found by applicant organisations through open call.

The ESFA will provide match funding and by doing so will be allocated a proportion of LEP ESF resources to pay for administering the programmes. The ESFA will allocate funding to secure provision using its own processes and will monitor the performance of the activity it is funding. Currently D2N2 have the following programmes being delivered by ESFA opt in arrangements

- a) Investment Priority 2.1 - SKILLS Local
- b) Investment Priority 1.1 - EMPLOY Local
- c) Investment Priority 1.2 - CAREERS Local and D2N1 Youth Engagement.

All the above projects are due to end in March 2019.

The ESFA have issued the following timelines for LEPs who wish to take advantage of the offer

1. ESFA issue Expression of Interest to LEPs with response required by 13 June 2018
2. ESFA issue conflict of interest / ethical walls protocols - response required by 13 June
3. Specifications development with LEPs – 18 June to 6 July 2018
4. Launch of Invitations to Tender – 31 July 2018
5. Contracts negotiated with successful applicants from January 2019
6. Delivery commences April 2019. Contracts will run from April 2019 to March 2021 with option to extend to 2023 based upon agreement with ESIF committee

As part of this process the ESFA have also indicated willingness to begin discussions around co-financing arrangements for the second half of the ESF programme. All negotiations in relation to this are currently being coordinated by Richard Kirkland, D2N2 ESIF Coordinator.

Other Opt-in updates

Both DWP and Big Lottery Fund are currently investigating opportunities for project extensions in time; utilising underspend in Inspire LOCAL (DWP) and the 3 Building Better Opportunities programmes across D2N2.

Although extensions are welcome to maximise use of the available ESF in D2N2, they also make planning for the second half of the programme (and analysis of committed funding and results) more



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difficult. As a result the D2N2 officer team are working closely with all opt in providers to ensure a full understanding of current and future commitment against LEP targets and objectives.

Big Lottery Fund are considering their options as a co-financer of ESF in the second half of the programme. A report and recommendation is likely to be presented to the England Committee in September 2018. A letter summarising this was sent to ESIF Sub Committees in June and can be viewed [here](#).

Other News

Workplace Mental Health

Business leaders have seen a rise in the number of staff raising concerns around mental health in the past 14 months, [a survey by the Institute of Directors revealed](#). The poll of 700 directors showed four in ten have been approached by staff, up 12 percentage points from 2017. A similar number (42%) report employees taking time off work due to mental health problems.

You are receiving this bulletin as a member of the D2N2 Active Engagement Network (formerly the One East Midlands' D2N2 Information Network). Please feel free to share this e-bulletin or any of the information in it with your members and contacts. If you are receiving this bulletin via a third party and would like to receive it direct please email office@one-em.org.uk and ask to be added.

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